



Subject: Safety Programs and Requirements: **Hearing Conservation**

Section: V

Date: 07/19/2007

Page 1 of 1

Hearing Conservation

The Steward Observatory Hearing Conservation Program details areas that exceed minimum noise levels as set by The Occupational Noise Exposure Standard (OSHA 191.95), which requires hearing protectors be provided to all general industry employees exposed to an 8- hour TWA of 85 decibels or more. The Site Safety Representative and/or U of A Risk Management Services person will conduct a hazard assessment to determine what types of noise control measures are needed. The wearing of hearing protection is mandatory when working in a designated area. Employees are also encouraged to use hearing protection in other noisy areas.

All employees who are required to work in any area where hearing protection is required are required to participate in the Hearing Conservation Program. In addition to wearing hearing protection, these employees are to be given annual hearing tests. U of A Risk Management Services must approve audiograms for individuals who work in noise-hazard areas. The results are analyzed by the test provider to see if the employee has sustained a work-related hearing loss. The test is provided at no cost to the employee. For more information and the official University of Arizona documentation on this subject, please go to <https://risk.arizona.edu/occupational-safety/industrial-hygiene/noise-hearing-conservation>

OSHA website: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/>