

# QSCU OHS&R MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## PROCEDURE 53 – Hearing Conversation

### 1. PURPOSE

This procedure defines requirements for the control of noise exposure to prevent occupational noise induced hearing loss.

### 2. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

1. Noise exposure shall be adequately controlled to ensure that people are not exposed to noise on site or arising from site operations which exceeds an exposure limit of:
  - an 8 hour equivalent continuous sound pressure level of 85 dB(A) - or 82dB(A) for 12 hours; or
  - a peak sound pressure level of 120 dB(lin) (Refer to AS 2659 for further definition of sound pressure level measurement).
2. A design standard of 82 dB(A) shall be applied to all new plant and equipment, including modifications, unless otherwise determined by the Company nominated Responsible Engineer or Building Manager where technology either does not exist or is prohibitively expensive to achieve an unprotected exposure of less than 82 dB(A).
3. Noise exposure shall be identified and where it is deemed to exist, shall be assessed by trained, suitably experienced personnel (i.e. Occupational Hygienist):
  - at defined intervals for all work areas where the sound pressure level may exceed the exposure limits;
  - during the design of all new plant and equipment;
  - following the introduction of new plant or equipment or modifications to existing plant or equipment which are likely to affect noise exposure; and
  - where results from audiometric testing (refer below) reveal evidence of work related noise induced hearing loss.
4. Where an assessment reveals that noise exposure may exceed the exposure limit, a documented plan for the elimination control of noise exposure shall be established in accordance with the following priority:
  - If the source of the noise can be eliminated (i.e. a redundant item of plant) then the item of plant shall be shut down and isolated or removed; or
  - Substitution of the item of plant i.e. replace it with an item of plant that does not exceed noise exposure levels; or
  - Engineering controls shall be implemented i.e. noise dampeners; or
  - If reduction of noise exposure to below the exposure limit through the above controls is not practicable, consideration shall be given to administrative controls; and
  - Where the above controls cannot practicably reduce the noise exposure to below the exposure limit, hearing protection shall be used.

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5. Hearing protection signs conforming with the relevant Australian Standard (e.g. AS/NZS 1319:1983 - Personal Danger Tags & Safety Signs) shall be displayed to indicate areas where hearing protection is required.
6. All employees who may be exposed to noise in excess of the exposure limit shall be trained in the principles of hearing conservation and the use of hearing protection equipment.
7. All employees who are required to wear hearing protection to control noise exposure shall undergo audiometric assessment prior to appointment and at least every two years.
8. Records of site noise exposure levels shall be retained indefinitely and results from audiometric testing shall be retained for at least 60 years following cessation of employment.
9. OHS&R training records shall be retained indefinitely.
10. Regular reviews of this procedure shall be conducted to ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements.

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Responsible Manager

Ensure that the requirements of this procedure are complied with.

### 4. REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

#### A. AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND OHS&R LEGISLATION