



OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: BHM-CPL-04-00-001

SUBJECT: Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Noise Hazards

REGION: Birmingham Region

SIGNATURE DATE: April 17, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 17, 2025

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of this instruction is to renew a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for inspections of hazards related to high noise levels and other industry recognized hazards in Sawmills, Planing Mills, Wood Pallets and Skids Manufacturers, Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Products, Surgical Appliance and Supplies Manufacturing, Motor vehicle parts manufacturing, Boat Building, and Poultry Slaughtering. NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113.

Scope: This instruction applies to Birmingham, Jackson, and Mobile Area Offices.

References: [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995
[OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018
[OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-164, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), April 14, 2020

Cancellations: This Instruction updates and replaces an earlier version.

State Impact: No Impact

Action Offices: This instruction applies to Birmingham, Jackson, and Mobile Area Offices.

Originating Office: Birmingham Regional Office

Contact: Assistant Regional Administrator for Enforcement Programs

By and Under the Authority of

DORINDA HUGHES

Regional Administrator

Executive Summary

This instruction renews an emphasis program for inspections of health hazards related to high noise levels and other industry recognized hazards in Sawmills, Planing Mills, Wood Pallets and Skids Manufacturers, Cement and Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Products, Motor vehicle parts manufacturing, Boat Building, Fabricated products of wood and non-wood materials, Surgical and Prosthetic appliances and Poultry Slaughtering. NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113.

Significant Changes

Removed “Region IV” designation and replaced with “Birmingham Region”. Continuation of REP.

Table of Contents

I. Purpose	5
II. Scope	5
III. References.....	5
IV. Cancellations	5
V. Expiration	5
VI. Action Offices	5
A. Responsible Office	5
B. Action Office	5
VII. Federal Program Change.	6
VIII. Significant Changes.....	6
IX. Background.....	6
X. Inspection Goals.	6
XI. Scheduling	6
XII. Procedures.....	7
XIII. Recording in OIS.....	7
XIV. Evaluation	8

I. Purpose.

This instruction renews an emphasis program for inspections of hazards related to high noise levels and other industry recognized hazards in Sawmills, Planing Mills, Wood Pallets and Skids Manufacturers, Cement and Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Manufacturing, Fabricated Metal Products, Motor vehicle parts manufacturing, Boat Building, Fabricated products of wood and non-wood materials, Surgical and Prosthetic appliances, and Poultry Slaughtering.

NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113.

II. Scope.

This instruction applies to Birmingham, Jackson, and Mobile Area I Offices.

III. References.

- A. [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995.
- B. [OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018.
- C. [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-164, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), April 14, 2020.
- D. SFPA, SHLMA, AND WWPA - Sawmill Noise Control Engineering Guide.
- E. NIOSH – Industrial Noise Control Manual.
- F. [NIOSH - Topic Page “Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention”](#).
- G. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) – Annual Industry Data – 2022.
- H. [OSHA Instruction TED 01-00-015, OSHA Technical Manual – Section III, Chapter 5, Noise](#), April 28, 2022.
- I. Establishment- Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs policy memo, dated November 12, 2014.

IV. Cancellations.

- A. This Instruction updates and replaces an earlier version.

V. Expiration.

This instruction expires on September 30, 2026, unless extended.

VI. Action Offices.

A. Responsible Office.

Birmingham Regional Office – Enforcement Programs.

B. Action Office.

This instruction applies to Birmingham, Jackson, and Mobile Area Offices.

VII. Federal Program Change.

None.

VIII. Significant Changes.

None.

IX. Background.

Approximately 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise exposures on the job and over 9 million are at risk for hearing loss from occupational exposure to noise, which remains a persistent cause of employee illness in the workplace. Exposure to excessive levels of noise, coupled with inadequate personal protective equipment and the lack of an effective hearing conservation program continue to put workers at significant risk of permanent impairment. Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases and is the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury. In addition to hearing loss, other health hazards in these industries may include exposures to dust, silica, hexavalent chromium and organic solvents.

A review of BLS data show there were 15,400 work-related hearing loss illness cases in 2022. Of those cases, approximately 68% occurred in the manufacturing industry. The incidence rate of hearing losses in wood product manufacturing was 23.1, compared to 1.3 for all Private Industry. The incidence rate for hearing losses in poultry processing was 24.5, compared to 1.3 for all Private Industry. The hearing loss incidence rate for fabricated metal was 7.8, compared to 1.3 for all of Private Industry.

X. Inspection Goals.

The Area Director, or their designee, will determine at the beginning of the fiscal year the number of inspections they will conduct under this program.

XI. Scheduling.

- A. Utilize the establishment list provided by the national office in ListGen.
- B. Adjustments to the list for additions and deletions will follow guidelines in CPL 02-00-025, paragraph B.1.b.(1)(b)(6).
- C. If the establishment list for the area office has additions, establishments on the list shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number one and re-randomized, using the random number method prescribed by the Establishment-Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs policy memo, dated November 12, 2014. The list will then be divided into cycles, with a minimum size of five establishments per cycle.
- D. Establishments may be selected from the individual cycle for inspection in an order that makes efficient use of available resources. Once the cycle is complete, you can continue to the next cycle. You must complete a cycle once it is started before you start another cycle.
- E. Since employees are subject to multiple hazards at industries covered by the REP,

at all inspections performed under this REP, the injury and illness records for the past five years shall be reviewed for trends that may identify a common hazard at the workplace. Where injury and illness trends are identified to have occurred and the Compliance Safety and Health Officer has the expertise (such as equipment familiarity and training) to address the hazards, the inspection shall be expanded to address these hazards. When the Compliance Safety and Health Officer is not qualified to evaluate the specific hazards (such as safety hazards), a referral shall be made to safety for investigating the hazards.

- F. Establishments with 10 or fewer employees are to be included in this program.

XII. Procedures.

- A. **Programmed Inspections.** Upon entering the facility, the CSHO shall verify the NAICS code of the establishment. If the NAICS code is not one of those targeted in this REP, the CSHO shall exit the facility and code the OIS form “No Inspection.”
- B. **Unprogrammed inspections.** If noise hazards are identified in facilities under the covered NAICS, they shall be evaluated in accordance with this program.
- C. All inspections will be partial health inspections; however, the CSHO will address any hazards in plain view and/or submit a referral for any safety issues.
- D. Noise evaluations are conducted in accordance with Section III: Chapter 5 of the OSHA Technical Manual TED 01-00-015 [TED 1-0.15A]. The case file(s) will contain documentation of noise surveys, screenings, and sampling results.
- E. Engineering controls will be evaluated for all high noise sources.
- F. If other industry recognized hazards exist, they shall be evaluated.
- G. Inspections under this REP will also identify and include procedures from other applicable emphasis programs (NEP, REP, or LEP) for the covered NAICSs. Example: Worksites covered by CPL 03-00-022, National Emphasis Program on Amputations, conducted under this REP will address amputation hazards in accordance with Paragraph X of CPL 03-00-022.
- H. **CSHO Protection.** The CSHO will follow current guidance in the OSHA Safety and Health Management System Manual when they are potentially exposed to excessive levels of noise. While conducting noise evaluations, CSHO should wear protective equipment appropriate for the site, including hearing protection.

XIII. Recording in OIS.

The Inspection Form for all inspections conducted in establishments that are initiated by this REP shall be coded as initiating type Programmed Planned and “HINOISE” is entered under Regional Emphasis Program and the Primary Emphasis Program. If other emphasis programs are addressed during the inspection, those applicable OIS codes will also be included under the appropriate Emphasis Program (NEP, REP, or LEP). If noise hazards covered by this emphasis program are covered under another inspection initiated by any other means, enter “HINOISE” in the Regional Emphasis Program field only.

XIV. Evaluation.

An evaluation of the program will be conducted midway through and at the completion of the effective period that addresses whether the program advances OSHA's goals and initiatives and will include quantitative and qualitative measures.