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CS ENERGY PROCEDURE

NOISE MANAGEMENT CS-OHS-25

Responsible Officer: Health and Safety Specialist
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DOCUMENT HISTORY

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1 PURPOSE

To establish a noise management procedure for CS Energy.

2 SCOPE

The procedure shall apply to all noise hazards at CS Energy sites and all personnel exposed to those hazards.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

3.1 Management

Management are responsible for ensuring that:

- A safe system for workplace noise is provided to employees and contractor that minimises exposure at harmful levels.

3.2 Employees

Employees are responsible for ensuring that:

- PPE is worn correctly in areas signed mandatory hearing protection;
- They reasonably participate in noise surveys when requested

3.3 Contractors / Consultants

Contractors / Consultants are responsible for ensuring that:

- PPE is worn correctly in areas signed mandatory hearing protection;
- They reasonably participate in noise surveys when requested

4 ACTIONS

4.1 High Level Noise Exposure

No person shall be exposed to noise levels in excess of the current Queensland noise exposure standard of:

- an eight-hour equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level, LAeq,8hr of 85dB(A); or
- an impulse noise with a peak level in excess of Lpeak 140 dB (lin)

The LAeq exposures are over an 8-hour period and where work shifts are longer i.e. 12 hours, the relevant reduction to the exposure should be made.

4.2 Low Level Noise Exposure

Where noise levels fall in the LAeq,8hr range of 55 to 85 dB (A) and employees have indicated that a problem exists, a noise assessment shall be undertaken.

When the assessments show that sufficient risk exists, noise control measures shall be implemented.

4.3 Noise Assessment

Noise assessments of CS Energy sites shall be conducted every 5 years or after any changes to plant or equipment that are likely to affect noise emission levels.

Where a change in the length of shift or process may result in an increase to the duration of exposure, an assessment should be undertaken.

All areas found to exceed the exposure level stated in Section 3.1, shall be designated as mandatory hearing protection areas.

Noise dosimetry on individuals may also be utilised in order to determine exposures over a working day in a particular environment or work situation.

All noise assessments shall be conducted by a competent person.

CS Energy employees may request a noise assessment to be carried out.

4.4 New Plant and Equipment

Noise exposure limits shall be stated in all specifications for the purchase of new plant or equipment.

New plant, or equipment, wherever practicable, shall not exceed the exposure level stated in Section 3.1.

Where the purchase of equipment involves more than one item in the same location then the combined noise level should not exceed the exposure standard as detailed in Section 3.1.

Consideration should be given to the situation in which such plant or equipment will be used, and lower noise levels shall be specified whenever practicable.

New work areas shall be designed and laid out such that employee noise exposure is maintained at the lowest workable level.

All agreements with contractors for the supply of goods or services on site shall be subject to the same noise exposure limits and requirements described by this procedure.

4.5 Temporary Work Situations

A noise assessment shall be carried out in any temporary situation that produces a noise hazard.

Where the assessment shows that sufficient risk to employees exists, noise control measures shall be implemented.

4.6 Noise Control Hierarchy

The preferred hierarchy of control for noise hazards at CS Energy will be:

- Wherever workable, noise levels will be reduced by engineering means to the exposure level stated in Section 3.1.
- Where it is not immediately possible to reach the stated exposure level by engineering means, duration of exposure to the noise source will be restricted.
- As a final option, the wearing of personal hearing protectors may be necessary as an interim measure. Hearing protection shall comply with AS1270.

4.7 Audiometric Testing

Audiometric testing will be performed on all employees at CS Energy power sites.

An initial audiogram shall be taken as soon as possible after an employee's appointment. A second audiogram should be taken within 90 days for comparison with the initial audiogram.

Periodical testing should be undertaken every 1 to 2 years for the duration of the employee's employment and a final audiogram on termination of employment.

All audiometric testing should be carried out using procedures and equipment that complies with Australian Standards.

Audiometric records should be kept in a secure location as confidential documents for the workers period of employment.

4.8 Training

Employees shall be given information, instruction, training and supervision regarding noisy environments and the proper use of personal protection equipment.

Training of all personnel in the area of noise exposure shall be recorded on their personal training record.

5 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
dB or Decibel	the unit used as a measure of noise level based on the logarithmic scale.
dB(A) – A weighted decibel	A standardised frequency response (filtered) used in sound measuring instruments and corresponding approximately to the human ear response.
dB(lin)	unweighted decibels.
Competent Person	a person who has acquired, through training, qualifications, experience or a combination of these, the knowledge and skill to undertake a noise assessment.
L _{Aeq,8hr} of 85dB(A)	the total amount of noise energy a person is exposed to in the course of his or her working day, expressed as an 8 hour average at 85 dB(A).
Noise Exposure	the overall amount of noise to which a person is exposed.
Noise Level	the physical magnitude or strength of noise, experienced as loudness.

6 REFERENCES

Reference No	Reference Title	Author
AS1259.1	Acoustics – Sound Level Meters	
AS1269	Acoustics – Hearing Conversation	
	Noise Management at Work. Control Guide, 2 nd edition – 1991 <i>National Occupational Health and Safety Commission</i>	
	Queensland Work Place Health and Safety Act and Regulation - 1998	
	Queensland Work Place Health and Safety Noise Advisory Standard, 1999	

7 RECORDS MANAGEMENT

In order to maintain continual improvement, suitability, safety and effectiveness of the organisation, CS Energy's registered documents will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis or at intervals specified by legislative or regulatory requirements. Review of controlled documents should occur where it has been identified that there are changes in technology, legislation, standards, regulation or where experience identifies the need for alteration to the content. Registered documents should also be reviewed following an incident, change management process, modification or where directed as part of a risk assessment process. A 'review' can simply mean that it has been identified, confirmed and appropriately recorded that no changes are required and that the existing process remains the same.

CS Energy must ensure that records are retained according to accountability, legal, administrative, financial, commercial and operational requirements and expectations. In compliance with records retention and disposal, all documentation created in relation to CS Energy business must be retained in line with minimum retention periods as detailed in legal retention and disposal schedules.