

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Wichita Area Office
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Reply to the Attention of: Area Director

March 6, 2015

Custom Alloy Sales 34P, LLC
4008 Vernon Rd.
Prescott, KS 66767

RE: Inspection # 998634

Dear Mr. Rhett King:

An inspection of your workplace at 4008 Vernon Rd., Prescott, KS that began on October 8, 2014 included an assessment of employee exposure to noise hazards. The inspection disclosed the following hazard:

Tap Crew and Rotary Assistant employees were subjected to sound levels that exceed those listed in Table G-16 of 29 CFR 1910.95(b)(1). Full shift noise dosimetry indicated employees were exposed to noise that exceeded the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 90.0 decibels (dB) as averaged over an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA). The employees were exposed to noise that ranged from 90.8 dB to 93.0 dB per 8-hour TWA. However, feasible administrative controls or engineering controls had not been implemented. In addition, the use of hearing protection by the employees was sporadic and not enforced by the employer.

Despite the employee exposure to noise as described above, a citation for OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.95(b)(1) is not considered appropriate at this time. The implementation of appropriate administrative controls as discussed below, and an acceptable hearing conservation program with appropriate hearing protection will protect employees from exposure to noise in the range of your employee exposure levels. Consequently, no citation item will be issued for employee exposure to noise that exceeded the PEL of 90.0 dB as averaged over an 8-hour TWA.

However, in the interest of workplace safety and health, I recommend that you voluntarily take steps to ensure employees are not exposed to noise that exceeds the PEL of 90.0 dB as averaged over an 8-hour TWA. This may be accomplished by the following methods:

1) Install engineering controls by modifying or replacing equipment, or making related physical changes at the noise source or along the transmission path to reduce the noise level at the worker's ear. Examples of inexpensive, effective engineering controls

include some of the following: choose low-noise tools and machinery; maintain and lubricate machinery and equipment (e.g., oil bearings); place a barrier between the noise source and employee (e.g., sound walls or curtains); and enclose the workspace or isolate the noise source.

2) Institute administrative controls that change the workplace or schedule in order to reduce or eliminate the worker exposure to noise. Examples include: operating noisy machines during shifts when fewer people are exposed; limiting the amount of time a person spends at a noise source; providing quiet areas where workers can gain relief from hazardous noise sources; and controlling noise exposure through distance is often an effective, yet simple and inexpensive administrative control. Specifically, for every doubling of the distance between the source of noise and the worker, the noise is decreased by 6 dBA.

There will not be a citation for employee exposure to noise that exceeded a TWA of 90.0 dBA. However, you may include a description of any engineering and/or administrative controls that you implement in addition to the abatement measures that include the implementation of an acceptable hearing conservation program.

Sincerely,



Judy A. Freeman
Area Director