



HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

29 CFR 1910.95

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Introduction

It is the policy of **Florida Atlantic University** to provide a safe and healthful workplace for its employees. In order to ensure this policy, **Florida Atlantic University** has established a Hearing Conservation Program. This program applies to all persons working in areas or with equipment that have noise levels of 85 decibels, “A” weighting (dBA) or higher. All departments affected will maintain a copy of this program.

Noise Monitoring

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) will conduct monitoring for noise exposure levels. Departments are responsible for notifying EH&S when there is a possible need for monitoring. Monitoring will be performed with the use of sound level meters and personal dosimeters at the discretion of EH&S.

Monitoring will also be conducted whenever EH&S is notified that there is a change in equipment, process, or controls that affects the noise levels. This includes the addition or removal of machinery, alteration in building structure, or installation of new equipment.

Hearing Protection

Hearing protection will be provided, and replaced as necessary, at no cost to employees who perform tasks designated as having a high noise exposure. It is the responsibility of the department to require employees to wear hearing protection when noise levels reach or exceed 85 dBA. Those employees will have the opportunity to choose from various types of hearing protection. Personal stereo headsets (e.g. iPods) are not approved for hearing protection. Signage is required in hearing protection areas.

The areas or job tasks designated as requiring hearing protection are:

- (1) Grounds Crew
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

Employee Training

Affected employees will be required to receive training concerning the proper usage and wearing of hearing protection. The training will be conducted by EH&S or a designated representative, within a month of hire and annually thereafter. Training will include information on the effects of noise on hearing, the purpose of hearing protection, an explanation of audiometric testing, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) noise standard.

Environmental Health and Safety will keep training records.

Audiograms/Hearing Test

Employees included in the hearing conservation program who have time-weighted average (TWA) noise exposures of 85 dBA or greater for an eight (8) hour work shift will be required to have both a baseline and annual audiogram. The audiogram will be provided by Florida Atlantic University at no cost to the employee.

The baseline audiogram will be given to an employee within one (1) month of employment with **Florida Atlantic University** and before any exposure to high noise levels. Annual audiograms will be performed within one year from the date of the previous audiogram. It is the responsibility of the individual and their supervisor/Department Head to contact EH&S to schedule the annual audiogram.

If an annual audiogram shows that an employee has suffered a standard threshold shift the employee will be retested within thirty (30) days of the original audiogram. If the retest confirms the occurrence of a standard threshold shift, the employee will be notified in writing within twenty-one (21) days of the confirmation. Employees who do experience a standard threshold shift will also be refitted with hearing protection and provided more training on the effects of noise.

Recordkeeping

All records of employee exposure measurements including the results of all surveys, audiometric tests and training will be retained for the following periods:

- . Noise exposure measurement records will be retained for at least two years at EH&S.
- . Audiometric test records will be retained in the affected employee's medical file for the duration of their employment

All records will be provided upon request to employees, former employees, designated representatives, and to any **authorized** OSHA or State of Florida representative.

Appendix A

Occupational Noise Standard

Contact Environmental Health and Safety for a hard copy of the Occupational Noise Standard, 29 CFR 1910.95, or visit the following links to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's web site.

OSHA: [Occupational Safety and Health Administration - Home](#)

Occupational Noise Exposure (1910.95): [Occupational noise exposure. - 1910.95](#)