



CHAPTER 17

Hearing Conservation Program

POLICY

The Flight Department is committed to the protection of its employees from the effects of hazardous noise levels in the workplace. The Hearing Conservation Program is intended to prevent permanent or temporary hearing loss resulting from employee exposure to workplace noise and to comply with the Occupational Noise Exposure requirements of 29 CFR 1910.95.

The Program only applies to Department employees who are exposed to noise levels at or above an 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) of 85 dBA or, equivalently, a dose of fifty percent. All actions called for under this Program, which are predicated upon noise level exposure, shall be made without regard to attenuation provided by hearing protectors.

Personnel may be exposed to noise levels up to 111 dBA for short duration while working near aircraft engines. Therefore, the Department will provide hearing protection and audiometric testing for all affected personnel.

NOISE MONITORING

Noise monitoring is conducted to verify that no Department employees are exposed to the OSHA action level of 85 dBA or greater for an 8-hour TWA during routine or reasonably anticipated non-routine tasks.

Noise monitoring shall be requested when changes in equipment or controls may result in employees being exposed at or above the action level.

HEARING PROTECTION

All employees exposed to noise shall be provided with hearing protection, at no cost. Hearing protection should be worn by employees exposed to workplace noise at or above 85 dBA. When required, all hearing protectors shall be worn in accordance with specifications recommended by the manufacturer.

RETENTION OF RECORDS

Noise exposure measurement records shall be retained in an accurate and accessible manner by the Safety Manager for two years following the date of the measurement.

Exposure records maintained pursuant to this Program are accessible to each affected employee as outlined in Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records.