

Noise Management Plan

SAMPLE

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SAMPLE

Noise Management Plan

1. Purpose, Scope and Objectives

This Noise Management Plan sets out the arrangements [Company Name] will implement to identify, assess and control risks associated with occupational noise exposure. It is designed to ensure that workers and other persons are not exposed to noise levels that may cause hearing loss or other adverse health effects, in line with Australian work health and safety (WHS) legislation and relevant standards.

This plan applies to all operations undertaken by [Company Name], including but not limited to:

- Manufacturing and production lines
- Metal fabrication and welding workshops
- Civil construction and earthworks sites
- Mining and resources operations (fixed plant and mobile plant)
- Automotive and mechanical workshops
- Carpentry and joinery activities (on-site and in workshops)

1.1 Objectives

The key objectives of this Noise Management Plan are to:

- Prevent noise-induced hearing loss and related health impacts in workers and others.
- Ensure compliance with WHS legislation, regulations, codes of practice and relevant Australian Standards.
- Establish clear procedures for noise assessment, control, monitoring and review.
- Provide workers with information, training and instruction on noise hazards and controls.
- Integrate noise management into procurement, planning, design and maintenance activities.

1.2 Legislative and Standards Framework

This Noise Management Plan is to be implemented in accordance with, but not limited to, the following (as applicable in the jurisdiction):

- Work Health and Safety Act
- Work Health and Safety Regulations (Noise provisions)
- Model Code of Practice: Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work
- Relevant Australian Standards (e.g. AS/NZS 1269 series – Occupational noise management; AS/NZS 1270 – Acoustics – Hearing protectors)

[Company Name] will monitor legislative changes and update this plan as required.

2. Roles, Responsibilities and Consultation

Effective noise management relies on clearly defined responsibilities and genuine consultation with workers and other duty holders.

2.1 Officers and Senior Management

Officers of [Company Name] (e.g. directors, senior managers) must exercise due diligence to ensure that the organisation complies with its WHS duties in relation to noise. This includes:

- Ensuring adequate resources are provided for noise assessments, engineering controls and hearing conservation programs.
- Approving and supporting implementation of the Noise Management Plan.
- Reviewing performance reports and ensuring corrective actions are implemented.
- Ensuring noise risks are considered in strategic decisions, such as plant purchase, facility design and major projects.

2.2 Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors must implement this plan in their areas of responsibility. This includes:

- Identifying work areas and tasks with potential hazardous noise exposure (e.g. metal cutting tasks, crushing plants, concrete saw operations, impact tools in automotive workshops, planers and thicknessers in joinery shops).
- Ensuring noise assessments are conducted and kept up to date.
- Implementing and maintaining noise control measures.
- Ensuring workers are trained, supervised and provided with appropriate hearing protection.
- Enforcing the use of hearing protection in designated hearing protection areas.
- Reporting and investigating noise-related incidents or complaints.

2.3 Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs)

Where HSRs are elected, they will:

- Represent workers in consultation on noise hazards and controls.
- Participate in noise risk assessments and inspections.
- Assist in communicating noise-related information to workers.
- Raise concerns about noise exposure and follow up on corrective actions.

2.4 Workers

All workers, including employees, contractors, labour hire workers and apprentices, must:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions.
- Follow all noise-related procedures and instructions, including wearing hearing protection where required.
- Participate in training, consultation and audiometric testing as requested.
- Report any noise concerns, damaged hearing protection or changes in work practices that may affect noise exposure.

2.5 Contractors and Visitors

Contractors and visitors must comply with [Company Name]'s noise management requirements, including:

- Wearing hearing protection in designated areas.
- Using plant and equipment in accordance with noise control requirements.
- Not defeating or bypassing noise controls (e.g. removing guards, acoustic enclosures or silencers).

3. Identification of Noise Hazards

[Company Name] will systematically identify noise hazards across all operations. Noise hazards typically arise from high-powered machinery, impact tools, cutting and grinding processes and mobile plant.

3.1 Typical Noise Sources by Sector

Examples of common noise sources include:

- Manufacturing and Production:
 - Presses, stamping machines, automated cutting lines, packaging lines, blowers and compressors.
- Metal Fabrication and Welding:
 - Oxy-cutting, plasma cutting, angle grinders, pedestal grinders, guillotines, punch and shear machines, air arc gouging.
- Civil Construction and Earthworks:
 - Excavators, dozers, graders, compactors, rock breakers, concrete saws, jackhammers, piling rigs, vacuum trucks.
- Mining and Resources:
 - Crushers, screens, conveyors, draglines, drilling rigs, longwall equipment, diesel-powered mobile plant.
- Automotive and Mechanical: