

Occupational Health & Safety System	
OHS Standards	Number: WP-05
Personal Protective Equipment: Hearing Protection	

PREAMBLE:

Noise is one of the most pervasive health problems facing workers today. The main problem with workplace noise is that hearing loss can occur gradually, so that exposed workers don't notice until significant damage has occurred. Once damaged, hearing cannot be restored. Damaged hearing can affect job performance, health and productivity. The College shall adopt CSA Standard Z94.2 (current edition) "Hearing Protectors" and ACGIH (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists) exposure limits; where the worker is exposed to noise exposure hazards. The College will also adopt CSA Standard Z107.56-94 "Procedures for the Measurement of Occupational Noise Exposure," which explains how to carry out measurements, what instruments are needed, and how to interpret results. The Regulations for Industrial Establishments (O. Reg 851 made under the Occupational Health & Safety Act) provides the legal framework.

REQUIREMENTS:

- a) Hearing protection is available in two forms, earplugs and earmuffs.
- b) Although CSA does not currently place their logo on hearing protection, CSA Standard Z94.2 does assist in the selection of the appropriate hearing protection for the job.
- c) Earplugs or earmuffs shall be chosen for maximum sound attenuation. Typical minimum attenuation on the NR (noise reduction) scale shall be in the order of 25 dB (decibel) or higher.
- d) Proper fit shall be ensured to attain maximum sound reduction.
- e) For use with head protection, hearing protectors shall either be of the earplug variety or earmuffs with soft headband or mounted to the head protection.