

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Hearing Conservation Program

Program Name: Hearing Conservation
Department Name: TSU Risk Management & Safety
Doc. No.: GENS-04-L2-S0-CH0-001
Rev. No.: 4



Tarleton State University

Risk Management & Safety	Program:	Hearing Conservation
	Doc. No.:	GENS-04-L2-S0-CH0-001
Level 2	Rev No:	4
	Date:	2-1-2021
	Dept.:	TSU Risk Management & Safety

Concurrence and Approval

This document was developed for use by all Tarleton State University Employees and has been reviewed and approved by the following approvers.

Document Custodian:

Hector C. Davis, Director, Risk Management and Safety



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Level 2

Revision Number	Interim Change No.	Effective Date	Description of Change
001	0	10-March-2014	Initial document release under new document and record control guidance
002	0	05-October-2016	Biannual Review
003	0	31-October-2018	Biannual Review
004	0	19-October-2020	Post-reorganization update



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1. INTRODUCTION

Tarleton State University is committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment for all of its employees. The objective of this program is to ensure that employees are not exposed to noise levels of the intensity which may damage the employee's hearing. To accomplish this, appropriate research has been completed and the following standard operating procedures established.

2. BACKGROUND

With regard to this program, Tarleton State University typically follows the OSHA Standards which are nationally recognized as the accepted guidance in the area of hearing conservation. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Noise Standard, 29 CFR 1910.95, establishes permissible employee noise exposures in terms of duration in hours per day at various sound levels. The standard defines the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) as that noise dose that would result from a continuous 8-hour exposure to a sound level of 90 dBA. This is a dose of 100%.

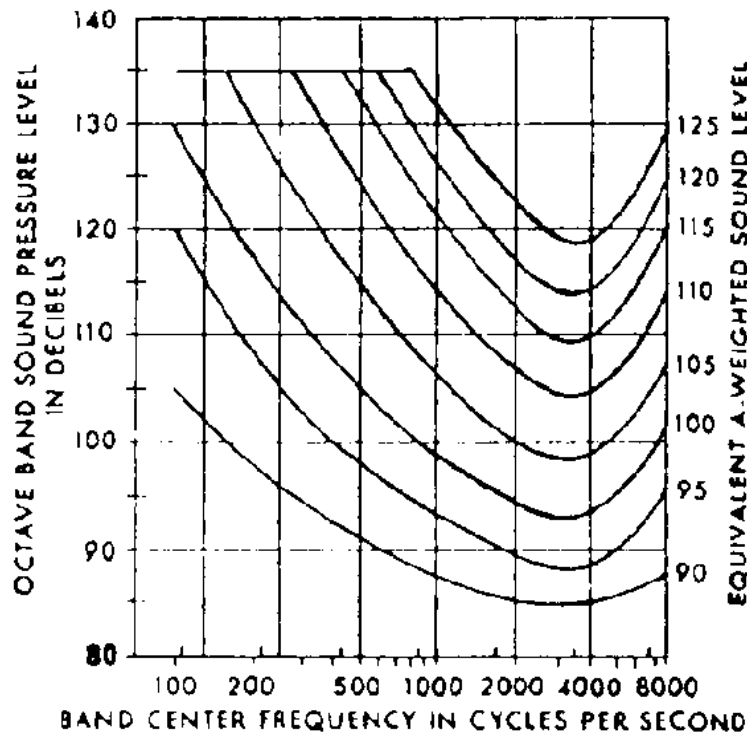



FIGURE G-9

	Tarleton State University		
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Since employees are not normally exposed to excessive noise levels for an 8-hour duration, TSU does not meet or exceed the limitations established as recognized guidelines. However, since some readings do exceed the 90 dBA standard and individual sensitivity thresholds may vary substantially, TSU will implement a Hearing Conservation Program.

3. SCOPE

The development of a Hearing Conservation Program first requires a noise survey. The survey was conducted by the Department of Risk Management and Safety during September and October, 1998. Subsequent monitoring has been performed as required or requested. Refer to Appendix A, Noise Survey. The procedures of the survey are:

- a. Identify work areas where excessive noise levels may exist.
- b. (i.e., mechanical rooms, HVAC areas, boiler/generator areas, etc.)
- c. Obtain sound level readings using a Realistic Category 42-3019 Sound Level Meter.
- d. Determine the areas where hearing protection will be required. Appendix A, Noise Survey, describes the areas where noise problems might occur and lists the subsequent readings obtained at those sites.

Departmental procedures are in place to identify the appropriate employee responses when hearing risk areas are encountered.

4. PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The TSU Hearing Conservation Program consists of:

- a. Departmental procedures,
- b. Provision of hearing protection,
- c. Initial training,
- d. Required recordkeeping,
- e. Appropriate signage for designated areas, and
- f. Annual training for affected employees.

- a. Departmental procedures

Table 1 indicates exposure rates which determine hearing protection requirements. The levels below 90 dBA do not require hearing protection as indicated by OSHA 1910.95. However, for example, if an employee encounters an area that has a survey reading of 95 dBA, then that worker may enter and be exposed for 1 hour twice a day. If survey readings exceed 110 dBA, then hearing protection is mandatory.

Few areas on the Tarleton campus have readings of this magnitude.



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However it is the intent of the Department of Risk Management and Safety to ensure that employees are not exposed to noise levels of this intensity which may damage the employee's hearing.

Table 1

Maximum Daily Exposures		
Sound level	Maximum time per exposure	Maximum daily exposures.
Below 90	No protection required.	
90 – 100	*1 hour	2 per day
101 – 110	*½ hour	2 per day
Above 110	Hearing protection required at all times.	

*Hearing protection optional.

- b. Provision of hearing protection
TSU will provide, at no cost to its employees, hearing protection in the form of earplugs or earmuffs. Employees must take responsibility for their hearing health by acting in accordance with the TSU Hearing Conservation Program and contributing to their own education about hearing hazards.
 - c. Training
Training will consist of an explanation of employee benefits of the program, the effects of noise on hearing, purpose of hearing protectors, their advantages and disadvantages, and instructions on their selection, fit, use, and care, and an explanation of the purpose and procedures of audiometric testing (noise survey).
- NOTE: Although noise may not seem to be excessive, after a period of time the cumulative effect can be insidious and permanent. Hearing aids only magnify sound; they cannot correct damage to the ear.
- d. Recordkeeping
The TSU Department of Risk Management and Safety will maintain any records pertaining to medical hearing problems.



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e. Signage

Warning signs will be placed at the entrances to areas where the noise levels are at or above the 90 dBA guideline. The signage will read:



f. Program Review

When there are significant changes in machinery or production processes that may result in increased noise levels, re-monitoring must be conducted to determine whether additional employees need to be included in the hearing conservation program. In this effort, changes and updates may be made to the Noise Survey and/or Hearing Conservation Program to ensure that the work environment at TSU stays safe and healthful.

REFERENCE

Occupational Safety and Health Standards, 29 CFR 1910.95, “Occupational Noise Exposure”, Dec. 12, 2008

APPENDIX A
TSU CAMPUS - NOISE SURVEY

**Noise Survey
Tarleton State University
Hearing Conservation Program**

Table 1

<i>Maximum Daily Exposures</i>		
Sound Level	Maximum time per exposure	Maximum daily exposures.
Below 90	No protection required.	
90 – 100	* 1 hour	2 per day
101 – 110	* ½ hour	2 per day
Above 110	Hearing protection required at all times.	Verify signs/labels/warnings posted as necessary

* Hearing protection optional.

Building	Bldg #	Room Location	Readings	Miscellaneous
Industrial Technology	501	East Mechanical Room	95	
		Plastics Lab	92	
		Metalworking Lab	84	
Heating	503	Boiler Room	98	
Fine Arts	506	Northeast	72	Equipment Room
		Orchestra Pit	68	Other Pumps
		Orchestra Pit	84	Heating pump.
		Orchestra Pit	92	Return air.
		Basement by loading dock	94	With compressors.
Agriculture	508	North basement	84	Without compressors.
Math	509	1 st floor by elevator	95	
		1 st floor, Room 114	89	
		2 nd floor by elevator	95	
		2 nd floor, northwest side	89	
		3 rd floor by elevator	95	
		3 rd floor, northwest side	95	
		Roof, northwest	98	
		Roof, north (center)	96	
Administration Annex	510	Northwest, across from Room 103	96	
		Room 105I	76	
Humanities	511	1 st floor by elevator	92	All other rooms have telephone equipment.
		1 st floor, east	88	
		1 st floor, west	96	

