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NOISE

Exposure to Noise at Work

It is estimated that one in ten Britons have a hearing loss that affects their ability to understand normal speech. Putting aside the normal age related effects (presbycusis), occupational noise exposure is the most common cause of Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) and threatens the hearing of many groups of employees including; construction site and factory workers, farmers, military personnel, bar workers, musicians and entertainers, drivers, and call centre operators to name only a few.

Recent figures issued by the Health and Safety Executive estimate that 170,000 people in the UK suffer from NIHL (permanent loss or degradation of hearing sensation) or Tinnitus (constant ringing in the ears).

The Noise at Work Regulations 2005 were developed to provide legislative protection for employees, and set Action Levels for continuous noise exposure based on an 8 hour average, and a Peak Action Level to accommodate impulsive noise. The new legislation has reduced the Action Levels by 5dB and introduced a new Exposure Limit.

The key responsibilities for employers are:

1. A competent person must undertake a Noise Assessment.
2. Noise exposure must be reduced – ideally at source.
3. Employers must provide information and training for employees who are at risk.
4. Employers must issue personal hearing protection to those at risk, and enforce its use.

How do I ensure my organisation has noise under control?

TCH Safety Consultants, are local specialists in undertaking “Competent Person” Noise at Work Assessments, and can help organisations comply with existing and forthcoming legislation by providing a friendly, professional, and cost effective service.

With several years experience implementing reliable and robust noise control measures in an industrial setting, **TCH** Safety Consultants can offer the complete solution, from initial assessment and selection of appropriate hearing protectors, through to specification and project management of noise control initiatives. Noise awareness training for your employees can also be provided at your site to ensure they understand this often unseen hazard.

TCH Safety Consultants does not sell any noise control products and does not have affiliation with preferred suppliers. You can be assured of unbiased professional advice resulting in effective engineered solutions to your noise problems.

Make sure your noise assessments are up to date. The risk of NIHL is a reality for many work environments.

Safety is no accident