

Occupational Noise

Introduction

On July 1, 2007, Ontario Regulation 565/06 introduced significant changes in the workplace regulatory framework for the prevention of hearing loss. The regulation introduces a time-weighted average exposure limit of 85 dBA for worker exposure similar to the time-weighted average exposure limits for chemical agents.

What is noise/sound?

Noise is simply unwanted sound. Sound is produced by vibrating objects and reaches a person's ears as waves in the air or other media.

Why be concerned about noise?

The government has committed to reduce workplace injuries by 20 percent. To achieve this goal the Ministry of Labour has been reviewing exposure limits to both chemical and physical agents and hired 200 new health and safety inspectors.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board estimates that \$100 million in compensation cost have been paid out in the last decade.

Exposure to elevated noise levels may impact the quality of life for workers and their families and may cause:

- Hearing Loss
- Interference with Communications
- Psychological Effects
- Physiological Effects
- Lower Productivity
- Increased Absenteeism

Hearing impairment is not noticeable until the damage is substantial enough to interfere with routine activities.

Who is Impacted?

The new regulation applies to every worksite in Ontario that is covered under the following regulations:

- Industrial Establishments, O. Reg. 851
 - Oil and Gas - Offshore, O. Reg. 855
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Is noise a problem in my workplace?

Noise may be a problem in your workplace, if you answer yes to either of the following questions.

- Do workers have to raise their voices to communicate with others? or
 - Do your workers complain of having a "ringing" in their ears at the end of the workday?
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LEHDER Environmental Services Limited

704 Mara Street, Suite 210, Point Edward, Ontario, Canada N7V 1X4 Phone: (519) 336-4101 Fax: (519) 336-4311
9954 - 67th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 0P5 Phone: (780) 462-4099 Fax: (780) 462-4392

www.lehder.com

What services does LEHDER provide for noise?

LEHDER personnel would be pleased to assist you with any issues in regards to the noise regulations. Our services with respect to noise include:

- Conduct noise dosimetry to assess worker exposure to noise
- Perform noise surveys and acoustic assessments to identify and prioritize areas for noise abatement
- Prepare noise survey maps to identify hearing protection areas
- Recommend control measures to mitigate risks via engineering controls, work practices and procedures and personal protective equipment
- Develop and/or review new and existing hearing conservation programs

Environmental, Health and Safety Services

Other EH&S services provided by LEHDER include:

- Occupational Hygiene
 - Designated Substance Surveys
 - Indoor Air Quality
 - Industrial Hygiene
 - Mould Investigations
- Training
 - TDG
 - WHMIS
 - Waste Generation and Transportation
- Onsite Environmental, Health and Safety Support

For further information

For further information please contact:

Linda Raes (519) 336-4101 Ext. 252 lraes@lehder.com

About LEHDER

LEHDER is one of the largest Air Quality Management consulting companies in Canada. Our team of consulting professionals is built around our core strength in industrial environmental, health and safety management. LEHDER recognizes our client's need to make decisions that provide for operational flexibility while meeting regulatory, economic and social requirements.

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