Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound levels exceed those shown in Table G-16 when measured on the A scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response. When noise levels are determined by octave band analysis, the equivalent A-weighted sound level may be determined as follows:

\[
\text{Equivalent A-weighted sound level} = 10 \log_{10} \sum_{i} 10^{0.1 S_i T_i}
\]

Where:
- \(S_i\) is the sound level within the i-th octave band,
- \(T_i\) is the time spent within the i-th octave band.

The employer shall ensure that the following steps are taken when a standard threshold shift occurs:

- Provide a hearing conservation program for the individual employee.
- Determine the cause of the threshold shift.
- Evaluate all employee noise exposures.
- Inform all employees who exhibit a threshold shift.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Monitor the employee's exposure to noise.

For additional information or material on Hearing Protection please see our website at www.moldex.com or call 800-421-0668.

**Footnote (1)** When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure of different levels, their combined effect should be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. If the sum of the following fractions: \(C_1(T_1) + C_2(T_2) + C_n(T_n)\) exceeds unity, then, the mixed exposure should be considered to exceed the limit value. Combined, the total time of exposure at a specified noise level, and \(T(n)\) indicates the total time of exposure permitted at that level. Exposure to impulsive or impact noise should not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level.

**TABLE G-16 — PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURES (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration per day, hours</th>
<th>Sound level dBA (slow response)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnote (2)** When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure of different levels, their combined effect should be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. If the sum of the following fractions: \(C_1(T_1) + C_2(T_2) + C_n(T_n)\) exceeds unity, then, the mixed exposure should be considered to exceed the limit value. Combined, the total time of exposure at a specified noise level, and \(T(n)\) indicates the total time of exposure permitted at that level. Exposure to impulsive or impact noise should not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level.
(k)(3) The employer shall ensure that each employee is informed of the following:

1. The effects of noise on hearing;
2. The purpose of hearing protectors, the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types, and instructions on selection, fitting, use, and care; and
3. The purpose of audiometric testing, and an explanation of the test procedures.

(l) Access to information and training materials.

(1) The employer shall make available to affected employees or their representatives copies of this standard and shall also post a copy in the workplace.

(2) The employer shall provide to affected employees any informational materials pertaining to the standard that are supplied to the employer by the Assistant Secretary.

(m) Recordkeeping.

(1) Exposure measurements. The employer shall maintain an accurate record of all employee exposure measurements required by paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) Audiometric tests.

(3) The employer shall retain all employee audiometric test records obtained pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section.

(3) The employer shall maintain:

(a) The name and job classification of the employee;
(b) The date of the audiogram;
(c) The examiner’s name;
(d) The date of the last acoustic or exhaustive calibration of the audiometer; and
(e) Employee’s most recent noise exposure assessment.

(3) The employer shall maintain accurate records of the measurements of the background sound pressure levels in audiometric test rooms.

(m) Record retention.

The employer shall retain records required in this paragraph (m) for at least the following periods:

(1) Noise exposure measurement records shall be retained for two years.

(2) Audiometric test records shall be retained for the duration of the affected employee’s employment.

(n) Access to records. All records required by this section shall be provided upon request to employees, former employees, representatives designated by the individual employee, and the Assistant Secretary. The provisions of 29 CFR 1910.20 (a)–(e) and (g)–(i) apply to access to records under this section.

(o) Transfer of records. If the employer ceases to do business, the employer shall transfer to the successor employer all records required to be maintained by this section, and the successor employer shall retain them for the remainder of the period prescribed in paragraph (m)(3) of this section.

(p) Appendices.

(1) Appendices A, B, C, D, and E to this section are incorporated as part of this section and the contents of these appendices are mandatory.

(2) Appendices F and G to this section are informational and are not intended to create any additional obligations not otherwise imposed or to detract from any existing obligations.

(q) Exemptions. Paragraphs (c) through (n) of this section shall not apply to employers engaged in oil and gas well drilling and servicing operations.

(r) Startup date. Baseline audiograms required by paragraph (g) of this section shall be completed by March 1, 1984.