



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

Canc: May 2016
IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDNOTE 6260
BUMED-M44
26 May 2015

BUMED NOTICE 6260

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: REVISED INTERIM NAVY MEDICINE HEARING CONSERVATION
PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Ref: (a) DoD Instruction 6055.12 of 3 Dec 2010
(b) MCO 6260.1F
(c) OPNAVINST 5100.19E
(d) OPNAVINST 5100.23G
(e) NEHC-TM 6290.91-2 Rev. B Chapter 5 of Feb 2013
(f) 29 CFR 1910.95
(g) CMC WASHINGTON DC 061313Z JAN 12 (MARADMIN 010/12)
(h) NMCPHC-TM 6260.51.99-2 of Sep 2008

Encl: (1) Navy Medicine Revised Interim Hearing Conservation Program Guidance

1. Purpose. This notice provides the interim hearing conservation program (HCP) guidance to assist industrial hygiene program offices (IHPOs) per references (a) through (g) as appropriate.

2. Cancellation. BUMEDNOTE 6260 of 24 Apr 2014.

3. Scope. The guidance is effective within 30 days of the date of this notice. This note applies to IHPOs.

4. Background. The Department of Defense HCP has been updated per reference (a). The interim HCP guidance clarifies select topics. It is not the intent of this guidance to readdress all HCP elements.

5. Action. Navy Medicine industrial hygienists must comply with enclosure (1).

6. Points of Contact. Points of contact are:

a. CAPT Marcus Larkin, MSC, USN, Director, Safety and Occupational Health (BUMED-M44), who can be reached at (703) 681-9318 or marcus.s.larkin.mil@mail.mil;

b. CDR Joel Bealer, MSC, USN (BUMED-M44) at (703) 681-5392 or joel.r.bealer.mil@mail.mil; and

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c. Dr. John Rowe, Public Health and Practice (BUMED-M3B25) at (703) 681-9654 or john.r.rowe4.ctr@mail.mil.

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per SECNAV Manual 5210.1 of Jan 2012 and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules, as applicable.

8. Reports. The reports required in enclosure (1), paragraph 9 are authorized in references (a) through (e) and (h).



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**NAVY MEDICINE
REVISED INTERIM HEARING CONSERVATION
PROGRAM GUIDANCE**

1. Interim Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL)/Criterion Level. Per references (a), (e), and (h), the interim Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) OEL/criterion level will be 85 decibel (dB) (A) (continuous equivalent A-weighted sound pressure level in decibels) as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA), or exposure to a peak of 140 dB.
2. Noise Measurement and Analysis. Noise measurement and analysis will be conducted per reference (e). A time-intensity exchange rate of 3 dB will now be used per references (a) and (e). As noted in reference (e), C-weighted sound pressure level measurements are preferred to determine hearing protective device (HPD) performance. As such, consideration should be given to purchasing noise dosimeters that capture C-weighted TWAs as well as A-weighted TWAs when replacing current noise dosimeters. Future research may include in-ear noise dosimetry.
3. Employee Notification of Monitoring Results. Per reference (f), the employer shall notify each employee exposed at or above an 8-hour TWA of 85 dB(A) of the results of the monitoring. This means that results of personal noise dosimetry monitoring that are at or above 85 dB(A) as an 8-hour TWA must be forwarded to the activity commanding officer. Actual notification of employees remains an activity responsibility.
4. Identifying Personnel at Risk/Audiometric Testing. Per references (a) through (h), all personnel routinely exposed to noise in excess of the OEL, and others determined to be at risk (e.g., personnel with 24 hour operational exposures, deployable activities, etc.) shall be enrolled in the HCP. Reference (h) provides guidance on the definition of routine exposure. For exposures exceeding the 140 dB(P) OEL, no minimum time/frequency criteria will be applied. Individuals that meet the criteria for exposure intensity and/or frequency are considered at risk and must be included in audiometric testing. Reference (g) requires all active duty and reserve Marine Corps personnel to be included in annual audiometric testing independent of any exposure assessment results.
5. Personal HPDs. As outlined in paragraph 7e of enclosure (3) to reference (a), recommended HPDs must be capable of attenuating worker noise exposure below an 8-hour TWA of 85 dB(A) and 140 dB peak (dB(P) per reference (e)). Per references (a) and (f), HPD attenuation shall be evaluated for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used. The BUMED industrial hygienist or occupational audiologist shall determine the degree of attenuation for HPDs utilizing the most current guidance in reference (e) and (h).
6. Noise Hazard Signs and Labels. The designation of hazardous noise areas and equipment will be conducted per reference (e). Per reference (e), the designation of hazardous noise areas and equipment is based on the following criteria:

- a. Any work area or equipment where the sound pressure level is 85 dB(A) or above (continuous or intermittent) shall be considered noise hazardous;
 - b. Any work area or equipment where the sound pressure level is 140 dB(P) or greater (impulse or impact) shall be considered noise hazardous;
 - c. Areas or equipment where the sound pressure levels are 85 dB(A) or greater, but less than 96 dB(A), shall be labeled and shall require the use of single hearing protection (approved ear plugs or circumaural muffs) that attenuates worker noise exposure below an 8-hour TWA of 85 dB(A). Areas or equipment where the sound pressure levels are 96 dB(A) (i.e., the effective field derated upper limit of most plugs or muffs) or greater shall be labeled and shall require the use of double hearing protection (approved ear plugs and circumaural muffs) that attenuates worker noise exposure below an 8-hour TWA of 85 dB(A);
 - d. Per reference (e) areas or equipment where the sound pressure levels are 140 dB(P) or greater, but less than 165 dB(P), shall be labeled and shall require the use of single hearing protection that attenuates worker noise exposure below 140 dB(P). Areas or equipment where the sound pressure levels are 165 dB(P) or greater shall be labeled and shall require the use of double hearing protection that attenuates worker noise exposure below 140 dB(P);
 - e. Per reference (e), exteriors, but not interiors, of military combatant equipment are excluded from this requirement. Professional judgment and discretion shall be exercised when labeling tools and equipment.
7. Recordkeeping. Documentation and retention of noise measurement records shall be done per paragraph 3b of reference (e). Additionally, the DoD OEL criteria shall be selected/used when entering applicable noise monitoring results into the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System-Industrial Hygiene.
8. References in reports. For simplicity and consistency, cite both reference (a) and (c) for afloat commands as the primary references when reporting noise monitoring results in reports and SF-600s, or when discussing other HCP topics. References (b), and (e) through (h) can also be added as needed.