

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 29, 1975

Standards Notice - 2
(Rev. 11/1/77)

TO: All OSHA, Supervisors, Consultants, Safety Officers, Industrial Hygienists, and Staff

SUBJECT: 29 CFR 1910.95 Occupational Noise Exposure

The purpose of this notice is to define an "effective hearing conservation program" and to state the policy North Carolina OSHA will follow in enforcement of 29 CFR 1910.95.

A. Standards

1. 29 CFR 1910.95(b) (1) When employees are subjected to sound pressure levels exceeding those listed in Table G-16, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels to Table G-16, personal protective equipment shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.
2. 29 CFR 1910.95 (b) (3) In all cases where the sound levels exceed the values shown herein, a continuing effective hearing conservation program shall be administered.

B. Discussion

All companies having employees who are overexposed according to Table G-16 of the General Industry Standards shall administer a continuing, effective hearing conservation. This program shall include in-plant utilization of all feasible engineering and administrative controls; annual determination of employee noise doses (surveys); annual education program; issuance, proper fitting and required usage of personal hearing protection; and annual audiometric testing.

1. Every company having employees who are exposed to sound levels in excess of that which is allowed by Table G-16 shall utilize all feasible engineering and administrative controls. If administrative controls are utilized, such controls shall be documented.
2. Annual surveys to determine exposure shall be made with a standard sound level meter on the A scale (slow response) and documented. Octave band analysis may be utilized in lieu of a standard sound level meter in accordance with Table G-9.
3. Education or training shall be given to all exposed employees annually to ensure awareness of the program.
4. Personal Protective Equipment (Hearing Protection)

If employees are exposed to noise greater than the levels permitted in Table G-16, personal hearing protection shall be used by the employees subject to the following requirements.

- a. The use of personal protective equipment to prevent occupational noise exposure of the employee in excess of the prescribed limits is authorized until feasible engineering and/or administrative controls and procedures can be implemented to maintain the occupational noise exposures within prescribed limits.
- b. Any ear protector used by an employee shall reduce the effective noise level to which he is exposed so that his noise exposure is within the limits prescribed. In order to eliminate the attenuation provided, a list of Personal Hearing Protectors and Attenuation Data may be found in H.E.W. Publication No. 76-120 (NIOSH) or the most current revision.

5. Audiometric tests shall be administered annually to all employees exposed to noise in excess of the limits prescribed in Table G-16. Any use of insert phones to comply with the audiometric testing requirements in 29 CFR 1910.95 shall be considered a violation of 29 CFR 1910.95 (h) (2).

C. Interpretation

1. If the recorded hearing conservation plan meets all of the requirements outlined above, a citation will not be issued. A company that does not have all the above criteria will be cited under 29 CFR 1910.95(b) (3) whichever is appropriate.
2. A company that establishes a continuing effective hearing conservation program during the abatement period and can show that feasible engineering and administrative controls do not presently exist can be ruled in compliance by requesting such from the North Carolina OSHA Division.
3. The hearing conservation plan will serve as the foundation for noise control efforts and as such shall serve as the base upon which progress reports shall be submitted in the event that there is any modification of abatement date from the initial citation.

James A. Oppold, Director

JAO:ckh

Filing Date: October 26, 1977
Number: 7D.0403

June 21, 1989
(Corrected Copy)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division of Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Compliance Personnel

FROM: James Oppold

RE: Change to NC OSH Standards Notice 2 (Revision 11/1/77) Concerning 29 CFR 1910.95, Occupational Noise Exposure

Attached is Change 1 to NC OSH Standards Notice 2 (Revision 11/1/77) which adds the following language to that Notice at the end of paragraph B.5:

"Any use of insert phones to comply with the audiometric testing requirements in CFR 1910.95 shall be considered a violation of 29 CFR (h) (2)."

Please replace page 2 of Standards Notice 2 (Revision 11/1/77) with the attached page 2 and distribute to all Compliance and Consultation field personnel and staff.

JAO:bbd

Attachment

