

**WAC 296-817-20010 Control employee noise exposures that equal or exceed 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>.**

**Important:**

Hearing protection provides a barrier to noise and protects employees but is not considered a control of the noise hazard. Separate requirements apply to hearing protection and are found in WAC 296-817-20015.

You must reduce employee noise exposure, using feasible controls, wherever exposure equals or exceeds 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>.

- Note:**
1. Once noise exposures are brought below 90 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>, no further reduction is required. However, further reduction of noise may reduce the need for other hearing loss prevention requirements.
  2. Controls that eliminate noise at the source or establish a permanent barrier to noise are typically more reliable. For example:
    - a. Replacing noisy equipment with quiet equipment.
    - b. Using silencers and mufflers.
    - c. Installing enclosures.
    - d. Damping noisy equipment and parts.
  3. Other controls and work practices may also be useful for reducing noise exposures. Examples include:
    - a. Employee rotation.
    - b. Limiting use of noisy equipment.
    - c. Rescheduling work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050. WSR 15-23-086, § 296-817-20010, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/18/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 03-11-060, § 296-817-20010, filed 5/19/03, effective 8/1/03.]