

Take control – Sound and pressure

17.03.01

Exposure to a single sudden sound >

Information to help you prevent workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- Plant and machinery which can make sharp, sudden 'deafening' noises;
- Poor fitting or inappropriate hearing protection being worn by employees; and
- Work procedures which require employees to work close to sources of sudden noise impact producing machinery used in general work areas;

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- Advice is sought from a specialist acoustic consultant to assess the situation and develop a noise control plan;
- Plant and machinery is modified to significantly reduce the noise being generated;
- Only competent people are allowed to carry out certain work procedures (for example, blasting work);
- Plant and machinery capable of producing sudden excessively loud noise are separated from employees whilst in operation (for example, install impact noise producing machines in a sound-proof room);
- Noisy work is scheduled for times when fewer employees are present;
- Regular maintenance and repair of all machinery and equipment is carried out;
- Appropriate hearing protectors are provided and employees are trained in the selection, fitting and maintenance of them; and
- All hearing protectors are kept well maintained and replaced as needed.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

putting safety first >



Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 38	Hazard identification and risk assessment
Regulation 39	Control of Risk
Regulation 40	Maintenance of Control Measures
Regulation 56	Noise

[Australian Standards](#) are available from the Territory Construction Association, phone 8922 9666. Australian Standards can be viewed online by visiting the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, phone 8999 7177.

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

AS 1269	Occupational noise management
AS 2436	Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites
Safe Work Australia	

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

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