Honeywell
HOWARD LEIGHT

OCCUPATIONAL NOISE

THE INVISIBLE HAZARD AND KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL HEARING PROTECTION

NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS (NIHL) IS THE MOST COMMON PERMANENT AND PREVENTABLE OCCUPATIONAL INJURY

jet engine takeoff **150** dB

22 mil.
U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous noise each year

24%
of hearing loss among workers is caused by occupational exposures

34%
of noise-exposed workers report not wearing hearing protection

hammer on nail **120** dB

generator **116** dB

Unlike most injuries, it's difficult to tell when you've been affected by NIHL because it's painless and progressive.

ambulance siren **112** dB

impact wrench **102** dB

bulldozer **100** dB

table saw **93** dB

lawnmower **90** dB

CAUSES

- Continuous, long-term exposure to sounds at or exceeding 85 decibels
- One-time impulsive exposure over 140 dB peak

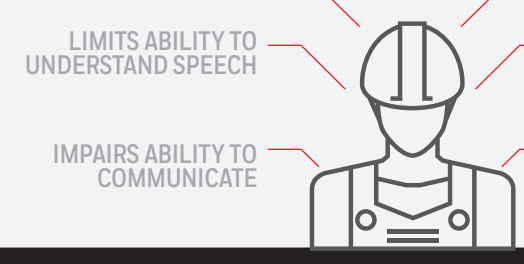
TOP INDUSTRIES WITH NOISE HAZARDS

AGRICULTURE · CONSTRUCTION · FOOD PROCESSING · MANUFACTURING · MILITARY · MINING · OIL & GAS · PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES · TRANSPORTATION · UTILITIES

EXAMPLES OF NOISE HAZARDS

$1.5 million employers pay/year in penalties for not protecting workers from noise

$242 million annually spent on workers' compensation for hearing loss disability



- SOCIAL ISOLATION AND WITHDRAWAL
- LIMITS ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND SPEECH
- IMPAIRS ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE
- REDUCES PRODUCTIVITY
- RESULTS IN TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HEARING LOSS
- INCREASES RISK OF HYPERTENSION AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL

EFFECTS OF **NIHL** ON WORKERS

Cost to employers | Cost to society

OSHA's role

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95 requires employers to use engineering and administrative controls to reduce excessive noise levels.

If controls fail to reduce noise to permissible levels, Hearing Protection Device must be provided and used.

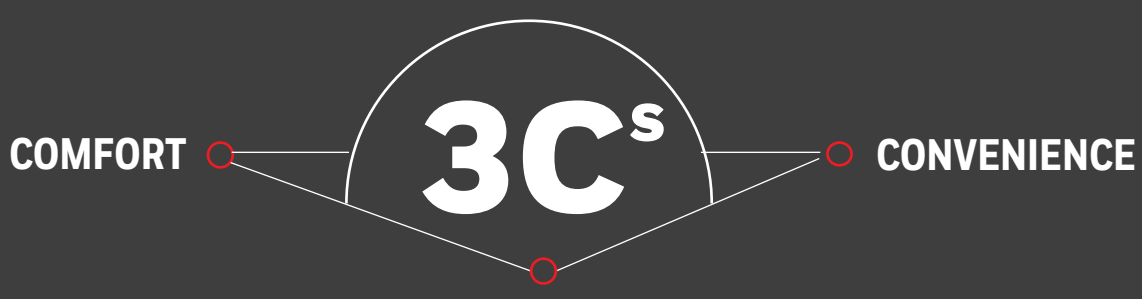
When noise exposure levels equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 dBA, a hearing conservation program is required.

In some very loud environments, workers should wear double hearing protection (earplugs and earmuffs).

Refer to the OSHA standard for complete details.

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL HEARING PROTECTION

Occupational NIHL can be reduced or eliminated when proper measures are implemented



Wearers should:

- Be aware of jobsite noise risks
- Always use hearing protection where noise hazards exist
- Carefully follow fitting instructions to ensure protection
- Inspect, clean, and replace hearing protection devices (HPD) according to instructions

Employers should:

- Provide an assortment of hearing protection types and sizes to ensure workers achieve the 3 Cs
- Monitor noise levels and make necessary adjustments to reduce hazardous noise levels
- Educate workforce on the importance of using hearing protection devices and their proper use
- Avoid overprotection to ensure clear communication and the ability to hear warning signals
- Rely on Honeywell Howard Leight to help guide the selection process and ensure appropriate protection that meets the unique needs of your workforce

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