 DEE CRAMER HEATING / COOLING / SHEET METAL <i>Dedicated People. Delivering Quality.</i>	Dee Cramer, Inc. Safety Management System		Doc No:	NOISE
			Initial Issue Date	1/1/2017
			Revision Date:	Initial Version
NOISE/HEARING CONSERVATION			Revision No.	0
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Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide a process to minimize employee-hearing loss caused by excessive occupational exposure to noise.

Where a employee's occupational noise exposure equals or exceeds 85dBA Dee Cramer, Inc. shall inform employees of the hazards of occupational noise exposure and take all reasonably practicable steps to reduce noise levels in all areas where the employee may be present, required or permitted to work and will minimize the employees' occupational noise exposure to the extent that is reasonably practicable and document the steps taken.

Scope

This program is applicable to all employees who may be present or exposed in areas to noise more than 85 decibels. When work is performed on a non-owned or operated site, the client's program shall take precedence and shall be abided by. However, this document covers Dee Cramer, Inc. employees and contractors and shall be used on owned premises, or when a client's program doesn't exist or is less stringent. If Dee Cramer, Inc. has no control over the noise source at a client location we will abide by the client's signage and instruction.

Key Responsibilities

Managers and Supervisors

- Ensure requirements of this program are established and maintained.
- Ensure employees are trained and comply with the requirements of this program.

Employees


- Wear hearing protection when required, attend the training, and cooperate with testing and sampling.

If a noise exposure assessment confirm that employees are exposed to excessive noise at a work site Dee Cramer, Inc. shall have a written procedure to develop and implement a written noise management program that includes policies and procedures.

Noise Management and Hearing Conservation Program

If noise in the workplace exceeds the noise exposure limits and workers are exposed to excess noise Dee Cramer, Inc. shall develop and implement an effective noise control and hearing conservation program and policies. Dee Cramer, Inc. must ensure that the noise management program includes the following:

- a plan to educate workers in the hazards of exposure to excess noise and to train workers in the correct use of control measures and hearing protection.
- the methods and procedures to be used when measuring or monitoring worker exposure to noise.
- the posting of suitable noise hazard warning signs in any work area where the noise level exceeds 85dBA.
- the methods of engineered noise control to be used.
- the selection, use and maintenance of hearing protection devices to be worn by workers.

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- the requirements for audiometric testing and the maintenance of test records.
- an annual review of the policies and procedures to address the effectiveness of the education and training plan, the need for further noise measurement, and the adequacy of noise control measures.

General Requirements

- Dee Cramer, Inc. shall implement a hearing conservation plan developed and appoint a supervisor to oversee the plan.
- All employees, who work in areas where the exposure to noise level is 85 decibels Lex or greater, must wear hearing protection.
- Where a worker's occupational noise exposure equals or exceeds 85dBA, Dee Cramer, Inc. shall inform the worker of the hazards of occupational noise exposure, take all reasonably practicable steps to reduce noise levels in all areas where the worker may be required or permitted to work, minimize the workers' occupational noise exposure to the extent that is reasonably practicable and document the step taken.

Monitoring Procedures to be Used When Exposure Limits Exceed the Established Level

A noise survey and monitoring program is conducted when exposure limits exceed the established level. When information indicates that employee exposure may equal/exceed the jurisdictional levels, Dee Cramer, Inc. shall implement a monitoring program to identify employees to be included in the hearing conservation program.


For work performed at a client's location Dee Cramer, Inc. must ensure that employees observe posted noise signage and implement controls as needed. Any measurement of sound levels in the workplace that is done to determine what protective measures are appropriate shall be done without regard to any use of personal protective equipment.

A clearly visible warning sign shall be posted at every approach to an area in the workplace where the sound level regularly exceeds 85 dBA.

In every area where workers are required or permitted to work and the noise level may frequently exceed 80dBA, Dee Cramer, Inc. shall ensure that the noise level is measured in accordance with an approved method. A competent person must evaluate the sources of the noise and recommend corrective actions. The measurements, evaluation and recommendations are to be documented.

To evaluate noise exposure in terms of possible hearing damage, it is necessary to know the overall sound level, the exposure time of the individual in hours per day and the length of time the individual has worked in the area being surveyed. This data shall be supplemented by the following:

- Name of area and location
- Date and time of survey
- Name of person conducting survey
- Description of instrument model and serial number
- Environmental conditions
- Description of people exposed

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A plot of noise levels must be made for owned facilities. The plot must be filed or posted at the facility. Dee Cramer, Inc. shall evaluate hearing protector attenuation for the specific noise environments. The adequacy of hearing PPE shall be re-evaluated whenever noise exposures increase to the point that the PPE provided may no longer provide adequate protection. Dee Cramer, Inc. shall then provide more effective PPE where necessary.

All sound measuring equipment must be calibrated before and after each survey.

Records of sound measuring equipment calibration and noise level surveys conducted at the place of employment shall be kept at the place of employment if Dee Cramer, Inc. operates.

Sound Level Surveys

- All owned facilities that are suspected of having noise levels exceeding 85 decibels must bescreened.

Exposure Surveys:

- A representative sampling of employees shall be conducted to determine the exposure to noise over a period of time.
- Noise dosimeters must be capable of integrating all continuous, intermittent, and impulsive sound levels from 80 dB to 130 dB and must be calibrated so a dose of 50% corresponds to a time weighted average of 85 dB.

Conditions and Engineering Controls


When employees are required to work in areas in which noise levels exceed the exposure limit for permissible noise exposure Dee Cramer, Inc. shall first take appropriate measures to reduce the noise intensity to approved levels.

Engineering controls are used to reduce noise whenever practicable. Dee Cramer, Inc. shall take all measures reasonably necessary in the circumstances to protect workers from exposure to hazardous sound levels. Dee Cramer, Inc. shall protect workers from exposure to a sound level greater than the limit without requiring them to use and wear personal protective equipment.

Dee Cramer, Inc. shall ensure that all new places of employment are designed and constructed so as to achieve the lowest reasonably practicable noise level, any alteration, renovation or repair to an existing place of employment is made so as to achieve the lowest reasonably practicable noise level, and all new equipment to be used at a place of employment is designed and constructed so as to achieve the lowest reasonably practicable noise level.

The following is a sample list of conditions encountered that require protection for sound levels. Each work site has other conditions based on equipment and work scope:

- Band Saw 104 dBA
- Blower 99 dBA
- Concrete Saw 112 dBA
- Chain Saw 110 dBA
- Compressed Air 92 dBA

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- Fire Alarms 95 dBA 17
- Front End Loader 95 dBA
- Miter Saw 109 dBA
- Pneumatic Staking 103 dBA
- Pressure Washer 100 dBA
- Radial Arm Saw 103 dBA
- Sprayer, 1,000 gal. 101 dBA
- Tables Saw 93 dBA
- Wet/Dry Vac 94 dBA

Audiometric Testing

- Dee Cramer, Inc. shall establish and maintain an audiometric testing program by making audiometric testing available to all employees whose exposures equal or exceed jurisdictional levels.
- Dee Cramer, Inc. must provide for establishment of a baseline audiogram and recurring testing for each exposed employee.
- Dee Cramer, Inc. will, at its expense, provide the employee who is exposed to noise that exceed noise exposure limits an initial audiometric baseline test as soon as is reasonably practicable but not later than 70 days after the employee is initially exposed to noise levels 85 decibels or greater and a further test at least once every 12 months after the initial baseline test.
- A qualified (authorized by local regulatory requirements) third party shall perform all audiometric testing, evaluation, reporting and retesting. Test results shall be supplied to the employee and if required to regulatory authorities and to others as required by local regulatory requirements.
- Audiometric testing shall be preceded by a period of at least 14 hours during which there is no exposure to workplace sound levels more than 80 decibels.
- This requirement may be met using hearing protectors that reduce the employee noise exposure level below 80 decibels.
- An otoscopic exam is required before an audiogram is initiated. A qualified person shall examine the ear canal for any ear infections or canal irregularities that might affect the audiogram or rule out the use of earplugs.

Annual audiograms shall be evaluated as follows:

- Each audiogram shall be compared to the employees' baseline audiogram to ensure the test was valid and to determine if a standard threshold shift has occurred.
- If a standard threshold shift is determined, the employee will be retested within 30 days.
- The retest results will be considered as the annual audiogram.
- Employees shall be informed of their audiometric test results within 30 days of determination.
- If the employee has sustained a standard threshold shift, after retesting, that employee shall be notified within 21 days and retrained and refitted for appropriate hearing protection and the employee shall be referred for additional medical evaluation if indicated.

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Records

Dee Cramer, Inc. must keep records of:

- The annual hearing test results for each worker, which must be kept at the place of employment if Dee Cramer, Inc. operates.
- Employee audiograms are considered medical/exposure records and shall be kept and treated as confidential and will not be released to anyone without the written permission of the employee or as otherwise required by law.
- The education and training provided to workers.
- Results of noise exposure measurements taken.

Hearing Protection Equipment

Hearing protectors are used where engineering controls are not practicable to ensure workers are not exposed to noise that exceeds 85 dBA over an 8-hour time period. Dee Cramer, Inc. shall ensure that no worker is exposed to a sound level greater than an equivalent sound exposure level of 85 dBA. Workers shall wear and use personal protective equipment appropriate in the circumstances to protect them from exposure to a sound level greater than the limit.

This applies if engineering controls:

- are not in existence or are not obtainable,
- are not reasonable or not practical to adopt, install, or provide because of the duration or frequency of the exposures or because of the nature of the process, operation, or work.
- are rendered ineffective because of a temporary breakdown of such controls; or
- are ineffective to prevent, control, or limit exposure because of an emergency.


Earmuffs and earplugs shall be made available to the employee in sizes and configurations that will be comfortable to the employee. These hearing protection devices shall be made available to all employees exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 db at no cost to employees.

Annual Program Review

Dee Cramer, Inc. shall conduct an annual evaluation of the program to ensure that the provisions of the current written program are being effectively implemented and that it continues to be effective.

Dee Cramer, Inc. shall regularly consult employees required to use hearing protection to assess the employees' views on this program's effectiveness and to identify any problems. Any problems that are identified during this review shall be corrected. Factors to be assessed include, but are not limited to:

- Hearing protection devices (fit, effectiveness, comfort)
- Monitoring of employee hearing test for threshold shifts to re-evaluate specific work areas to see if there is any correlation with conditions and test results.
- Effectiveness of and content of training.
- The employee safety committee shall be involved in the annual review.

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Training

A training program shall be established for all employees who are exposed to action level noise and to inform employees, on an annual basis, of the effect of noise on hearing; the purpose of hearing protectors, including the advantages, disadvantages, and alternatives of various types, including instructions on selection, fitting, maintenance, use and care in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the purpose of audiometric testing and an explanation of test procedures.

If occupational noise is between 80-85 dBA Dee Cramer, Inc. shall train the employee in the selection, use and maintenance of hearing protection and the requirement to wear it.

Training shall be updated to be consistent with changes in the work process and PPE requirements.

All staff shall have a copy of this program and it shall be posted at the worksite and a copy made available to all employees, their representatives, and regulatory agencies.