

**WAC 296-307-63210 Control employee noise exposures that equal or exceed 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>.**

**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.

The employer must reduce employee noise exposure, using feasible controls, wherever exposure equals or exceeds 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>.

**Notes:**

1. Once noise exposures are brought below 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>, no further reduction is required. However, further reduction of noise may reduce the need for other hearing loss prevention requirements.
2. Controls that eliminate noise at the source or establish a permanent barrier to noise are typically more reliable. For example:
  - a. Replacing noisy equipment with quiet equipment;
  - b. Using silencers and mufflers;
  - c. Installing enclosures;
  - d. Damping noisy equipment and parts.
3. Other controls and work practices may also be useful for reducing noise exposures. Examples include:
  - a. Employee rotation;
  - b. Limiting use of noisy equipment;
  - c. Rescheduling work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 20-21-091, § 296-307-63210, filed 10/20/20, effective 11/20/20; WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-63210, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]