# **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Hearing Conservation Policy

The community council is committed to protecting the hearing of its staff. Employees hearing will be tested on an annual basis to ensure they are getting the protection they need.

Hearing protection such as ear plugs or ear muffs will be provided to each and every employee as needed. If an employee requires more or different hearing protection, they should contact their safety coordinator, so an arrangement can be made.

Exposure to high noise level is the cause of noise induced hearing loss. This exposure can be linked to illnesses such as headaches, stress and increased irritability. High noise levels can also affect a worker’s ability to work safely.

Community council will follow three basic principles:

1. It is more effective to reduce noise levels in the workplace than to rely on hearing protection to protect workers. Sound level monitoring of all equipment that is within the scope of the community council will be tested and documented.
2. Effective training and annual hearing tests will provide workers with appropriate knowledge about the effects of high noise exposure levels. All workers will be required to have annual hearing tests to assess the hearing levels and that we are not causing a decline in the individual’s hearing. This will be arranged and paid for by the employer and all records will be kept in strict confidence.
3. When it is not possible to reduce noise levels above 80 dBA, the use of personal hearing protection is mandatory. If the noise exposure assessment indicates that workers are exposed to levels above 85 dBA, the employer will use sound control measures to reduce or eliminate the noise exposures.

*The information in this policy does not take precedence over applicable government legislation, with which all workers should be familiar.*

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Community Council Date