

5.2: Occupational Exposures

Occupational Noise Exposure

Sound levels

When employees are subjected to sound levels exceeding those listed in Table D-2, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels measure in decibels (dBA) within the levels of the table, personal protective equipment as required in Subpart E, shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.

Table D-2 - Permissible Noise Exposures

Permissible Noise Exposure

Duration per day(hours)	Sound Level dBA slow response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1 ½	102
1	105
½	110
¼ or less	115

In all cases where the sound levels exceed the values shown in Table D-2, a continuing effective hearing conservation program shall be administered.

When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure of different levels, their combined effect should be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. Exposure to impulsive or impact noise should not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level.

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