

Review of
Hearing Protection
A Guide for Those Who
Manufacture, Test, or
Use Explosives

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This publication addresses a much wider range of hearing protection issues than explosive noise *per se*. Despite its being structured specifically around British standards and regulations, its applicability to noise sources of all kinds should make it useful to safety personnel and industrial hygienists in any manufacturing environment.

The guide opens with a comprehensive checklist for assessing noise problems, possible methods for reducing noise and noise exposure, choosing the most appropriate protective devices, managing the use of hearing protection by employees, and keeping records. The essentials that must be considered in any hearing protection program are concisely addressed in this convenient and easily understood tool.

As mentioned previously, some sections of the publication deal with regulations that apply only in the United Kingdom. Persons in other parts of the world must therefore view these sections in the context of their own country's laws and standards, and make appropriate allowances. Still, taken as generalities, there are many universally applicable concepts available in these pages.

Other sections deal with the training of competent persons to oversee hearing protection programs, the assessment and selection of equipment, the care and maintenance of protective equipment, training of employees, and the sur-

veillance of employee health (audiometry). While all of these are useful, the section on the assessment and selection of equipment will probably be of primary technical interest to most readers. Various types of noise exposure and methods for their quantification are discussed, as are commonly used measuring instruments. The characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses of available hearing protection devices are provided in a detailed table, and equipment selection methods based on noise type, frequency, and intensity are presented. The latter are keyed to very helpful worked examples with all calculations, found in the appendices (called “annexes” in this publication).

The appendices contain, in addition to the worked calculations, an extensive list of related books and publications, British legislation and British Standards, resource addresses, and a glossary of terms. The publication is 53 pages in length, including references, appendices, and glossary.

