



# OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** 2019-02 (CPL 04) | **EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2018

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Emphasis Program for High Level Noise

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**REGIONAL IDENTIFIER:** Philadelphia Region III

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This Instruction continues a Regional Emphasis Program for selected industry classifications where employee exposure to high noise is likely.

**References:** [CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#) (11/13/2018)  
[CPL 02-00-025](#) (Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections) (January 4, 1995)  
[CPL 02-00-160](#) (Field Operations Manual) (August 8, 2016)  
[OSHA.GOV Occupational Noise Exposure Topic Page](#)

**Cancellations:** Philadelphia Regional Notice: CPL 2018-02 (CPL 04), dated October 1, 2017. This Instruction replaces and updates an earlier version.

**State Impact:** None.

**Action Offices:** All Area Offices in Region III

**Originating Office:** Philadelphia Regional Office

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By and Under the Authority of

Richard Mendelson  
Regional Administrator

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- I. Purpose This Instruction continues a REP for the selected industry classifications where employee exposure to high noise levels is likely.
- II. Scope This Instruction applies to all Area Offices in Region III.
- III. References [CPL 02-00-025](#) (Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections) (January 4, 1995);  
[CPL 02-00-160](#) (Field Operations Manual) (August 2, 2016);  
[OSHA.GOV Occupational Noise Exposure Topic Page](#);  
[CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#) (11/13/2018)
- II. Expiration This Instruction expires on September 30, 2023.
- III. Action OSHA compliance personnel shall ensure that the procedures contained in this directive are followed when conducting this REP.
- IV. Background Approximately 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise on the job. Noise induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases and the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury. Work-related hearing loss continues to be a critical workplace safety and health issue. This Regional Emphasis Program will utilize Fiscal Year 2017 inspection data obtained from the IMIS to identify the top nineteen North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groupings where violations of 29 CFR 1910.95 have been cited by OSHA. This Regional Emphasis Program will support the priority established in the [FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) by focusing Area Office resources on industry sectors with a high potential for occupational hazards that are known to cause workplace illness.
- V. Procedures This Regional Emphasis Program will include two major field activities: site selection, and inspections.
  - A. **Site Selection:** The following procedures will be used to develop a roster from which inspections will be conducted:
    1. Industry groups with a previous history of OSHA noise citations were targeted for inclusion in this Regional Emphasis Program. An IMIS search for the industry groups in which 29 CFR 1910.95 has been cited by OSHA during the period October 2017 through September 2018 served as the basis for selection of the North American Industry Classification System groups. Seven of the top ten remain from the fiscal year 2017 list, and are as follows:
      - a. 32192/Wood Container and Pallet Manufacturing
      - b. 32799/All Other Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing
      - c. 32619/Other Plastics Product Manufacturing
      - d. 33281/Coating, Engraving, Heat Treating, and Allied Activities
      - e. 33231/Plate Work and Fabricated Structural Product Mfg.
      - f. 33661/Ship and Boat Building

g. 33299/All Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing

2. Each Area Office will request an establishment list from The Office of Statistical Analysis. The list will be in random order as per the protocol outlined in section B.1.b.(1)(b)2 of CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections.
3. Adjustments to the list for additions and deletions will follow guidelines in CPL 02-00-025, paragraph B.1.b.(1)(b)6.
4. After all the appropriate changes are made, the Area Office inspection register shall be made up by determining which establishments are to be scheduled for inspection during the current fiscal year.
5. A cycle of establishments which have been selected for inspection will be created from the inspection register. The number of establishments in each cycle will be based on the number of inspections expected to be completed during the fiscal year covered under this REP.
6. Any establishment that has received a health inspection within the last five (5) years which included a noise evaluation **will be deleted** from the cycle.
7. Establishments on the inspection cycle can be inspected in any order that makes efficient use of resources.
8. When all establishments on the cycle are completed, an additional cycle may be created in the same manner with the number of establishments in that cycle based on the number of inspections projected to be completed during the balance of the fiscal year. Establishments on a cycle may be carried over to the next cycle only per the requirements of CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections.
9. Establishments with 10 or fewer employees **will not be included** in this program.

B. **Inspection Activity:**

1. Upon entering the facility, the CSHO shall verify the NAICS code of the establishment. If the NAICS code is not one of those shown in paragraph A.1, the CSHO shall exit the facility and code the OIS form “**No Inspection**”.
2. Determine employee exposures to noise through methods such as but not limited to sound level readings, full shift noise dosimetry and a review of any third party noise sampling at the establishment;
3. Sampling will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 4, Paragraph XI of the OSHA [Field Operations Manual](#).
4. Review of the employer’s efforts to evaluate employee noise exposures;
5. Review of the employer efforts to implement engineering and administrative controls;
6. Review of the employer’s hearing conservation program including the use of appropriate hearing protection, training, and audiometric testing. A review of records to determine if Standard Threshold Shifts exist shall also be conducted.
7. Review of the employer’s OSHA 300 logs to ensure recordable standard

threshold shifts are properly recorded;

8. Since employees are subject to multiple hazards at industries covered by this REP, during all inspections performed under this REP, the injury and illness records for the previous 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 industrial hygienist (IH) has the expertise to address the hazards, the inspection shall be expanded as outlined in CPL 02-00-160, Field Operations Manual (FOM), Chapter III. When the IH is not qualified to evaluate the specific hazards, a referral shall be made to the AAD for safety to investigate the hazards.
9. Inspections under this REP will also identify and include procedures from other applicable emphasis programs (NEP, REP, or LEP) for the covered NAICS codes.
10. As per Chapter 9 of the FOM, if an inspection is scheduled or has begun at an establishment and a complaint or referral is received, that complaint or referral may, at the Area Director's discretion, be incorporated into the scheduled or ongoing inspection. If such a complaint is formal, the complainant must receive a written response addressing the complaint items.

VI. Recording in OIS The inspection category in OIS is to be coded "Health." The OIS identifier code to be used will be "NOISE."

VII. Evaluation Each Area Office will submit to the Regional Administrator a written evaluation at the midpoint (30 months) and completion (60 months) of this LEP in the format specified by OSHA Instruction [CPL 04-00-002 Procedures for the Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\) \(11/13/18\)](#).

VIII. Outreach During the course of this REP the Area Director will ensure an outreach program will continue during the enforcement phase of the program. Outreach activities will be directed to reach as many stakeholders in the Area Office's jurisdiction as is practicable. The purpose of the outreach will be to inform interested parties of the existence, purpose and objectives of this local emphasis program as well as promote employer knowledge and employee awareness of the hazards and acceptable methods of abatement to prevent illness and injuries. The method of outreach is at the Area Director's discretion and can consist of one or more of the following components:

1. Broadcast mail-outs or program information.
2. Stakeholder meetings.
3. Targeted training sessions.
4. Presentations to the affected group(s).
5. Media press release or e-blast

Distribution: Regional and Area Offices  
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