

**11.2.14 HEARING CONSERVATION / PROTECTION**

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**PURPOSE:**

The primary objective of the Baylor University Hearing Conservation Program is to prevent permanent noise-induced hearing loss resulting from on-the-job noise exposure. The regulatory requirement set forth by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to provide employees with proper protection against the effects of noise exposure when sound levels exceed an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) of 85 dBA. If documented levels exceed 85 dBA for an 8-hour TWA, then a hearing conservation program must be provided at no cost to the employees. The protective measures provided to the employees may be provided either through a combination of engineering and/or administrative controls. These control methods should be exhausted prior to permanent use of personal protective equipment.

**SCOPE:****Noise Surveys**

The Baylor University Department of Risk Management will provide noise surveys as needed through job hazard surveys, requests from employees or departments. If employees or supervisors suspect that anyone may be exposed to high noise levels, they are obligated to contact the Baylor University Department of Risk Management and request noise monitoring. An indicator that noise levels may be too high is when employees have to raise their voices during personal conversation. Supervisors are responsible for requesting additional noise monitoring when any changes occur in production, process, equipment, or controls which might increase employee exposure to increased noise levels.

**RESPONSIBILITY:****Hearing Testing**

The Baylor University Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders will conduct annual audiometric (hearing) testing and maintain records of the test results for employees identified by the Baylor University Department of Risk Management as needing to be included in a Hearing Conservation Program. Records of the test results will also be kept by the Department of Risk Management or Baylor Facility Services (if appropriate).

**Training**

Hearing Conservation training is provided by the Baylor University Department of Risk Management or Baylor Facility Services through the Baylor University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Baylor University's Department of Risk Management offers the following services in the area of Hearing Conservation

- A. Noise surveys
- B. Training
- C. Recommendations for personal protective equipment

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D. Provides advice and assistance on location and placement of warning signs, where necessary.

Formulated:

Revised/Reviewed: 7/31/07