



Checklist for noise in the manufacturing industry

Noise – Controls safety checklist

Check	yes	no	n/a
Buy quiet - get information on noise levels before you choose new equipment. Even different models of saw blades or compressed air nozzles make different noise levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain your equipment to keep noise down - avoid loose or rattling parts or too much vibration. If equipment starts making more noise, have it checked/serviced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce pressure in compressed air lines and make sure there are no leaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Order materials to the required size to reduce cutting/grinding etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a mobile screen hung with an acoustic blanket to reduce noise to other parts of the workplace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prevent noise reverberating into floors, tables or walls by using rubber matting or vibration isolators.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Line tables or bins with rubber to soften impact noise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locate noisy equipment or work away from quieter tasks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolate noisy work or equipment by locating it in a separate workshop or building an enclosure around the plant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce the amount of time in noisy areas or doing noisy work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Control access to noisy areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide a quiet lunch room.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use signage to show where hearing protectors are needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide hearing protectors in the right size/fit, meeting Australian Standards to protect hearing but not block all sound. Make sure these are used 100% of the time in noisy areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some chemicals (eg toluene, xylene, carbon monoxide) can damage hearing – follow the MSDS directions to make sure workers are not over exposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

More ideas on noise control

Noise control in factories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U47jYm4IDII> (2 min) and
Noise and vibration reduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNFWDo0sDJI> (4 min)

Noise Levels and Exposure Times Equivalent to the Exposure Standard	
Noise Level dB(A)	Exposure Time
82	12 hours
85	8 hours
88	4 hours
91	2 hours
94	1 hour
97	30 min
100	15 min
103	7.5 min
106	3.75 min

For example, if a worker uses equipment exposing him to a noise level of 91 dB(A) for two hours, he has reached an exposure equal to the daily exposure standard for noise.

Noise – Elements of information and training checklist

Check that noise training covers:	yes	no	n/a
Effects of noise on hearing (noise-induced hearing loss, tinnitus)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employers and workers have a duty to manage noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise exposure depends on the sound level and the time exposed - so controls should be better for 12 hour shifts compared with 8 hour shifts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extreme noise can cause instant damage but more commonly damage occurs gradually	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise-induced hearing loss is still very common	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing loss from noise is irreversible and hearing aids do not restore the quality of hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social isolation from hearing loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise can also cause distraction or stress, or prevent people hearing warning sounds or instructions, even at levels that may not damage hearing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise hazards specific to the workplace (eg particular equipment and/or locations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Controlling noise in the worker's job – how to work more quietly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When to use earplugs/earmuffs; ie when noise is above the exposure standard (8 hour equivalent of 85 dB(A) or peak noise of 140 dB(C)) or at lower levels if preferred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Note that people have different sized heads and ears and may need different sized earplugs/earmuffs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How to care for reusable hearing protectors (cleanliness, no stretching of headband, inspect for good condition, clean storage location)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing protectors only work well when correctly fitted and used <u>100% of the time</u> during noisy work - removing them even for short times makes them ineffective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some chemicals can also damage hearing (eg toluene and xylene which are in many paints and thinners, lead, manganese and carbon monoxide)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business' plans to lower noise, such as when buying equipment, rearranging the workplace layout or changing job designs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recommended further information & training

How to fit earplugs/earmuffs (foam earplugs - see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPNPZJingZA (5 minutes)
More information on noise-induced hearing loss https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90t0_LuOHbk (3 min)
Further information specific to workplace if required

Other sources of information

WorkSafe: www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

[Checklist for noise management](#)

Legislation: [Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996](#)

Codes of practice: [Managing noise at workplaces -](#)

[Control of noise in the music entertainment industry](#)

[Occupational safety and health in call centres](#)

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