



Hospital eTool

Administration

Central Supply

Clinical Services

Dietary

Emergency

Engineering

Healthcare Wide
Hazards

Heliport

Housekeeping

ICU

Laboratory

Laundry

Pharmacy

Surgical Suite

Expert Systems

**Healthcare Wide Hazards
Noise****Potential Hazard**

Occupational exposure to high noise levels can be found in different areas of the hospital (e.g., laundry, engineering, and heliport). Employee exposure to noisy machinery, or equipment, may induce hearing loss, hearing impairment, hypertension, elevated blood pressure levels and/or other health hazards.



Laundry Machinery.

Possible Solutions

A safety and health program that recognizes and addresses the hazards created by noise exposure.

- Some examples of engineering and work practice controls to help decrease occupational noise exposure levels include:
 - Reduce the amount of sound energy released by the noise source.
 - Divert the flow of sound energy away from the worker.
 - Protect the receiver from the sound energy reaching him/her.
 - Proper maintenance of equipment, equipment replacements.
 - Revised operating procedures, equipment redesign, enclosures.
 - Acoustical shields and barriers.
 - Personal protective equipment.
 - Use hearing protection (e.g., ear plugs, ear phones) to eliminate or decrease noise exposure.
- The Occupational Noise Exposure Standard [29 CFR 1910.95], where applicable requires an effective hearing conservation program [29 CFR 1910.95(c)(1)], which includes specific requirements for:
 - [Monitoring noise exposure](#)
 - [Audiometric testing](#)
 - [Audiogram evaluation](#)
 - [Hearing protection](#)
 - [Recordkeeping and training](#)
- [Noise Exposure Computation](#) App A, Noise dose is computed by using Table G-16a.

Additional Information:

- [Occupational Noise Exposure](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page.
- [Hearing Conservation](#) [157 KB PDF, 32 pages]. OSHA Publication 3074, (2002).
- [Noise Control Guidelines, Appendix A](#). OSHA Directive CPL 2-2.35A, (1983, December 19).
- [Criteria For a Recommended Standard: Occupational Noise Exposure--Revised Criteria](#). US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Publication No. 98-126, (1998, June). This publication contains

NIOSH policy and recommendations regarding hazardous noise and hearing loss prevention strategies.

- [Noise Meter](#). National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). An interactive graphic demonstrating noise levels.
- [Noise and Hearing Conservation](#). OSHA eTool. A chapter of the [OTM](#) developed to assist OSHA staff in evaluating workplace hazards.

[Back to Top](#)

Accessibility Assistance: Contact the OSHA Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management at (202) 693-2300 for assistance accessing PDF materials.

[Administration](#) | [Central Supply](#) | [Clinical Services](#) | [Dietary](#) | [Emergency](#) | [Engineering](#) | [Healthcare Wide Hazards](#)
[Heliport](#) | [Housekeeping](#) | [ICU](#) | [Laboratory](#) | [Laundry](#) | [Pharmacy](#) | [Surgical Suite](#) | [Expert Systems](#)

eTools Home : [Hospital](#)

[Scope](#) | [Glossary](#) | [References](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Credits](#)

[Freedom of Information Act](#) | [Privacy & Security Statement](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Customer Survey](#) | [Important Web Site Notices](#) | [International](#) | [Contact Us](#)

U.S. Department of Labor | Occupational Safety & Health Administration | 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210
Telephone: 800-321-OSHA (6742) | TTY: 877-889-5627

www.OSHA.gov