



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY  
HEADQUARTERS  
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD  
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-6221

IN REPLY  
REFER TO DNSC-M

JUL 21 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES MANAGERS

SUBJECT: HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Attached for your information is our Hearing Conservation Program which I have reviewed and am reissuing dated July 2010.

The reissue replaces previous procedures and other memoranda concerning hearing conservation in DLA Strategic Materials. Our Safety & Health Manager, Mr. Jason Boynton, shall be responsible for the overall operation and administration of this program.

Distribution Facility Managers are directed to add this revised program to their user library and discuss the contents during a periodic safety meeting.

Should you have any questions please contact Jason Boynton at (703) 767-7592.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronnie Favors".

RONNIE FAVORS  
Administrator,  
DLA Strategic Materials

Attachment



## HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

REVISED AS OF 12 JULY 2010

**General** - Exposure to high intensity noise is one of the most widespread hazards in DLA Strategic Materials. Noise induced hearing loss, although painless, is irreparable. Permanent hearing loss frequently is not recognized by the individual because it affects hearing of sounds higher in frequency than those necessary for speech communication. However, appreciable difficulty in speech communication (the ability to detect and understand speech sounds) may result if deterioration of an individual's auditory acuity continues because of exposure to hazardous noise (above 85 decibels). The provisions of our hearing conservation program as it relates to noise monitoring, audiometric testing, hearing protectors, training, and recordkeeping are explained below. It is the responsibility of managers and supervisors to implement the provisions of this program and the responsibility of all affected employees to use hearing protection devices when required.

**Monitoring** - All areas, operations, and machinery within Strategic Materials controlled facilities shall be monitored using noise dosimeters for representative personal sampling, and sound level meters to identify individual pieces of machinery which produce levels greater than those allowed by 29 CFR 1910.95. The results of this monitoring will be used to identify individuals who are required to be placed in our Hearing Conservation Program. Monitoring shall be repeated whenever a change in production, process, equipment or controls increases noise exposure to the extent that additional employees may be exposed at or above the action level of 85 decibels using an 8 hour time weighted average. Employees exposed at or above the action level will be notified of their exposure. Also, affected employees or their representative shall be afforded the opportunity to observe monitoring.

**Audiometric testing** - All potential employees who could be exposed to hazardous noise levels in their employment with DLA Strategic Materials shall receive a baseline audiogram as part of their pre-placement medical examinations. All personnel on the medical surveillance program to include those personnel exposed to noise above the action level shall receive annual audiograms as part of their annual medical examinations. The results of the annual audiograms will be compared to the employees baseline audiogram to determine if a threshold shift has occurred in the employees hearing. If in the opinion of the physician overseeing the audio exams a threshold shift has occurred all follow-up testing required by 29 CFR 1910.95(g)(8) will be conducted. Audiometric testing shall be conducted by qualified personnel using equipment that meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.95(h).

### CAUTION

Hard copies of this document may not be the current version. Refer to the "I Am The Key" to verify the current version.

**Hearing protectors-** Employees exposed to noise above the action level of 85 decibels based on the 8 hour time weighted average shall be issued hearing protectors designed to attenuate the employees' exposure to a level below 90 decibels based on an 8 hour time weighted Average.

**Training -** Annually, training on hearing conservation shall be given to all affected employees. At a minimum the training shall consist of information on the effects of noise on hearing, the purpose of hearing protection, the advantages, disadvantages and attenuation of various types of hearing protectors. The employee shall also be instructed on the proper selection, fitting, use and care of hearing protectors. The purpose of audiometric testing should also be explained.

**Recordkeeping -** Records of monitoring conducted in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.95(d) will be maintained at the respective depot office for a period of two years. Results of audiometric testing shall be maintained in the individuals' medical folder for the duration of their employment. All required records shall be provided upon request to employees, former employees, and representative designated by the individual employee.

**Warning signs-** All equipment and machinery producing hazardous noise levels shall be posted with appropriate warning signs which require the operator to wear hearing protection.

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