

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CLAIM HAS BEEN ACCEPTED?

Once the Commission receives all the necessary information, your claim will be adjudicated, and you will be notified in writing as to whether your claim has been accepted.

If your claim is accepted, your travel expenses will be covered, as well as hearing aids (and batteries) should they be recommended. In the case of hearing aids, these can be provided by the hearing aid dealer closest to you. A list of hearing aid dealers can be obtained from the Commission.

You may also be entitled to a Permanent Functional Impairment award. You will be notified of this when you are informed as to whether your claim has been accepted.



Since noise induced hearing loss does not progress once you are

FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact

**Workplace Health, Safety and
Compensation Commission**

1-800-563-9000
www.whscc.nl.ca

NEW HEARING LOSS POLICY

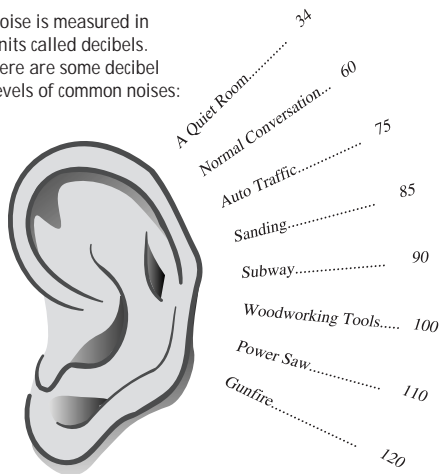
*What
You
Should
Know*



Effective April 1, 2004

Noise-induced hearing loss is a preventable condition. In noisy environments, within and outside of the workplace, it is important that hearing protection be worn to limit exposure to hazardous noise levels. This will help prevent noise-induced hearing loss, as well as prevent progression in those who already have a degree of hearing loss. If you suffer from hearing loss, and feel this may be related to exposure to hazardous noise levels at your workplace, this information is important to you.

Noise is measured in units called decibels. Here are some decibel levels of common noises:



Always wear hearing protections for loud noises such as gunfire or prolonged noises such as shop tools and machinery.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET MY HEARING CHECKED?

As of April 1, 2004, a claim with the Commission for hearing loss will require that an assessment be performed by an audiologist, a health care professional trained to identify and measure hearing impairment and related disorders.

You do not need a referral to make an appointment. However, depending on where you live in the province, the wait time for an appointment with an audiologist may vary.

A list of audiologists can be obtained by contacting the Commission, and is also provided on the Commission's website.

HOW DO I FILE A CLAIM FOR HEARING LOSS?

You must complete a Form 6-ID (Industrial Deafness), which may be obtained from the Commission.

A report from an audiologist will also be required, and will be submitted to the Commission by the audiologist performing your assessment.

If you are currently employed, you should notify your employer that you are filing a claim related to your hearing loss. If you are no longer employed, the processes above can be followed without notification to previous employers.

WILL I NEED TO SEE A MEDICAL SPECIALIST?

Depending on the results of your assessment by the audiologist, you may be required to see an ear, nose and throat specialist. In most cases, this is not required, however, should this be necessary, you will be notified by the Commission, and asked to see your family doctor to arrange a referral.