

Snapshots!

**Hearing Conservation Program**

<http://ehs.psu.edu/hearing-conservation/overview>

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**Who does this program apply to?**

* All University employees and students who operate gas powered or other “noisy” equipment or who work in “noisy” areas. Contact EHS is you have questions on making this determination.
  + **Rule-of-thumb for “noisy” areas or equipment**: If you must raise your voice to clearly communicate with someone 3 feet away you need hearing protection. Contact EHS to confirm they are aware of the noise source.

**What are the key requirements of this program?**

* Sound level testing by EHS.
* Development and implementation of engineering controls, where possible.
* Proper selection and use of hearing protection when engineering controls are not possible.
* Annual hearing testing and training for affected employees.
* Safety Officers, Facility Coordinators, Managers and Supervisors must:
* Maintain a listing of affected employees in their units.
* Coordinate annual hearing testing and training.
* Ensure employees and students select and properly use hearing protection when needed.
* Notify EHS of new possible “loud” noise sources so sound level testing can be conducted as needed.
* Purchase “quiet” when possible when replacing equipment, etc.
* Employees and students must:
  + - Select and properly use hearing protection when needed.
    - Notify supervisors and EHS of new possible “loud” noise sources so sound level testing can be conducted as needed.
  + Training requirements:
    - Hearing Conservation Awareness Training is required annually for employees who are enrolled in the program.
* Self-inspection programs or requirements:
  + - Everyone should be observant and report potentially “loud” noise sources to EHS.
    - Ensure employees and co-workers are properly wearing hearing protection (plugs inserted properly; muffs under jacket hoods, not outside, etc.).
* Recordkeeping requirements:
  + - Maintain a listing of affected employees (work units).
    - Maintain hearing testing records (PSU Occupational Medicine).
    - Sound level testing data (EHS).

**For additional information:**

* OSHA Hearing Conservation Publication:<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3074.pdf>
* OSHA Hearing Conservation information: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/index.html>
* National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA):<http://www.hearingconservation.org/>