Hearing Conservation

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to set forth the procedures that have been established to evaluate and control employee exposure to excessive workplace noise.

Scope

The scope of this plan requires Fieldwood Energy to administer a hearing conservation program whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels (dB).

Responsibilities

The **Fieldwood Energy Area Foreman** is responsible for:

- Assuring that noise level monitoring is conducted when information indicates that any employee’s exposure may equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.
- Notifying EH&S Department when changes in the work area may affect the noise levels.
- Conferring with the supervisors to identify noise hazards and hearing protection required for a specific job / task.
- Auditing compliance with the use of proper hearing protection.
- Implementing and managing this program for covered positions.
- Understanding and implementing the requirements of the Hearing Conservation program.
- Conferring with EH&S Department as to the noise hazards of a job and hearing protection required.

The **Fieldwood Energy Production Foreman, Person in Charge (PIC), Lead Operator or Consultant** is responsible for:

- Complying with this procedure and using the required hearing protection.
- Cooperating with those conducting noise monitoring by providing information about the work environment, the equipment in operation, and specific jobs.
- Conferring with employees and contract employees as to noise hazards involved and hearing protection requirements associated with the job.
- Posting and maintaining warning signs where hearing protection is required.
- Monitoring employee usage of required hearing protection.
- Obtaining special hearing protection when required for a specific job.
The **Contractor** is responsible for:

- Maintaining a hearing conservation program as per the requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95.
- Training their employees on the requirements of the regulation.

The **employee** or **contract employee** is responsible for:

- Complying with this procedure and using the proper hearing protection in the necessary required areas.
- Inspecting hearing protection equipment prior to each use and maintaining it in a good and clean condition.
- Requesting information from supervision about any portion of the Hearing Conservation Program that is not fully understood.

**Requirements**

**Engineering and Administrative Controls**

Engineering controls should be implemented to reduce noise levels whenever feasible.

**Administrative Controls**

Administrative controls should be exercised to reduce noise levels, when practical.

**Monitoring**

*Covered Employees*

Employees or contract employees whose noise exposures equal or exceed 85 dBA for an 8-hour TWA or 82.5 dBA for a 12-hour TWA will be included in the Hearing Conservation Program.

**Hearing Protection**

**Availability**

Hearing protection devices shall be available on the platform at all times.

Hearing protection is required when the following exist:

- Employees are exposed to 85 dBA TWA or greater, as identified by posting of signs in designated areas.
- During everyday tasks that generate noise.
Precautions

Posting of signs stating “Caution: Hearing Protection is Required in This Area” or “Hearing Protection is Required Beyond This Point” must be posted in areas with noise levels of 85 dBA or greater.

All employees working in the posted areas shall wear approved hearing protectors. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that employees adhere to the hearing protection requirements.