



# OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** CPL 20/05 (CPL 04) | **EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Noise Hazards

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**REGIONAL IDENTIFIER:**Region IV

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## ABSTRACT

- Purpose:** 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, Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Industry, Fabricated Metal Products, and Poultry Slaughtering. NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113.
- Scope:** This Instruction applies to all Region IV Area Offices, except State Plan Offices.
- References:** [OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995  
[OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018  
[OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-163, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), September 13, 2019
- Cancellations:** Atlanta Regional Notice, CPL 19/05, October 1, 2018; this Instruction replaces and updates an earlier version.
- State Impact:** None
- Action Offices:** Enforcement Offices, except for State Plan Offices.
- Originating Office:** Atlanta Regional Office
- Contact:** Christi Griffin, Assistant Regional Administrator for Enforcement Programs  
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By and Under the Authority of

KURT A. PETERMEYER  
Regional Administrator

## **Executive Summary**

This instruction renews a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) to reduce occupational noise health hazards in Sawmills, Planing Mills, Wood Pallets and Skids Manufacturers, Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Industry, Fabricated Metal Products, and Poultry Slaughtering. NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113. The REP ensures effective targeting, enforcement, and outreach for hazardous working conditions in these industries.

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**I. Subject:** Regional Emphasis Program for high noise exposures and other industry recognized health hazards.

**II. Purpose:** This instruction continues a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) to reduce occupational noise health hazards in Sawmills, Planing Mills, Wood Pallets and Skids Manufacturers, Concrete Products Manufacturers (except block and brick), Plastic Products Industry, Fabricated Metal Products, and Poultry Slaughtering. NAICSs include 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113. The REP ensures effective targeting, enforcement, and outreach for hazardous working conditions in these industries.

**III. References:**

[OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections](#), January 4, 1995

[OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs \(LEPs\)](#), November 13, 2018

[OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-163, Field Operations Manual \(FOM\)](#), September 13, 2019

SFPA, SHLMA, AND WWPA - Sawmill Noise Control Engineering Guide  
NIOSH – Industrial Noise Control Manual

[NIOSH - Topic Page “Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention”](#)

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) – Annual Industry Data - 2017

**IV. Significant Changes:** None

**V. Cancellation:** Atlanta Regional Notice, CPL 19/05, October 1, 2018; this Instruction replaces and updates an earlier version.

**VI. Expiration:** This instruction will expire four years from effective date, unless extended.

**VII. Action:** OSHA compliance personnel shall ensure that the procedures contained in this instruction are followed in conducting the Emphasis Program for noise.

**VIII. 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.

According to 2017 BLS data, the incidence rate of hearing losses in Wood Product Manufacturing (18.5) was more than 13 times that of Private Industry (1.4). The

incidence rate for hearing losses in Poultry Processing (17.9) was more than 12 times that of Private Industry. The hearing loss incidence rate for Cement and Concrete Product Manufacturing was the lowest of those obtained at 9.2, which was still more than 6 times that of Private Industry.

In FY 18, the area offices conducted a total of 110 inspections under the REP. Of those that were not in compliance, 83.1% resulted in serious violations. Fifty noise violations were identified during those inspections and addressed.

#### **IX. 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.

#### **X. Scheduling:**

1. The area office will develop a list of establishments following the protocol provided in CPL 02-00-025, paragraph B.1.a.(2)c which states that when no establishment list is provided by the national office, the area director shall compile a complete list considering all establishments within the coverage of the office and using the best available information (e.g., commerce directories, commercial telephone listings, local permits, local knowledge, internet).
2. Adjustments to the list for additions and deletions will follow guidelines in CPL 02-00-025, paragraph B.1.b.(1)(b)(6).
3. After the establishment list for the area office has been adjusted as necessary, establishments on the list shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number one, skipping deletions. Using a random number method and following the guidelines in OSHA CPL 02-00-025, Appendix C, a regional emphasis program inspection register shall be developed in the area office. Establishments will be selected in the order prescribed by the random numbers until the total of establishments selected equals the number of projected inspections for the year. The resulting list shall constitute the program inspection register.
4. Establishments may be selected from the inspection register for inspection in an order that makes efficient use of available resources. If any establishment on the inspection register is documented to be unavailable for inspection, the next originally unscheduled establishment according to the application of the random number table shall replace it on the inspection register.
5. 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 industrial hygienist (IH) has the expertise (such as equipment familiarity and training) to address the hazards, the inspection shall be expanded to address these hazards. When the IH is not qualified to evaluate the specific hazards (such as safety hazards), a referral shall be made to safety for investigating the hazards.
6. Establishments with 10 or fewer employees are to be included in this program.

**XI. Inspection Procedures:**

1. All inspections will be partial health inspections; however, the CSHO will address any hazards in plain view and submit a referral for any safety issues.
2. If noise hazards are identified during unprogrammed inspections in facilities under the covered NAICS, they shall be evaluated in accordance with this program.
3. Noise measurements and hearing conservation evaluations will be 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.
4. Engineering controls will be evaluated for all high noise sources.
5. If other industry recognized hazards exist, they shall be evaluated.
6. Inspections under this REP will also identify and include procedures from other applicable emphasis programs (NEP, REP, or LEP) for the covered NAICSs. Example: CPL 03-00-019, National Emphasis Program on Amputations conducted under this REP will address amputation hazards in accordance with Paragraph XVI (B) of CPL 03-00-019.

**XII. Recording in OIS:**

The Inspection Forms for all inspections conducted in establishments that are covered by this program shall be coded as regional emphasis program inspections and marked “**HINOISE.**” If other emphasis programs are addressed during the inspection, those applicable OIS codes will also be included in the case file documentation. Example: amputation hazards, the Strategic Plan Activity on the Inspection Form shall be coded as “amputations.”

**XIII. Evaluation:**

An evaluation of the program will be conducted midway through and at the completion of the effective period that addresses whether or not the program advances OSHA’s goals and initiatives and will include quantitative and qualitative measures.

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