



OCCUPATIONAL NOISE ASSESSMENTS



Occupational noise-induced hearing loss is a significant health and economic problem in Australia. Between July 2002 and June 2007 there were about 16,500 successful workers' compensation claims for industrial deafness involving permanent impairment due to noise.

Safe Work Australia

Excessive noise in the workplace has become a global occupational health hazard with considerable impact on productivity. Damage to hearing can occur from exposure to very loud noise for a short time or prolonged exposure to moderate noise levels and. Occupational noise is also associated with tinnitus, cardiovascular disease, depression and an increased risk of accidents.

OHS/WHS legislation and regulations require companies to assess and control the risk of noise induced hearing loss and to monitor it at a minimum of every five years once a noise risk is identified.

What is an Occupational Noise Assessment?

JTA's Occupational Noise Assessments ensure the health and safety of employees exposed to noise by determining how loud the noise is and how long they're exposed to it, by using the latest noise monitoring equipment. The assessment will use noise measurement to provide information on the risks and an action plan for controlling the noise.

Are Noise Assessments Required?

A person conducting a business or undertaking at a workplace *must* ensure that the noise a worker is exposed to does not exceed the exposure standard for noise.

Key Messages

- ▶ Occupational noise-induced hearing loss is a significant health and economic problem in Australia.
- ▶ Relevant legislation + regulations require companies to assess exposure + control the risk of noise.
- ▶ Employee noise training is a regulatory requirement + educates workers on the importance of noise reduction.



Did you know?

▶ Exposure to loud noise is the most common preventable cause of hearing loss and impairment.

▶ Occupational noise accounts for about 10% of adult-onset hearing loss.

▶ About 12% of the workforce is was exposed to excessive noise in 2001/02.

▶ Research has demonstrated a link between occupational noise and employee absenteeism.

Safe Work Australia, Occupational Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Australia – Aug 2010

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Noise Management Plan

Once workplace noise has been measured, a noise management plan is put together and addresses:

- Occupational Noise Assessment outcomes
- Noise Control
- Hearing Protection
- Protective Hearing Signage
- Purchasing Policy
- Worker/Employee Training
- Worker Audiometric Testing
- Record Keeping & Program Review

Occupational Noise Training

Occupational Noise Training is designed to cover the regulatory requirements relating to noise training and covers:

- Reasons for wearing hearing protectors
- Use and proper fitting of hearing protectors
- Maintenance and storage of hearing protectors
- An overview of Noise Assessment results and noise control program

JTA Noise (previously known as Noise Management Services) has conducted hundreds of noise assessments Australia-wide ranging from owner-occupied small businesses to large multi-nationals. Sites assessed include mines, quarries, construction sites, distribution centres, packing halls, food manufacturing, engineering/fabrication, maintenance/workshops, major hazard facilities, printing halls, cinemas, road works and slaughterhouses.

Noise is unwanted sound and it's everywhere around us – where we live, work and play. JTA Noise (formerly known as Noise Management Services) is an expert in dealing with noise control and noise mitigation whether it's from occupational or environmental sources. We'll identify and measure noise sources to assess if you need to take action, determine what's causing the noise and then focus on how to reduce or eliminate the noise to healthy and acceptable levels.

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