



Minnesota Electrical Association

Electrical Toolbox Talks

Hearing Safety

- Wherever it is not feasible to reduce the noise levels or duration of exposures to those specified in the table below, Permissible Noise Exposures in 1926.52, protective hearing devices should be provided and used.
- Ear protective devices inserted in the ear shall be fitted or determined individually by competent persons.
- Plain cotton is not an acceptable protective device.
- Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound exceeds those shown in the table when measured on the A-scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response.
- When employees are subjected to sound levels exceeding those listed in the table, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table, personal protective equipment as required in Subpart E shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.
- If the variations in noise level involve maxima at intervals of 1 second or less, it is to be considered continuous.
- In all cases where the sound levels exceed the values shown, a continuing, effective hearing conservation program shall be administered.



Permissible Noise Exposures

Duration per day, hours	Sound level dBA slow response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1 1/2	102
1	105
1/2	110
1/4 or less	115

More information on Hearing Safety can be found in the OSHA Regulations 1926 Subpart K and Subpart D.

Sponsored by

