

OCCUPATIONAL NOISE

THE INVISIBLE HAZARD AND KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL HEARING PROTECTION



NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS (NIHL) IS THE MOST COMMON PERMANENT AND PREVENTABLE OCCUPATIONAL INJURY

11 million People suffer from hearing loss in the UK
2 million People in Great Britain exposed to unacceptable levels of noise at work
15.6 million Are estimated to suffer hearing loss by 2035¹
17 thousand People in the UK suffer deafness, ringing in the ears or other ear conditions caused by excessive noise at work

jet engine takeoff
150 dB

hammer on nail
120 dB

generator
116 dB

ambulance siren
112 dB

impact wrench
102 dB

bulldozer
100 dB

table saw
93 dB

lawnmower
90 dB

Unlike most injuries, it's difficult to tell when you've been affected by NIHL because it's painless and progressive.

CAUSES

- Continuous, long-term exposure to sounds at or exceeding 87 decibels
- One-time impulsive exposure over 140 dB peak

TOP INDUSTRIES WITH NOISE HAZARDS



EXAMPLES OF NOISE HAZARDS

£25 billion

UK economy loses £25 billion a year in lost productivity and unemployment due to hearing loss.

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND WITHDRAWAL

LIMITS ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND SPEECH

IMPAIRS ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE



REDUCES PRODUCTIVITY

RESULTS IN TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HEARING LOSS

INCREASES RISK OF HYPERTENSION AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL

#2

Noise-induced hearing loss is #2 most common reason for occupational health-related employers' liability insurance claims

EFFECTS OF NIHL ON WORKERS

Cost to economy

Cost to society

Safety Regulations in the UK*

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (the 'Noise Regulations') requires to take action to reduce the noise exposure; and provide employees with personal hearing protection.

Employers should carry out a risk assessment, comply with exposure limits, reduce risks from noise to as low as is reasonably practicable.

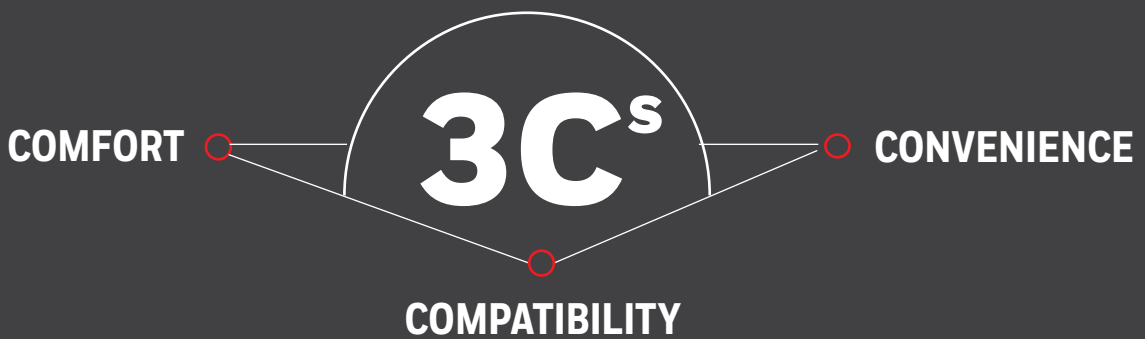
The workers' noise exposure shouldn't exceed: 87 decibels for daily or weekly personal noise exposure; 140 decibels for peak sound pressure.

The Noise Regulations require to provide employees with hearing protectors and make sure they use them fully and properly when their noise exposure exceeds the upper exposure action values.

Refer to the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (the 'Noise Regulations') for complete details.

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL HEARING PROTECTION

Occupational NIHL can be reduced or eliminated when proper measures are implemented



Wearers should:

- Be aware of jobsite noise risks
- Always use hearing protection where noise hazards exist
- Carefully follow fitting instructions to ensure protection
- Inspect, clean, and replace hearing protection devices (HPD) according to instructions

Employers should:

- Provide an assortment of hearing protection types and sizes to ensure workers achieve the 3 Cs
- Monitor noise levels and make necessary adjustments to reduce hazardous noise levels
- Educate workforce on the importance of using hearing protection devices and their proper use
- Avoid overprotection to ensure clear communication and the ability to hear warning signals
- Rely on Honeywell Howard Leight to help guide the selection process and ensure appropriate protection that meets the unique needs of your workforce