

Hazardous Noise Producing Operations and Equipment

Exposure to any of the operations or equipment listed below will likely require the use of hearing protection, unless it can be shown with actual noise measurements that operations produce Sound Pressure Levels (SPLs) of less than 85 dBA at the operator's ear. Employees discharging firearms can expect impulse/impact noise more than 140 dB and must also use hearing protection. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Agricultural tractors	Lawn mowers
Airboats	Leaf blowers
Aircraft	Motor graders
Air compressors (land or marine)	Motorized scrapers
Backhoes/loaders	Pile drivers
Blasting	Pneumatic tools
Cannon/rocket netting	Powered industrial trucks (forklifts)
Chainsaws	Propane exploiters
Circular saws and routers, handheld	Pumps and pumping stations
Cranes/drag lines	Skid steers/compact track loaders
Crawler dozers/loaders	Off-road utility vehicles (e.g., ATVs, snowmobiles)
Electrofishing units	Specialty tracked equipment (Marsh Masters, Gyrotracs, Rolligons, etc.)
Fire pumps	Trimmers (gas powered)
Firearm use	Watercraft operations
Fish egg sorters	Woodchippers
Four-wheel drive loaders	Woodworking machinery, general
Generators	
Hammering metal	
Heavy equipment	

Employees must get audiometric testing if performing any of the operations or using the equipment described above generates personal noise exposure levels (determined by noise dosimetry) exceeding 85 dBA for an 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA). Absent any personal exposure data (by dosimetry), the following table can be used as a guide in determining what the allowable exposure times might be if direct read noise measurements are known.

TABLE 1 - PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURES

Duration per day, hours	Sound level dBA (slow response)
8	85
6	86.5
4	88
3	97
2	91
1 ½	102
1	94
½	97
¼ or less	>100