

**File: Noise Exposure Policy**

**Orig. Date: 10/19/2007**

**Review Date: October 2009**

**OSHA: 1910.95**

Messiah College  
**Noise Exposure  
Policy and Procedure**

*Policy:* It is the policy of Messiah College to protect all employees whose job responsibilities may expose them to noise levels equaling or exceeding 85 dBA for 8-hour shifts (Action Level). Employees exposed to those levels of occupational noise are included in this Noise Exposure policy which includes audiometric monitoring, training, and the use of hearing protection devices.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**dBA:** Decibel A-weighted. 85 dBA is the action level for noise exposure and requires the use of proper hearing protection, if exposed to over an 8 hour period. 90 dBA, over an 8 hour average, is the action level where audiograms must be completed, hearing protection is mandatory, and training is required.

**TWA:** Time weighted average.

**Audiometric Testing:** Gauges the effectiveness of the noise exposure policy and to determine whether the employee has suffered any significant hearing loss. Employees covered by this policy will be provided with baseline audiograms and annual audiograms thereafter. Test results will be made available to the employee.

*Objectives:* To protect College employees from hearing loss associated with exposure to occupational noise.

*Equipment:* Hearing Protection

*Procedure:*

Exposure monitoring of Grounds Department and Facilities Maintenance work areas was conducted in September 2007. If necessary, or if work conditions change, exposure monitoring will be conducted in work areas or job tasks that are suspected of

exceeding the 85 dBA action level. Employees involved in this monitoring will receive written notification of their exposure monitoring results.

Annual training is required for all employees exposed to noise levels at or above 90 dBA over an 8 hour period. Training includes:

- The effects of noise on hearing;
- The purpose, advantages, and disadvantages of various types of hearing protectors, including their attenuation levels;
- The selection, fitting, and care of hearing protectors; and
- The purpose of audiometric testing.

Employees affected by noise levels at or above 85 dBA used the following equipment or worked in the following areas:

- String Trimmer; Grounds Department
- Kubota 3060; Grounds Department
- Case 410 Tractor; Grounds Department
- Grinder; Grounds Department

Responsibility

Step   Action

Environmental Health and Safety Manager

- 1      Oversee the administration of the Noise Exposure Policy.
- 2      Review all audiometric test results and keep on file in the Environmental Health and Safety Managers Office.
- 3      Ensure that employees are provided training, audiometric exams, and hearing protection devices.
- 4      Assist Departments in identifying and monitoring potential high noise areas.
- 5      Maintain all training records and audiometric test results for the duration of the person’s employment at Messiah.
- 6      Setup agreement with OMY Mobile Medical Testing (East Berlin, PA) to perform audiometric testing and training.

Department Supervisor

- 1      Ensure that employees are provided training, audiometric exams, and hearing protection devices.

- 2 Contact EHS Manager when new employees are hired whose job responsibilities may expose them to levels equaling or exceeding 85 dBA per 8-hour shift.
- 3 Identify potentially high noise locations and contact the EHS Manager to conduct noise surveys when necessary.
- 4 Ensure that employees use the appropriate hearing protection in the manner in which wearers have been trained.
- 5 Assure that each employee routinely exposed to 90 dBA or higher, for an 8 hour time weighted average, receive an audiometric examination prior to noise exposure and ensure employee receives an annual audiometric examination thereafter.
- 6 Provide work environments which minimize noise to the greatest extent reasonable.

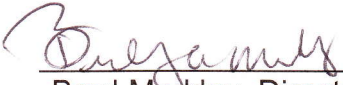
Employee

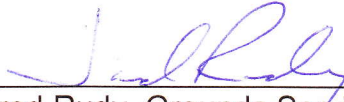
- 1 Observe the procedures and requirements outlined in this Policy.
- 2 Attend training sessions and obtain audiometric testing as required.
- 3 Wear approved hearing protection devices when performing job functions that are at or above 85 dBA TWA.
- 4 Notify supervisor of changes in the workplace that could change noise exposures.
- 5 Read and understand the Policy and sign a copy. Retain a copy of the signed Policy and give the original signed copy for the EHS Managers files.

Approved  Reviewed  Revised

  
 Kathrynne Shafer, Vice President for Operations

  
 Dan Smith, Facility Maintenance Service Manager

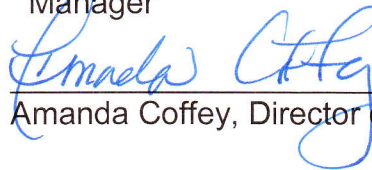
  
 Brad Markley, Director of Facility Services



Jared Rudy, Grounds Services Manager



Hilary Kreider, Environmental Health and Safety  
Manager



Amanda Coffey, Director of Human Resource

**"Note - The signed copy of this procedure is filed in the Facility Service Department. By signing this policy you have agreed to enforce the contents and adhere to standards".**