

Name: _____

County: _____

Date: _____



Hearing Conservation Safety Quiz

1) MSHA has two “noise limits” as defined in the MSHA Part 62 standard which are:

1) _____

2) _____

2) When using hearing protectors what are three things to consider when choosing and using:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3) Name two ways noise impacts the workplace.

4) Can hearing loss be recovered after damage?

Yes? _____ No? _____

5) What are the three steps for inserting a formable ear plug?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Hearing Conservation



Health Hazard Information Card HH-31



Why did MSHA develop a new noise rule?

MSHA developed the Part 62 Rule to prevent the occurrence and reduce the progression of occupational noise-induced hearing loss.

Part 62 states that a Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) must be established at every operation where any worker's noise exposure is measured at 85 dBA TWA₈ (50 percent of the allowable noise dose measured using 80 dBA low threshold) or higher.

What are my employer's responsibilities in an HCP?

Your employer must:

- Make exposure determinations for each miner.
- Offer initial and annual audiograms (hearing tests) to all workers enrolled in an HCP.
- Train you in:
 - » effects of noise on hearing;
 - » purpose and value of wearing hearing protectors (HPs);

- » advantages and disadvantages of HPs offered by your employer;
- » various types of HPs offered by your employer; care, fitting, and use of each type;

- » general requirements of Part 62;
 - » operator's and miner's respective tasks in maintaining noise controls; and
 - » purpose and value of audiometric testing and summary of procedures.
- Allow you to choose HPs from at least two types of ear plugs and two types of ear muffs.
 - Ensure that HPs are in good condition, fitted, and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - Provide HPs and necessary replacements at no cost to you.
 - Ensure that you wear HPs when required, including dual hearing protection (plugs and muffs) in areas where noise reaches levels of 105 dBA or higher.
 - Keep full records.

What are my responsibilities?

Your responsibilities include:

- attending training;
- wearing hearing protectors (HPs) when needed;
- keeping HPs in good condition;
- telling your employer if the HPs you selected are not effective or are damaged;
- complying with established administrative controls, such as divided work shifts;
- maintaining engineering controls in good working order, promptly reporting needed repairs and replacements; and

- reporting any signs of exposure to high noise levels, such as ringing in your ears after being exposed to noise, to your employer.

What else can I do to protect my hearing?

You should try to avoid noisy locations and activities away from the job unless you are wearing proper hearing protection.

Remember: occupational noise-induced hearing loss is preventable.

Part 62 does not require you to take the audiograms your employer offers, but it is in your best interest to do so.

Where can I find out more?

For additional information and assistance, contact:

- » Your local MSHA office
- » Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health
Arlington, VA — 202-693-9630
- » Coal Mine Safety and Health
Arlington, VA — 202-693-9510
- » Pittsburgh Safety and Health
Technology Center
Pittsburgh, PA — 412-386-6901

See Card HH-15 "The Hazards of Noise."