



DEEP

Dealer Employee &
Environment Program

GUIDING DEALERSHIPS ON THE ROAD TO SAFETY

HEARING CONSERVATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
◆ RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES	1
HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM	1
MONITORING PROGRAM	1
AUDIOMETRIC TESTING	2
HEARING PROTECTION	3
EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND TRAINING	3
◆ RECORDKEEPING	4

APPENDIX A

[OSHA "OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE" STANDARD \(29 CFR 1910.95\)](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES

The DEEP Safety Supervisor will:

1. Implement, update, and maintain the written Hearing Conservation Program.
2. Ensure compliance with all aspects of the facility Hearing Conservation Program and the OSHA Standard.
3. Perform sound level surveys and designate Noise Hazardous Areas.
4. Post Noise Hazardous Area signs.
5. Coordinate and maintain audiometric testing, if applicable.
6. Evaluate required hearing protectors for facility operations.
7. Provide information and training to employees.
8. Audit facility periodically to determine employee proficiency in the Hearing Conservation Program.
9. Provide hearing protection to employees, as needed.
10. Ensure employees are properly utilizing hearing protection.
11. Maintain recordkeeping.

Employees will:

1. Comply with all aspects of the Hearing Conservation Program.
2. Utilize proper hearing protection in Noise Hazardous Areas.
3. Inspect hearing protection prior to use and replace, as necessary.

Hearing Conservation Program

The Hearing Conservation Program has been developed to provide a working procedural document to assess and control noise hazards in the workplace.

The Hearing Conservation Program will be implemented when employee noise exposure equals or exceeds an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 dBA or Noise Hazardous Areas are established.

Upon request, employees, former employees, an employee designated representative, and the Assistant Secretary (OSHA) will be provided with a copy of the Hearing Conservation Program for review.

Monitoring Program

Hearing Conservation

A monitoring program will be implemented when information indicates that employee noise exposure equals or exceeds an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 dBA.

The monitoring program will identify those employees to be included in the Program and enable the proper selection of hearing protection.

A sound level survey will be conducted to identify potentially Noise Hazardous Areas (285 dBA) within the facility.

The sound level survey will be conducted with a calibrated sound level meter operating in slow response on an A-weighted scale. All continuous, intermittent and impulse sound levels from 80 dBA to 130 dBA will be measured.

Employees and/or their designated representatives will be given the opportunity to observe any sound level monitoring activities.

Areas with sound levels equal to or exceeding 85 dBA will be classified as Noise Hazardous Areas.

Noise Hazardous Areas will be appropriately marked with signs reading "Noise Hazardous Area -- Hearing Protection Required."

Follow-up sound level surveys will be conducted for changes in operation, installation of new equipment and as deemed necessary by the DEEP Safety Supervisor.

Audiometric Testing (if applicable)

Audiometric testing will be provided to all employees participating in the Hearing Conservation Program.

All audiometric testing will be performed by a qualified professional and conducted according to those procedures established in the Standard. A copy of the Standard will be provided to the facility performing the audiometric test.

Participating employees will receive a baseline audiogram within six (6) months of the employee's first exposure in the Noise Hazardous Area. Follow-up audiograms will be provided on an annual basis following the baseline. Exit audiograms will be provided to participating employees leaving the dealership.

Annual audiograms will be evaluated by the qualified professional performing the audiometric testing.

Hearing Conservation

Test results, equipment information and Employee Information Sheets will be maintained by the facility performing the audiometric testing.

Employees who have suffered a Standard Threshold Shift (STS) will be informed, in writing, within 21 days of the determination. These employees will be re-tested within 30 days. These employees:

1. If they are not using hearing protection will be fitted, trained and required to use proper hearing protection.
2. If they are using hearing protection will be refitted, retrained, reevaluated and required to use proper hearing protection.

The opinion of the qualified professional will be consulted on all audiogram interpretations.

Employees will be properly fitted with facility specified hearing protection during the audiometric testing session.

Hearing Protection

Hearing protection will be worn in all Noise Hazardous Areas, while the noise source is in operation.

Affected employees will be trained in the use and care of required hearing protection.

The DEEP Safety Supervisor will evaluate hearing protector attenuation to determine the proper selection for each operation. Noise Hazardous Areas will be reduced to 90 dBA, or 85 dBA, where an employee has suffered an STS.

Employees will be provided with new hearing protectors or replacement parts, as necessary.

Employee Information and Training

All employees will be provided with information and training on Hearing Conservation at the time of initial employment and on an annual basis, thereafter.

Training will include:

1. Requirements of the OSHA "Occupational Noise Exposure" Standard;
2. Location of the written Program and posted OSHA Standard;
3. Effects of noise on hearing;
4. Hearing Protection: purpose, advantage, disadvantage, attenuation, selection, fitting, use and care; and

5. Purpose and explanation of audiometric testing.

Initial training will be provided by the dealership and will be coordinated by the DEEP Safety Supervisor.

New employees will be enrolled in the next scheduled formal training class.

RECORDKEEPING

Sound level survey results will be maintained for all Noise Hazardous Areas.

Any employee exposure measurements will be retained for the duration of employment plus thirty (30) years.

Current employee training records will be maintained for the facility. These records will be retained for the duration of employee employment plus thirty (30) years.

Audiometric testing records, including equipment information, will be retained for the duration of employment plus thirty (30) years.