

Take control – **Sound and pressure**

17.03.02

Long term exposure to sound >

This information bulletin has been produced to assist in the prevention of 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 equipment which produce continuous noise;
- Limited maintenance and servicing of equipment;
- Noisy machinery located in areas where people carry out work;
- Employers working in noisy areas without hearing protection;
- None or inappropriate hearing protection being worn;
- Employees having to raise their voices to be heard over the background noise.

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

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- An acoustic survey is carried out if you are unsure of the potential significance of the noise in your workplace;
- Plant and machinery is chosen, designed or modified so that it produces the least amount of noise;
- Preventive maintenance is carried out on machinery, muffling systems are kept in good repair;
- Noisy work processes are either removed to remote areas of the workplace or are enclosed within sound proof barriers (using, for example, fixed sound proof materials or curtains);
- Noisy work is scheduled for times when fewer workers are present;
- A range of appropriate hearing protectors are provided and employees are trained in the selection, fitting and maintenance of them;
- Hearing protectors are kept well maintained and replaced as needed.

putting safety first >



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.

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

Further information is provided in the NT WorkSafe booklet – [Occupational Noise Management](#).

[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/NZ 1269	Occupational noise management
AS 2436	Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites
AS 2012	Acoustic – Measurement of airborne noise emitted by earth-moving and agricultural tractors – Stationary test condition

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NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

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