

# Reviewing noisy environments in schools

Some school staff may be at higher risk of exposure to excessive noise than others. These groups include industrial technology and design teachers and teacher aides, music staff, schools officers, agricultural assistants and cleaners. The following checklist can be used to discuss and identify noise exposure issues with staff.

	YES	NO
<b>Do you work in a noisy environment?</b> e.g. music rooms, manual arts block (not just with powered equipment, also with hand tools such as hammers and mallets impacting on a metal surface).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do you work with noisy equipment?</b> e.g. table saws, thicknessers, power tools, leaf blowers, backpack vacuum cleaners, mowing equipment, tractors, musical instruments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is it difficult to hear someone speaking to you from an arm's length or about 1m away?</b> e.g. do you often have to strain to catch what people are saying because of background noise from music practice, machinery operating etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions please continue with the questionnaire below.</i></b>		
Is unnecessary noise being emitted from machinery or equipment because it is not working properly or is poorly maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are air compressors located in a separate enclosure to reduce noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approximately how long do you spend each day/week in these noisy environments?	_____	
Is hearing protection provided? e.g. earmuffs or earplugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been shown how to use the hearing protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing protection only works when it is worn, is the right type and is well maintained. It is important to manage it properly to ensure maximum protection. Are your earmuffs/earplugs replaced immediately if they are damaged? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are the cushions on your earmuffs replaced as soon as they begin to harden or crack?</li> <li>• are your earmuffs replaced if the outside cups are indented, cracked or damaged?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are your earmuffs stored away from direct sunlight when not in use, so the band can doesn't become distorted when exposed to heat and humidity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the bands of earmuffs stored or stretched over equipment when not in use? (this affects their fit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are earmuffs wiped clean with wipes or cleaned with soap and water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are signs displayed indicating that personal hearing protectors should be worn? Are the signs prominent/clear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name/work area .....

Comments .....

Further information on Noise is available from the [Creating Healthier Workplaces website](#).