## Information
Noise and Hearing Conservation

## Effective
January 2003

## Number
DEHS-Industrial Hygiene-5

## Applicability
This procedure applies to the University Community (administrators, faculty, staff, and students) working in noisy environments.

## Administrative Authority
Senior Associate Vice President for Operations

## Responsible Unit
Environmental Health & Safety
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
502-852-6670
dehs@louisville.edu

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## History
Revision Date(s): June 23, 2015
Reviewed Date(s):

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## Categories

# Reason for Procedure:
Hearing loss due to noise exposure is one of the most pervasive and preventable occupational health problems, and hearing induced loss can be reduced and/or prevented through implementation of a hearing conservation program.

# Statement:

## Employees*

1. Contact the Department of Environmental Health & Safety (DEHS) Industrial Hygiene Manager for a noise exposure evaluation if concerned about the level of noise exposure in the work environment.
2. Should exposure exceed 85 decibels for an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA), enroll in UofL Hearing Conservation Program.
3. Complete Noise & Hearing Conservation training on line in BioRaft.
4. Wear hearing protectors and keep them in a sanitary condition.

*Hearing Conservation Programs have been established for Steam & Chill Plant workers and groundskeepers in Physical Plant and for cage wash and animal care technicians in the Research Resource Facilities.

## Departments (with occupational noise exposure exceeding 85 decibels for an 8-hour time-weighted average)

1. Provide employees with personal exposure results that are provided by DEHS.
2. Implement Hearing Conservation Program to include: developing a written plan, requesting noise monitoring, providing annual audiometric testing, providing a selection of appropriate hearing protection devices, employee training and maintaining documents.
3. Observe employees periodically to assure hearing protectors are used properly.

## Department of Environmental Health & Safety

1. Conduct noise exposure monitoring for employees who may be exposed to noise equal or greater than 85 dBA as an 8-hour TWA.
2. Provide written notification of exposure results to employees.
3. Forward noise monitoring exposure reports to Departments.
4. Provide hearing conservation training.
5. Assist with unit-specific written plan, noise monitoring, selection of hearing protection and locating a hearing test provider.
6. Conduct further investigation to determine if administrative or engineering controls are feasible should any employee's noise exposure exceed an 8-hour TWA of 90 dBA or greater.

7. Maintain exposure monitoring records.

## Forms/Online Processes:

DEHS webpage: http://louisville.edu/dehs/occup-health-safety