

## Eliminating Hazards of Noise Pollution



### NOISE ASSESSMENTS NOW REQUIRED



The 2023 AB OHS Code has changed the noise level requirements for noise assessments. The previous level of 85 dBA has been lowered to 82 dBA in an effort to assess noise before workers' occupational exposure limit is exceeded.

More information can be found in the 2023 AB OHS Code, Part 16, Sections 219 and 220.

### Noise assessment requirements

- Noise assessments are required when workers are exposed to noise in excess of 82 dBA (85 dBA for SK) at their work sites.
- Initial noise assessments are needed for workers with the potential for noise exposure and recorded as a baseline.
- Triggers for subsequent noise assessments:
  - Outdated initial assessment
  - Worker complaints
  - New development projects
  - Regulation changes

### Conducting noise assessments

- Must be conducted in accordance with CSA Standard Z107.56-18, *Measurement of noise exposure*.
- Approved equipment—noise dosimeter, sound level meter—must be calibrated to meet American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or other specified requirements.



### NOISE POLLUTION

Noise pollution—the unwanted or harmful presence of noise in the environment—has various negative effects on the health and well-being of workers, as well as the environment.

Noise assessments are critical to evaluate and manage the potential impacts of noise pollution.

### Steps for formal noise assessments

1. Determine measurement conditions
2. Select noise-measuring instrument or device
3. Collect data
4. Record important details
5. Validate measurements; collect more data if necessary
6. Calculate and analyse results
7. Create report

### Required details for assessment reports

- (a) Measured sound level readings
- (b) Dates of measurements
- (c) Evaluated tasks or occupations
- (d) Type of measuring equipment
- (e) Evaluated work area
- (f) Date of completed assessment

The report must be available upon request and retained for three years after the assessment.

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### Resources

#### Regulatory requirements:

**General:** [Canadian Noise Regulations & Bylaws](#)

**British Columbia:** [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Part 7: Noise, Vibration, Radiation and Temperature](#)

**Alberta:** [OHS Code Part 16 Noise Exposure; Noise at the work site bulletin](#)

**Saskatchewan:** [OHS Regulations Part 8 Noise Control and Hearing Conservation](#)

**Manitoba:** [Workplace Safety and Health Regulation Part 12 Hearing Conservation and Noise Control](#)

#### Others:

[Measuring Occupational Noise](#)

[Controlling Noise Exposure](#)

[Changes to Alberta Noise Legislation: What you need to know](#)

[Workplace Exposures](#)

[CSA Standard Z107.56-18 Measurement of noise exposure](#)

[Fit Testing: Questions and Answers](#)

[CSA Standard Z1007:22 Hearing loss prevention program \(HLPP\) management](#)



### TRAINING

Noise assessment training equips individuals with knowledge, skills and practical experience to conduct effective noise assessments, analyse noise data and develop mitigation strategies for noise exposure.

#### Basic noise assessment training

Provides individuals with an introductory understanding of principles and practices involved in assessing noise levels and their potential impacts.

#### Advanced noise assessment training

Builds on basic training and equips participants with necessary skills and knowledge for handling complex noise assessment projects and addressing challenges beyond the scope of basic training.

#### Training providers

Organizations need to identify vendors that can offer one or both levels of noise assessment training.

#### Who can conduct the assessment?

According to OHS AB's bulletin, Noise at the work site, employers can use competent in-house staff, or hire a competent service provider (e.g., an OHS Hygienist).

Competency in this context refers to staff or consultants that know what to do and have been offered basic noise assessment training.