

Procedure for personal noise exposure recordings

December 2005

Feedback on the information contained in this document is welcome, and should be directed to the Senior Noise and Vibration Engineer, Resources Safety.

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Objective

This document has been prepared to assist approved noise officers undertaking personal noise exposure recordings of employees involved in mining and mineral processing activities in Western Australia. It should be read in conjunction with Resources Safety's *Noise Control in Mines — Guideline.*

It explains how to undertake recordings with commonly used instruments in order to minimise variations between results obtained from devices of various makes and models.

Following these procedures will help to ensure the uniformity and reliability of data collected for Resources Safety's MINEHEALTH database.

Instrumentation

The instrument used to measure personal noise exposure is commonly known as a noise dosimeter (Australian Standard AS/NZS 1269:2005 refers to a personal sound exposure meter [PSEM]). Noise dosimeters must comply with the requirements of Australian Standard AS/NZS 2399:1998 and be calibrated at least every two years.

There are several types of noise dosimeters currently available for assessment of employee noise exposure. Although their overall functions are similar, there are variations in elements such as instrument operation, battery checks and reading display. Refer to the manufacturer's user manual for the specific operational requirements of any instrument.

Some mining operations in Western Australia require the use of intrinsically safe instruments in their work environments. Always ensure that intrinsically safe instruments are used for measuring noise exposure in potentially flammable or explosive atmospheres.

Setting up measurements

Where possible, noise dosimeters should be set to A-weighting and 'S' (slow) timeweighting. This setting most closely mirrors the way ears receive perceived sound pressure.

Some instruments either do not offer variable 'slow' or 'fast' settings, or automatically default to their own sampling rate for LAeq measurements.

Taking measurements

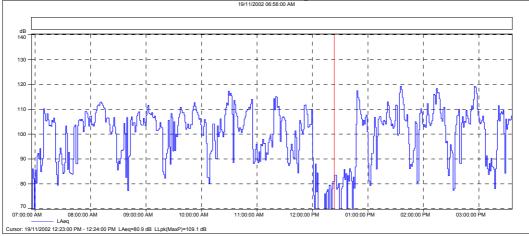
The aim of taking a measurement with a noise dosimeter is to evaluate the average exposure of employees to noise during a normal shift.

Ideally, when taking measurements the noise dosimeter should be attached to the employee at the start of a shift and collected at the end of the shift, in order to most accurately assess the employee's noise exposure over the whole shift. However, sampling for full shifts, and especially extended shifts, may not always be practical.

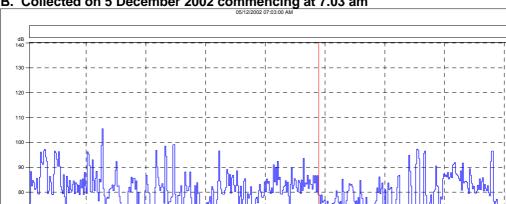
If a shorter period is sampled then care must be taken to ensure the result is representative of the full shift exposure. This will require the sampler to have an understanding of the tasks performed during the shift and the cycles of those tasks.

Refer to Interpretation of results on page 6 for calculating noise exposure values.

Figure 1 highlights the possible variation in employee noise exposure over a work cycle, confirming the need for care when selecting a representative measurement period.



A. Collected on 19 November 2002 commencing at 6.56 am



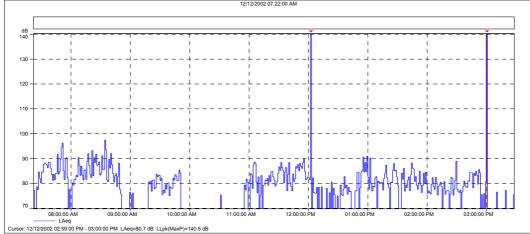
B. Collected on 5 December 2002 commencing at 7.03 am

C. Collected on 12 December 2002 commencing at 7.22 am

=115 0 dB

=78.9 dB | | nk//

: 05/12/2002 11:53:00 AM - 11:54:00 AM LA



Sample recordings of an employee's noise exposure showing Figure 1 variations over a work cycle

Before performing any noise measurements, ensure that employees selected for evaluation are operating equipment or performing tasks under normal (representative) conditions, and emphasise the importance of continuing to work in their usual manner (wearing the dosimeter should not interfere with normal duties).

Explain the purpose and procedures of sampling to the employee who will be wearing the dosimeter and the importance of not touching, tapping or interfering with the microphone. Instruct the employee not to remove the dosimeter unless absolutely necessary.

The general procedure for taking measurements is as follows.

- 1. Check that the instrument battery life is at least double the time required for the measuring period. Some instruments will lose data recorded in the memory if the battery is removed for more than 30 minutes and, therefore, prompt downloading of data will be required.
- 2. Check the instrument sampling mode if applicable.
- 3. Check the calibration of the instrument and adjust settings if required.
- 4. Secure the microphone to the collar or on the shoulder of the employee selected for sampling. Refer to the manufacturer's user manual for any specific requirements regarding orientation of the microphone.
- 5. Start the recording session and note the start time.
- 6. At the end of the measurement period, stop the recording session, remove the dosimeter from the employee and record the final readings.
- 7. Recheck the dosimeter's calibration. If the instrument is not within the calibration limits then the results are invalid (refer to Australian Standard AS/NZS 1269.1:2005, which states that if a discrepancy is found between two successive checks of more than \pm 0.5dB in the reference level, then the results of the measurements taken between the two checks should be considered invalid).
- Record all measurement data on a personal noise exposure recordings form (Appendix 1, available from the forms section of the Resources Safety website), and ensure the form is submitted to Resources Safety for entry in the MINEHEALTH system.
- 9. Distribute copies of noise exposure recordings to test participants, explain the results and ensure that their hearing protection adequately protects against the recorded noise exposure levels.

Interpretation of results

To calculate the noise exposure level of an employee working shifts of more or less than eight hours, it is necessary to normalise the employee's exposure to an equivalent eight hour exposure (LAeq,8h).

The following equation is used for this purpose:

 $LAeq8h = LAeq + 10 \log_{10} [T/8]$

where:

LAeq equals the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level occurring over the measured time; and

T represents the shift length in hours (not to be confused with the sampling time).

In addition, shifts of 10 hours or more require adjustments to LAeq,8h values, as indicated in Table 1.

Shift length (h)	Adjustments to LAeq,8h (dB)
< 10	+ 0
≥10 to < 14	+ 1
≥14 to < 20	+ 2
≥ 20 to 24	+ 3

Table 1 — Adjustments to normalised exposure level LAeq,8h for extended workshifts

Table extracted from Australian Standard AS/NZ 1269.1:2005

Providing that the measurement of LAeq is representative of the full shift, the following method is used to calculate the LAeq,8h values:

Shift length:	8 hours	LAeq,8h = LAeq
Shift length:	8 –10 hours	LAeq,8h = LAeq + 10 log ₁₀ [T/8]
Shift length:	10 –12 hours	LAeq,8h = LAeq + 10 log ₁₀ [T/8] + 1

For ease of calculating LAeq,8h values from the recorded LAeq results, use the correction factors shown in Appendix 2.

Sample calculations for LAeq,8h values are shown in Appendix 3.

Sample size and frequency

In mining operations, the sample size should allow for each employee exposed to noise above the action level to be tested for noise exposure at least every five years.

Refer to the current noise report of the mine to ascertain the number of employees exposed to noise above the action level. Divide that figure by five to obtain the minimum sample size (number of samples) that must be submitted to Resources Safety annually.

Employees at higher risk, due to their exposure to elevated noise levels, need to be tested more frequently than those with lower noise exposure levels. Table 2 shows the testing intervals required for different exposure levels.

Noise exposure LAeq,8h (dB)	Noise dosimetry interval
Up to 90	Every 5 years
90 and 100	Every 3 years
Above 100	Every 2 years

Table 2 — Frequency of testing

Appendix 1 — Personal noise exposure recordings form

Form to be completed by an approved noise officer Part A - Company details Company Site name Form completed by Position Form completed by Position Telephone no. Site names Part B - Employee details Surname Given names Date of birth // Male Female Company employee Contractor employ Contract company Health surveillance number Part C - Results Monitoring duration (min]	exposu	al noise re recordi	ngs		ResourcesSaf	sters Square WA 685 iety@docep.wa.gov.a v.au/ResourcesSafe
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	Shift pattern (days on)		(days off)]	
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Date of recording / / / / / Instrument make/model Occupation code _ / / / / Instrument make/model Comments _ / / / Instrument make/model Part D – Noise officer details	Hearing protection: Wo	rn Not worn				
Occupation code	Type: Ear muffs	Ear plugs Both	Make/model			
Comments Part D - Noise officer details	Date of recording		In	istrument make/r	model	
Part D — Noise officer details	Occupation code		Le	ocation code		
	Comments					
Name and initials Approval no.						
	Part D — Noise offic	er details				
					Approval no	

Note: Occupation and location codes are listed in Appendices 4 and 5, respectively.

Appendix 2 — Correction factors for computing LAeq,8h from LAeq records

Shift length T (hours: minutes)	Correction factor (dB)	
8:00	0	
8:15	+0.13	
8:30	+0.26	
8:45	+0.39	
9:00	+0.51	
9:15	+0.63	
9:30	+0.75	
9:45	+0.86	
10:00	+1.97	
10:15	+2.08	
10:30	+2.18	
10:45	+2.28	Includes additional
11:00	+2.38	1 dB for extended
11:15	+2.48	shifts
11:30	+2.58	
11:45	+2.67	
12:00	+2.76	J

Appendix 3 — Calculation examples

Example 1

A personal noise dosimeter is placed on an employee for a representative period of six hours. At the end of the six hours, the LAeq reading is 93 dB(A). The employee works a 10 hour shift.

 $LAeq,8h = LAeq + 10 \log_{10} [T/8]$

where shift length, T = 10 hours

LAeq,8h = 93 + 10 log₁₀ [10/8] = 93 + 0.97 = 93.97 dB(A)

for shifts between 10 and 12 hours add 1 dB(A)

therefore LAeq,8h = 94.97 dB(A) rounded to 95 dB(A)

or using the correction factor from Appendix 2 for a shift length T = 10 hours

LAeq,8h = LAeq + correction factor = 93 + 1.97 = 94.97 dB(A)rounded to 95 dB(A)

Example 2

A personal noise dosimeter is placed on an employee for a representative period of four hours. At the end of the four hours, the LAeq reading is 95 dB(A). The employee works an eight hour shift. Therefore:

LAeq,8h = 95 + 0 = 95 dB(A)

Example 3

A personal noise dosimeter is placed on an employee for a representative period of 11 hours. At the end of the 11 hours, the LAeq reading is 85 dB(A). The employee works a 12 hour shift.

LAeq,8h = 85 + 10 log₁₀ [12/8] = 85 + 1.76 = 86.76 dB(A)

for shifts between 10 and 12 hours add 1 dB(A)

therefore LAeq,8h = 87.76 dB(A) rounded to 88 dB(A)

or using the correction factor from Appendix 2 for a shift length T = 12 hours

LAeq,8h = LAeq + correction factor = 85 + 2.76 = 87.76 dB(A) rounded to 88 dB(A)

Appendix 4 — Occupation codes

100000 Management and supervisory

110000 General management occupations

Financial manager Personnel manager Sales manager Purchasing manager

120000 Engineering occupations

121000	Mining engineer
122000	Mechanical engineer
123000	Civil engineer
124000	Chemical engineer
125000	Metallurgical engineer
126000	Petroleum engineer
129000	Engineer NOC

130000 Professional and related occupations

131000	Chemist
132000	Geologist or geological assistant
133000	Metallurgist
134000	Environmental scientist or assistant
135000	Surveyor
136000	Draftsman
137000	Health or medical occupations
	- Doctor

- Occupational health nurse
- First aid attendant
- 138000 Industrial hygienist
- 139000 Professional and related NOC

140000 Management or administration services

- Security officer 141000 142000 Safety officer 143000 Training officer 144000 Personnel officer Clerical or secretarial occupations 145000 146000 Township or accommodation occupations - Caretaker - Housekeeper or cleaner - Handyman - Gardener - Groundsman - Township or accommodation occupation NOC 147000 Catering occupations - Cook - Catering assistant - Kitchen hand - Canteen attendant
 - Catering occupations NOC

148000	Cleaning or laundering occupations
149000	Management or administrative services
	occupations NOC

150000 Mine management occupations

151000	Mine manager
152000	Underground manager
153000	Assistant underground manager
154000	Under manager
155000	Mine management occupations NOC

160000 Supervisory occupations

161000	Deputy (coal)
162000	Foreman or shift boss underground
163000	Foreman or shift foreman surface
164000	Overman (coal)
165000	Supervisor

200000 Underground production and services

210000 Miners production or development (underground)

211000	Contract miner
212000	Coal miner (underground)
213000	Non-contract miner (underground)
214000	Trainee miner
215000	Miner NOC
216000	Miner's assistant

220000 Long hole drill and blast occupations (underground)

221000	Long hole drill operator
222000	Long hole driller's assistant
223000	Shotfirer
224000	Shotfirer's assistant (charging)

230000 Diamond drillers or raiseborers

231000	Diamond drill operator
232000	Diamond driller's assistant
233000	Raiseborer operator
234000	Raiseborer's assistant

240000 Loading or transport occupations (underground)

241000 242000 243000 244000 245000 246000 247000 248000 248000	Diesel loader operator Mechanical bogger driver Scraper operator Locomotive driver Truck driver Plant operator Underground personnel transport driver Conveyor attendant or operator
248000 249000	Conveyor attendant or operator Trucker

250000	Ground or roof support occupations (underground)	
	251000	Timberman
	252000	Roofbolter

253000 Hydraulic fill operator

261000	Ventilation occupations
262000	Tracklayer or platelayer
263000	Pipefitter
264000	Pumpman or pump attendant
265000	Nipper, salvageman or utilityman
266000	Underground crushing operator
266100	Grizzleyman or pass runner
267000	Underground labourer or tool carrier
268000	Sanitaryman
269000	Underground services occupations NOC

270000 Underground winding and hoisting occupations

- 271000 Winding engine driver Hoist driver 272000
- 273000 Platman
 - Skipman
- 274000 Braceman 275000
- 276000 Brakeman 277000 Onsetter
- 279000 Winding and hoisting occupations NOC

Mining production and services (surface) 300000

310000 Blast hole drilling surface

311000	Blast hole drill operator
312000	Blast hole drill operator's assistant
313000	Air track or crawl air driller
314000	Sniper drill operator (rubber tyred)

320000 Charging and blasting (surface)

321000	Powder monkey, leading hand or shotfirer
322000	Powder truck driver
323000	Powder crew labourer

330000 **Exploration drilling (surface)**

331000	Driller
332000	Driller's assistant

340000 **Excavation equipment operators (surface)**

341000	Bucketwheel operator
342000	Bucketwheel operator's assistant
343000	Dragline operator
344000	Rope shovel operator
346000	Hydraulic excavator operator
347000	Dredge operator
348000	Front end loader operator
349000	Excavation equipment operator NOC

350000 Mobile plant operator (surface)

351000	Bulldozer operator
352000	Grader driver
353000	Backhoe operator
354000	Scraper driver
359000	Mobile plant operator NOC

360000 Driving occupations (surface)

361000	Haulage truck driver
362000	Water truck driver
363000	Explosives truck driver
364000	Fuel, grease or service truck driver
365000	Hiab truck driver
366000	Passenger vehicle driver or bus driver
367000	Equipment transport driver
369000	Driver NOC

370000 Open cut service occupations

371000	Greaser or oiler
372000	Quarry labourer or labourer
373000	Fuel and lubrication serviceman
374000	Wash bay operator
375000	Dump spotter
376000	Weighbridge operator

400000 Ore treatment occupations

410000

Processing plant occupations		
411000	Processing plant operator	
412000	Processing plant serviceman	
442000	Dragogoing plant utility worker	

413000 Processing plant utility worker

420000 Mobile plant occupations

421000	Front end loader	operator

422000 Mobile plant operator NOC

430000 Final product handling or transport occupations

431000	Final product packer, loader or dumper operator
432000	Final product warehouse operator
433000	Final product handling or transport NOC

440000 Sampling, assay, laboratory occupations

441000	Laboratory technician, assistant or analyst
442000	Sample preparation operator
443000	Sampler or sample plant operator

500000 Railway operations occupations

510000 Railway operator NOC

520000 Locomotive crews

521000	Locomotive driver
522000	Observer
523000	Trainee observer
524000	Shunter locomotive driver

530000 Track laying or maintenance

or

600000 Metal working processing trades

610000	Sheet meta	al trades
	611000 612000 613000 614000 615000	Metal patternmaker Sheet metal worker Coppersmith Guillotine operator Millwright
620000	Metal machining trades	
	621000 622000	Metal machinist Fitter or turner
630000	Fitter mechanical	
	631000 632000 633000 634000	Fitter Fitter — welder Fitter — diesel Fitter — pipe
640000	Structural steel trades	
	641000 642000 643000	Boilermaker or welder Boilermaker Welder
650000	Metal trades apprentices	
	651000 652000 653000 654000 659000	Sheet metal apprentice Metal machining apprentice Fitter's apprentice Boilermaker's apprentice Apprentice NOC
660000	Trades ass	istant
690000	Metal trades	
	004000	Tool and due asthen

691000	Tool and dye setter
692000	Saw setter
693000	Electroplater
694000	Blacksmith
695000	Shipwright
696000	Instrument artificer
697000	Lamp room mechanic or assistant
698000	Toolmaker
699000	Drill doctor

700000 Electrical or electronic trades

710000 Electrical trades

718000	Lift mechanic
719000	Electrician NOC

720000 Electronic trades

721000	Radio technician
722000	Telecommunication technician
723000	Telecommunication trainee
724000	Signals technician
725000	Instrument technician

730000 Electrical or electronic apprentices

731000	Electrical apprentice
732000	Electronic apprentice

790000 Electrical trades assistant

800000 Miscellaneous trades or utilities

810000 Construction trades

811000	Bricklayer
812000	Carpenter or joiner
813000	Painter
814000	Plasterer or tiler
815000	Plumber or drainer
816000	Rigger or ropesplicer
817000	Scaffolder
818000	Construction trades assistant

820000 Conveyor belt repair occupations

822000 Belt repairers assistan	nt
823000Trainee belt repairer824000Rubber repairer NOC	;

830000 Motor or engine trades

831000	Motor mechanic
832000	Diesel motor mechanic
833000	Brake mechanic
834000	Tyre fitter
835000	Panel beater
836000	Spray painter
837000	Mechanic NOC
838000	Trades assistant

839000 sand blaster

840000 Power plant operators

841000	Power plant engine driver
842000	Power plant trainee engine driver
843000	Power plant greaser
844000	Boiler attendant
845000	Fireman

- 850000 Water treatment plant operator
- 860000 Waste disposal equipment operator

- 870000 Gas supply service operator
- 890000 Utility operator NOC

900000 Material handling – stores or warehouse occupations

910000 Crane driving occupations

911000	Mobile crane driver
912000	Tower crane driver
913000	Overhead crane driver (cabin controlled)
914000	Crane driver NOC
915000	Dogman or cranechaser
	-

920000 Fork lift operator

930000 Storemen NOC

931000 Toolstore attendant

NOC = not otherwise classified

Appendix 5 — Location codes

100 Underground workplaces

110 Access, travelling or haulage ways

- Brace or winder building 111
- 112 Shaft
- 113 Plat
- 114 Decline, adit or drift
- 115 Haulroad or level
- 116 Conveyor road 117 Ladderway
- 118 Return airways

120 Underground production or development areas

- 121 Underground face area (coal)
- 122 Underground stope
- 125 Loading pocket
- 126 Raise (development)
- 127 Decline or winze (development)
- 128 Level (development)
- 129 Capital (development)

Underground workshop 130

140 Pump chamber

150 Underground storage areas

- 151 Fuel storage
- 152 Explosives magazine
- 153 Underground stores general

Underground ore or waste dumping 160

- 161 Ore or waste tip or pass area
- 162 Grizzly
- 163 Millhole

170 Underground crushing area

180 **Ancillary locations**

- Crib room 181
- 182 Latrine
- Underground 190

200 Open pit production or development areas

210 Face loading area

220 Bench areas not haul road

- 221 Drill pattern area
- 222 Heavy vehicle park up area

- 230 Haul road
 - 231 Haul road level232 Haul road ramp or incline
- 240 Waste dump area
- 250 Ore tipping area
- 260 In pit crushing
 - 261 In pit crusher area262 In pit conveyors
- 270 Stockpile run of mine
- 280 Salt production areas
- 290 Open cut NOC
 - 291 Dredge
- 300 Surface work areas general
 - 310 Mine access road (not haul road)
 - 320 Park up area, heavy vehicles or plant
 - 330 Warehouse or stores
 - 340 Explosives magazine
 - 350 Fuel storage area
 - 360 Laboratory
 - 370 Storage yard or rebuild area
 - 380 Lube bay or service bay
 - 381 Wash down area
 - 390 Surface general area

400 Treatment plant or ore processing

- 411 Process control room
- 413 Crushing, screening or conveyor
- 416 Heap, vat or insitu leaching
- 419 Grinding or classification
- 422 Gravity concentration or magnetic separation
- 425 Flotation
- 428 Leaching
- 431 Solvent extraction, scrubber or stripper
- 434 Filter, press or wet screening
- 437 Thickening or clarification

- 439 Crystallisation, nucleation or ion exchange
- 441 Electrowinning or cell house
- 444 Smelter, roaster or furnace area
- 447 Gold room and elution facility
- 451 Tailings storage facility
- 454 Product packaging or storage
- 457 Sample plant or station
- 461 Reagent or raw material storage area
- 464 Reagent or raw materials preparation plant
- 467 Water treatment plant
- 471 Processing plant other

500 Crushed ore areas

- 510 Stockpiles
 - 511 Stockpile access road

520 Train loading or unloading

- 521 Train loader or loading area
- 522 Train unloader or tippler area
- 530 Stacker reclaimer area
- 540 Stacker or reclaim conveyor
- 550 Wharf area
 - 551 Shiploader wharf
 - 552 Conveyors wharf

600 Workshop surface

- 610 Workshop heavy equipment
- 620 Workshop elect or instruments
- 630 Workshop railway
- 640 Workshop auto or light vehicles
- 650 Workshop boilermakers
- 660 Workshop painters or carpenters
- 670 Workshop tyre fitting
- 680 Workshop belt repairs
- 690 Workshop NOC

700 Railways

710 Main lines

- 711 Main line on track
- 712 Main line off track

720 Sidings

- 721 Siding on track 722 Siding —off track
- 730 Railway access road
- 740 Railway yard
- 800 Power generation plant
 - 810 Control room
 - 820 Distribution or sub-station
 - 830 Engine room

900 Administration areas

- 910 Offices or administration building
- 920 Crib room, canteen or mess
- 930 Showers or change room
- 940 Lamproom
- 950 Car park
- 960 Pathways
- 970 Gardens
- 990 Administration NOC

NOC = not otherwise classified