

Policy Name:	NOISE CONTROL AND HEARING CONSERVATION		
Policy #:	AD 5.8.5	Last Updated:	2024-09-18
Issued By:	HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
Version #	1.0	Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

AD 5.8.1 *Occupational Health and Safety – Governance*

AD 5.8.2 *Occupational Health and Safety – Workplace Injuries*

AD 9.14 *Records Administration and Retention*

AD 9.18 *Security and Confidentiality of Records and Information*

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This policy demonstrates Surrey Police Service’s (SPS) commitment to workplace health and safety, striving to prevent noise-induced hearing loss and other detrimental effects of exposure to excessive noise in the workplace.
- 1.2. This policy aligns with the SPS AD 5.8.1 *Occupational Health and Safety – Governance* policy and follows the same vision to promote and sustain a safe and healthy workplace for all SPS Employees, Seconded Personnel, and Contractors.
- 1.3. This policy complies with all applicable authorities governing workplace safety for SPS Employees, Contractors, and Seconded Personnel.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Employees, Contractors, and Seconded Personnel.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. This policy provides the requirements pertaining to testing, training, noise control, hearing protection, and other aspects of the Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program.
- 3.2. British Columbia *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation*, Part 7.2 requires that a Worker (Employee, Contractor, or Seconded Personnel) not be exposed to noise levels above either 85 dBA Lex daily noise exposure level or 140 dBC peak sound level.
- 3.3. If the Worker may be exposed to potentially harmful levels of noise, including levels exceeding 82 dBA Lex, SPS will measure the noise exposure in accordance with CSA Standard Z107.56-94, *Procedures for the Measurement of Occupational Noise Exposure* or as otherwise determined by the Workers' Compensation Board and be updated if a change in equipment or process affects the noise level or the duration of noise exposure.
- 3.4. Noise dosimeters and sound level meters used for measuring noise exposure must meet the requirements of ANSI Standard S1.25-1991, *Specification for Personal Noise Dosimeters*.
- 3.5. SPS is not required to measure the noise exposure of a Worker if based on other information, the Employer identifies the Worker as being exposed to noise in excess of an exposure limit, and the Employer establishes an effective noise control and hearing conservation program for the Worker.
- 3.6. SPS must establish an occupational noise control and hearing conservation program based on exceedance of exposure limits in some workplaces.
- 3.7. The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee with the OHS Advisor will review and update the occupational noise control and hearing conservation program, hazard assessments and personal protective equipment at least once every year.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. SPS will develop and implement an effective Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program with the following elements:
 - a) Noise measurement;
 - b) Education and training;
 - c) Engineered noise control;
 - d) Hearing protection;
 - e) Posting of noise hazard areas;
 - f) Hearing tests; and,
 - g) Annual program review

- 4.2. The Employer must give Workers who are exposed to noise that exceeds noise exposure limits:
- i. an initial hearing test as soon as practicable after duties start, but no later than six (6) months after the start of duties; and,
 - ii. a test at least once every twelve (12) months after the initial test.
- 4.3. The Employer must keep the records of:
- i. The annual hearing test results for each Worker, which must
 - a) be kept as long as the Worker is employed, contracted or seconded by the Employer; and,
 - b) be kept confidential and not released to anyone without the written permission of the Worker, or as otherwise required by law;
 - ii. The education and training provided to Workers; and,
 - iii. The results of noise exposure measurements taken under Section 7.3 of the BC *OHS Regulation*.
- 4.4. All sworn Members must fulfill annual hearing conservation training requirements.
- 4.5. Workers identified as having exposure to noise exceeding 82 dBA will support SPS in ensuring a successful hearing conservation program by participating in the annual hearing testing.
- 4.6. Employees, Contractors and Seconded Personnel must wear hearing personal protective equipment where mandated.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“ANSI” means American National Standards Institute.

“Contractor” means a person or persons who has access to SPS premises, as defined in this policy, for the purpose of providing services or supplies to SPS on a contractual basis.

“CSA” means Canadian Standards Association.

“dBA” means decibel – A weighted scale.

“dBC” means decibel – C weighted scale.

“Employee” means a current SPS Employee (including Members and civilian staff) appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Employer” means the Surrey Police Board.

“Member” means a sworn police officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program” means a set of guidelines and procedures designed to manage and mitigate the impact of noise in the Workplace or other environments to protect Employees’ hearing and overall health while complying with legislative requirements.

“Noise exposure limits” means either of the following exposure limits: 85 dBA Lex daily noise exposure level or 140 dBC peak sound level.

“OHS” means Occupational Health and Safety (Regulation).

“Seconded Personnel” means an employee of another employer who is assigned under the leadership of the Chief Constable for a period of time and who is not an Employee of SPS.

“SPS premises” includes, but is not limited to, any property permanently or temporarily under the jurisdiction of SPS, including land, building, job sites, facilities, parking lots, equipment, vehicles, whether owned, leased or used by SPS and wherever located. The work site of a seconded Employee is considered an extension of the SPS workplace, and therefore SPS premises.

“Worker” means an Employee, Contractor, or Seconded Personnel.

“Workplace” means any location where an Employee, Contractor, or Seconded Personnel carries out the duties of performing their work; any work-related event or work-related gathering, whether sponsored by the Employer or not; or any location travelled to for a work-related reason.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

ANSI Standard S1.25-1991, *Specification for Personal Noise Dosimeters*.

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, BC Reg. 296/97, Part 7 – Noise, Vibration, Radiation and Temperature, Division 1- Noise Exposure

CSA Standard Z107.56-94, *Procedures for the Measurement of Occupational Noise Exposure*