

A noise survey is done to measure the noise levels that employees are exposed to and assess the potential health risk to employees in terms of Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) Regulations, 2003.

Noise surveys are done to establish compliance with governmental and other relevant exposure limits and to offer solutions to reduce employee exposure where necessary.

Health Effects Associated with Noise Exposure are:

- Temporary or Permanent Hearing Loss
- Employees may develop Tinnitus which causes a ringing or buzzing noise in their ears
- Excessive noise can be a hazard in the work environment as employees cannot communicate properly

Employer's Legal Responsibilities:

In South Africa the criterion for reducing the risk of hearing damage is based on limiting the exposure to an 8 hour rating level (L_{req8h}) of 85dB (A).

The [Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Regulations, 2003](#), requires employers to prevent or reduce risks to the health and safety of their employer's from exposure to noise at work. This regulation requires employers to;

- Assess the risks to your employees from noise at work
- Take action to reduce the noise exposure that produces those risks
- Provide your employees with hearing protection if you cannot reduce the noise exposure enough by using other methods
- Make sure the legal limits on noise exposure are not exceeded
- Provide your employees with information, instruction and training
- Carry out a health surveillance assessment

For more information on Noise Regulations and requirements go to: www.hse.gov.uk

