
BNL's Noise and Hearing Conservation Program Assessment

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Assessment Approach

- DOE/BAO Independent Assessment with SHSD SME's participation
- Assessment Field Evaluation included limited sampling of BNL Org. Units
- BAO's expectation is that all concerns, findings, and observations are addressed as potential site-wide indicators.

Assessment Time Line

	<u>Date</u>
1. Assessment	7/10-25/01
2. Factual Accuracy Due	9/12/01
3. Closeout	10/03/01
4. Site-wide Corrective Action Plan Due.	10/22/01

Assessment Summary

- Overall, good hearing conservation program
- Three BNL-wide concerns
- Department/Divisions:
 - Four Noteworthy Practices
 - One Dept/Div Concern
 - Six Findings
 - Three Observations

4 Noteworthy Practices

- Occupational Medicine Clinic's use of electro-acoustic ear.
- SHSD's coordination of matrixed IH support.
- SHSD's new program procedures.
- Training and qualification of FST's for noise measurements.

BNL-wide Concerns

- PPE not maintained in sanitary and reliable conditions.
- Lack of consistent follow-up evaluation of workers with potential work-related hearing loss (STS).
- Some incomplete or inadequate exposure assessments.

Corrective actions to the site wide concerns
will be tracked at the Institutional Level in ATS.

Division Concern

- Workers continue to express concern about the noise levels from the Okamoto machining center. Central Shops Division has not demonstrated that feasible engineering controls have been evaluated. BAO will use this Concern to resolve possible ECP case.

Dept/Div Findings

- Cognizant safety and health persons were not aware of potentially hazardous noise activity conducted by Plant Engineering workers. Workers informed BAO that both muffs and plugs were needed for this task.
- IND-008 does not accurately identify noise exposure limits and application of NRR.

Dept/Division Concern/Findings should be tracked in FATS and will be verified by BAO Facility Representatives.

Dept/Div Findings

- Lack of variety and availability of hearing protectors at EENS shop.
- ERD has not demonstrated conformance with Brookhaven's Noise Control Code for OS-I.
- 14 hours without noise before audiogram (need to notify workers).
- Procurement specs do not specify required calibration criteria for audiometer.

Dept/Division Concern/Findings should be tracked in FATS and will be verified by BAO Facility Representatives.

Dept/Div Observations

- Some monitoring instruments may not conform to current ANSI standards.
- Placement of dosimeter during breaks needs to be evaluated.
- Guidance for placement of noise warning signs needs to be evaluated.
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Line and SHSD guidance and review required.