

**WAC 296-817-30010 Measure employee noise exposure.**

**Important:**

A noise dosimeter is the basis for determining total daily noise exposure for employees. However, where you have constant noise levels, you may estimate employee noise exposure using measurements from a sound level meter. Calculation of the employee noise exposure must be consistent with WAC 296-817-30015.

(1) You must include all:

- (a) Workplace noise from equipment and machinery in use;
- (b) Other noise from sources necessary to perform the work;
- (c) Noise outside the control of the exposed employees.

(2) You must use a noise dosimeter when necessary to measure employee noise dose.

(3) You must use a sound level meter to evaluate continuous and impulse noise levels.

(4) You must identify all employees whose exposures equal or exceed the Noise Evaluation Criteria in Table 1:

**Table 1  
Noise Evaluation Criteria**

| <b>Criteria</b>                               | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Requirements</b>  |
|---|--|--|
| 85 dBA<br>TWA <sub>8</sub>                    | Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must have a hearing loss prevention program.           | Hearing protection<br>Training<br>Audiometric testing                            |
| 90 dBA<br>TWA <sub>8</sub>                    | Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must reduce employee noise exposures in the workplace. | Noise controls<br>(in addition to the requirements for 85 dBA TWA <sub>8</sub> ) |
| 115 dBA<br>measured<br>using slow<br>response | Extreme noise level (greater than one second in duration).   | Hearing protection<br>Signs posted in work areas<br>warning of exposure          |
| 140 dBC<br>measured<br>using fast<br>response | Extreme impulse or impact noise (less than one second in duration).  | Hearing protection   |

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050. WSR 15-23-086, § 296-817-30010, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/18/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 03-11-060, § 296-817-30010, filed 5/19/03, effective 8/1/03.]