

WAC 296-307-63210 Control employee noise exposures that equal or exceed 90 dBA TWA₈.

IMPORTANT:

Hearing protection provides a barrier to noise and protects employees but is not considered a control of the noise hazard. Separate requirements apply to hearing protection and are found in WAC 296-307-63215.

You must:

- Reduce employee noise exposure, using feasible controls, whenever exposure equals or exceeds 90 dBA TWA₈.

- Note:**
- Once noise exposures are brought below 90 dBA TWA₈, no further reduction is required. However, further reduction of noise may reduce the need for other hearing loss prevention requirements
 - Controls that eliminate noise at the source or establish a permanent barrier to noise are typically more reliable. For example:
 - Replacing noisy equipment with quiet equipment
 - Using silencers and mufflers
 - Installing enclosures
 - Damping noisy equipment and parts.
 - Other controls and work practices may also be useful for reducing noise exposures. Examples include:
 - Employee rotation
 - Limiting use of noisy equipment
 - Rescheduling work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-63210, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]