**Noise: Hearing Conservation Template Guide**

The template criteria provided below is a sample list of audit or inspection criteria that is potentially related to the operations at your organization. You may review the samples below and use them as jumping off points for creating custom audit or inspection templates in the SafetySkills Empower system. They may be used in their entirety without change or edited and expanded to suit the specific needs of your organization. Use of these criteria is entirely optional and to be used at your discretion.

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| Are there areas in your workplace where continuous noise levels (or time-weighted average) exceed 85 dBA? |
| Are noise levels measured using a sound-level meter or an octave band analyzer? |
| Are monitoring results documented and available for review? |
| Have isolation and noise abatement techniques been applied to operating machinery?  |
| Have engineering controls been used to reduce excessive noise? |
| Where engineering controls are not feasible, are worker shift patterns adjusted to reduce exposure? |
| Does the safety management program address safe levels of noise and exposure, effects of noise on their health, and use of personal protection? |
| Are workers familiar with the noise issues addressed by the safety management program? |
| Are employees who are exposed to continuous noise above 85 dBA retrained annually? |
| Have work areas been identified where noise levels make voice communication difficult, and posted warnings and notifications? |
| Does every employee working in areas where noise levels exceed 90 dBA use approved hearing protection equipment (typically ear plugs, earmuffs)? |
| Are employees properly fitted and trained in the proper use, care, and cleaning of hearing protection? |
| Are employees exposed to continuous noise above 85 dBA given periodic audiometric testing to ensure that the hearing-protection system is fit-for-purpose? |
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| Further OSHA requirements and guidance see: 29CFR1910.95 |