

BP OIL -- TOLEDO REFINERY

	Area: Plant Wide	Procedure No.: SAF 081
Effective Date: September 1, 2011	Hearing Protection	Rev. No.: 3
Owner: Jean Mlynek	Auth. By: D. C. Durnwald (signature on file)	Page 1 of 3

SCOPE	This safe work practice will define refinery areas that require the use of hearing protective devices as part of the standard personal protective equipment (PPE) required at the Toledo Refinery.
HEALTH Special PPE & Special Hazards	Hearing protection devices are worn to prevent and/or minimize the hearing loss process caused by exposure to loud noise. Noise (sound pressure changes) can be categorized as continuous or impact.
SAFETY	Excess noise can interfere with verbal communication or other warning alarm systems designed to protect personnel from a variety of hazards in the workplace.
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	CFR29 1910.95 "Occupational Noise Exposure"
SPECIAL MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT	Aural Insert Protectors (Foam-type ear plugs) Superaural Protectors (Head band held ear plugs) Circumaural Protectors (Ear muffs)
QUALITY	Random PPE audits will be conducted in the refinery. Employees will review how to properly insert plugs during their annual audiogram.
ENVIRONMENTAL	Sound level readings will be taken to characterize the noise in various areas of the refinery. Workers will participate in 8-hour noise dosimetry monitoring.

OVERVIEW

Noise is the most significant uncontrolled hazard in the refinery. It is emitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Some high-level noise sources come from: pumps, motors, compressors, turbines, blowers, power tools, steam, high pressure air, and heavy equipment. The noise hazard exists in the refinery all the time. Anyone who enters the process areas is at risk of receiving excess sound pressure if not properly protected.

- 1.0 Hearing Protection Required Areas
 - __ 1.1 Hearing protection shall be worn where minimum PPE is required (outside of the green zone). This includes all operating plant areas and along the roadways adjacent to operating units.
 - __ 1.2 Regardless of location, hearing protection is required for any activity or task where the noise level is at or above 85 decibels (dBA).

- 2.0 Exceptions
 - __ 2.1 Some plant unit areas are given exemption from the hearing protection requirement because ambient noise levels are well below established sound level criteria.
 - __ 2.2 North, East and West tank fields, Marine Dock, Water Intake, Decanted Oil Truck Loading Rack, Decanted Oil Railcar Loading Rack, Asphalt Loading Rack, LPG Loading Rack, Blender, and WWTU are exempt from the hearing protection requirements except as noted with signage or as directed by Area Operations personnel.
 - __ 2.3 Also, inside **Maintenance shops** and the **Warehouse** unless there are task-specific requirements for tools or other equipment.

- 3.0 Hearing Protective Devices
 - __ 3.1 The Toledo Refinery will furnish a variety of hearing protective devices for employees. Contractors will furnish hearing protection for their employees.
 - __ 3.2 Foam-type ear plugs and ear muffs are available for purchase through the Safety Store. Foam-type ear plugs are available in various locations throughout the refinery (Ex. the Pods and HSSE (HSEQ) Building). These are classified as disposable and are intended to be discarded after use.
 - __ 3.3 "Hearing Protection Required" signs are posted throughout the refinery and some buildings.

- 4.0 Turnaround
 - __ 4.1 If a plant unit is shut down for maintenance, a variance from the hearing protection requirement may be allowed, with approval by the Asset Superintendent, TAR Manager, and Area Safety Specialist.
 - __ 4.2 Alternately, additional noise may be created from maintenance work and other activities whereby additional hearing protection may be required. Health and Safety will provide sound level readings to help determine the need for hearing protection during these times.

5.0 Other

- __ 5.1 When noise readings exceed 105 dBA, double hearing protection is required to provide an additional 7- 10 dBA of noise attenuation.
- __ 5.2 Protect your sense of hearing; **WEAR YOUR EAR PROTECTION!**

THIS IS THE LAST PAGE