

Noise and PPE

Your safety
is Number 1



Noise can be defined as “any unwanted or undesirable sound.” Common sources of noise in the mining industry include hand tools, mobile equipment, process plant operations and drilling.

Q What is a high level of noise?

A If you are 2 metres from someone and have to raise your voice to be heard the noise level needs to be assessed.

Q What if I don't wear hearing protectors all the time?

A Taking protectors off even for short periods can cancel their protective effect. To be fully protected, you need to wear protectors in any loud noise.

Q I won't be able to hear what people are saying if I wear hearing protectors.

A If your hearing is normal you will find it easier to understand what people are saying when you wear protectors because your ears are not overloaded. It is like wearing sunglasses - you see better if glare is reduced.

Q Is there any point in wearing hearing protectors if my hearing is already impaired?

A Your ears will go on being damaged as long as they are exposed to excessive noise. The hearing you have left is precious and should be protected.

Noise Prevention

ELIMINATE
SUBSTITUTE
ISOLATE
ENGINEERING CONTROLS
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Pilbara Iron Health Standards

There are many hazardous situations where noise is generated on site, and for this reason there are strict controls that have been put in place when dealing with noise. Further information is available via the Pilbara Iron Road Map and the Ironsafe Standards accessible via the Intranet.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

The permanent loss of hearing caused by exposure to noise in your working environment.

Symptoms of noise induced hearing loss:

- Ringing, buzzing or other unusual noises in your ears
- Inability to hear low or high frequency sounds
- Difficulty in hearing and understanding a conversation

Noise and PPE

Your safety
is Number 1



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- eye protection (goggles, glasses)
- hearing protection (ear plugs, ear muffs)
- respiratory protection (respirators, dust masks)
- foot protection (safety boots)
- head protection (hard hats)
- body protection (aprons, safety harnesses, gloves, sunscreen)

PPE is can protect you from being exposed to:

- Chemicals
- Noise
- UV radiation
- Solvents

How can I contribute to reducing noise in my workplace?

- Identify noise hazards
- Report noise hazards
- Choose quieter work methods
- Report faulty equipment
- Participate in personal monitoring programmes
- Wear hearing protection when required