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**Facilities Management**  
**Noise Protection Standard Operating Procedures**

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SOP #:	EHS-004	Revision: 1
Dept:	Environmental Health and Safety	Date: 03/11/19
Approval:		Date: 03/11/19

## 1. PURPOSE

Colorado State University-Pueblo is actively concerned with the safety of all faculty, staff, students and guests on the CSU-Pueblo campus. Safety can only be effectively achieved with the cooperation of the entire campus community.

Enhancement of the workplace for employees is a priority of Colorado State University Pueblo. Through the use of a Hearing Conservation Program, CSU-Pueblo can create a safer working environment. This procedure will define the requirements of the Hearing Conservation Program. The goal is to create a safe and productive work environment by limiting noise exposure, protecting personnel from hearing impairment, and complying with OSHA Noise Standard 29 CFR 1910.95, which is included at the end of this SOP.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.A. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) will be responsible for:

2.A.1. Establishing a training program for both existing employees and new hires regarding working in loud environments and using hearing protection.

2.A.2. Investigating any potential health hazards or concerns related to noise protection and loud noise generation.

2.B. All Facilities Department staff will be responsible for:

2.B.1. Using noise protection as required when working in loud environments.

2.B.2. Limiting unnecessary exposure to loud environments.

2.B.3. Notify EHS of any potential health hazards due to noise concerns.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

3.A. DECIBELS – A unit used to measure the intensity of a sound or noise.

3.B. LOUD NOISE – Any noise measured at 85 dB or above.

### **4. PROCEDURES**

#### **4.A. Engineering Controls**

4.A.1. Engineering Controls will be designed and installed with any new projects or renovations at CSU-Pueblo. Sound deadening walls and other devices reduce noise levels to keep the campus safer. EHS will determine based on noise levels and amount of exposure whether other engineering controls need to be installed.

#### **4.B. Hearing Protection Devices**

4.B.1 Hearing Protection Devices are supplied by EHS and can be obtained throughout the Physical Plant. Employees will be given the opportunity to select from a variety of hearing protective devices. These hearing protectors shall have a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) high enough to reduce the noise at the ear drum to 85 dB or lower. Other Hearing Protection Devices may be requested on an as-needed basis.



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U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

## **OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE GUIDELINE**

### **GUIDELINE ONLY:**

THIS OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE COMPLIANCE GUIDELINE IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO ASSIST EMPLOYERS IN DEVELOPING AN INITIAL OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE PROGRAM OR FOR EVALUATING AN EXISTING OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE PROGRAM. COMPLETE TEXT OF OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE STANDARD MUST BE CONSULTED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULE.

OBTAIN A COPY OF OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE STANDARD, 29 CFR 1910.95.  
READ/REVIEW.

To protect workers the employer shall: (a) monitor noise exposure, (b) institute control measures, and (c) implement a hearing conservation program (HCP) when occupational noise exposure exceeds an 8-hour TWA of 85 dBA.

- Monitor noise to determine level of exposure to employees.
- Calibrate all sound measuring equipment before and after each use according to the manufacturer's instruction.
- Measure noise exposure levels with a dosimeter and/or a sound instrument with an A-weighting network.

The employer shall institute engineering and/or administrative controls whenever possible. If these controls fail to reduce employee noise exposures to an 8-hour TWA of 90 dBA or less, then the employer shall provide and enforce the use of hearing protectors that attenuate employee exposure to at least an 8-hour TWA of 90 dBA.

### **ENGINEERING CONTROLS**

- Use technology to reduce noise levels.
- Keep machinery in good maintenance repair to reduce noise.
- Erect total or partial barriers to confine noise.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS**

- Limit employees scheduled work time in a noisy area.
- Limit noisy operations and activities per shift.

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Provide at no cost to the employee a selection of hearing protection appropriate for noise levels in the environment.
- Provide training on the selection, fitting, use, and care of hearing protectors.
- Ensure that protectors are worn.

To protect workers whose noise exposure equals or exceeds an 8-hour TWA of 85 dBA the employer shall implement a continuing, effective hearing conservation program (HCP).

### **MONITORING NOISE EXPOSURE**

- Use only measuring instruments that meet the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) specifications.
- Use a sampling strategy that will pick up all continuous, intermittent, and impulsive sound levels from 80-130 dBA, and include all of these sound levels in the total noise measurement.
- Permit employees or their representatives to observe monitoring.
- Notify employees of noise exposure at or above an 8-hour TWA of 85 decibels (dBA).