



SDS Lumber Company LLC

P.O. Box 480
Carson, WA 98610
(509) 493-2155

Hearing Conservation Program

Prepared by: Vernon Buchanan
 ESHS Manager
 SDS Lumber Company

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Facility: SDS Lumber LLC
Type of Facility: Wood Products Manufacturing, SIC Codes 2421, 2435
Location of Facility: 123 Industrial Road
Bingen, WA 98605
Phone Number: (509) 493-2155

Owner: P.O. Box 480
Carson, WA 98610
Phone Number: (509) 493-2155

CERTIFICATION

SDS LUMBER LLC MANAGEMENT APPROVAL

The SDS Lumber Company Fall Protection Program will be implemented as herein described.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SDS LUMBER LLC SAFETY MANAGER APPROVAL

The designated person responsible for Safety procedures, reporting, and training at this facility is:

Name: _____

Title: _____

I hereby certify that as the designated person, I have thoroughly examined this Safety Policy Plan, I understand it, and agree to put it into effect.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to protect our employees from potential damage to their hearing from occupational noise exposures. This policy covers the assignment of responsibilities, noise monitoring, audiometric testing, administrative and engineering controls, hearing protection devices, training, recordkeeping, and employee access to information. This policy covers all employees who may be exposed to noise equal to or exceeding an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. The company may, however, apply the policy to employees whose exposure is less than this action level.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The company Safety Manager is responsible for the implementation of this program and has the authority to make necessary decisions and changes to ensure its success. The Safety Officer will be responsible for providing necessary equipment, conducting the necessary training, and otherwise ensuring that this program is effectively implemented.

The Safety Manager, in conjunction with the Safety Committee, will determine which jobs or areas of the plant involve noise exposures, the level of noise exposure, and the administrative or engineering controls or personal protective devices that are necessary to reduce noise exposures to acceptable levels. He/She will obtain outside assistance, when necessary, to measure sound levels and will conduct frequent inspections of the workplace to ensure compliance with this program.

Managers/supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that all employees wear proper hearing protection devices in areas where it is required. They will ensure that employees follow the provisions of this program and any supplemental procedures which may be developed by the Safety Officer in conjunction with the Safety Committee.

Employees are responsible for following all provisions of this program and related procedures. They are responsible for wearing hearing protection devices where required and for properly cleaning any hearing protection devices assigned to them. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

NOISE MONITORING

All areas of the workplace where there is a possibility of noise levels being over 80 decibels will be tested to determine noise level exposures. Monitoring will be repeated whenever there is a change in production, process, equipment or controls that may increase noise exposures. This testing will include area sampling and, when necessary, dosimeter testing to determine which employees could be exposed to noise levels at or above the action level of an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. Employees affected by this testing or their representatives will

be provided with an opportunity to observe any noise measurements which are conducted. Employees who are exposed at or above the action level of an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels will be notified of the results of the noise monitoring.

AUDIOMETRIC TESTING PROGRAM

All employees exposed to noise levels equal to or exceeding an action level of an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels will have their hearing tested as a part of our audiometric testing program. Baseline tests will be done within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level. Annual audiometric tests will be performed on all employees exposed at or above the action level and these annual tests will be compared to the employee's baseline test. These tests will be provided at no cost to the employees.

Audiograms will be evaluated by an audiologist, otolaryngologist, or physician to determine if there has been any change in hearing when compared to the baseline test. If a standard threshold shift (reduction of 10 decibels or more at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz in either ear) has occurred, the employee will be informed of this fact in writing within 21 days of the determination. If a standard threshold shift occurs, the employee will be refitted and retrained in the use of hearing protectors and provided with hearing protectors offering greater attenuation if necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS

To the extent that it is possible and feasible, the company will use engineering controls to reduce noise levels below the action level. Examples of engineering controls are: machinery maintenance, sound absorption materials, vibration isolating devices, lowering air pressure, alternative equipment, etc.

If engineering controls are not feasible or are insufficient to reduce the noise to acceptable levels, administrative controls will be utilized. This may include rotating employees from one job or one area to another to reduce the time-weighted average of the total exposure for an employee. If engineering and administrative controls fail to reduce the noise level to acceptable levels, personal protective equipment will be provided and used to reduce sound exposure to acceptable levels.

SELECTION & USE OF HEARING PROTECTION DEVICES

Hearing protection devices will be selected on the basis of the hazards to which the workers are exposed or potentially exposed. All selections will be made by the Safety Officer, in conjunction with the Safety Committee.

TRAINING

The Safety Officer will provide the training necessary to implement this program. Training will be provided to all managers, supervisors, and employees who may be exposed to noise at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. The Safety Officer may use outside resources to provide or assist with the required training.

The training will include, but not be limited to the following:

- The effects of noise on hearing.
- The purpose of hearing protection devices.
- The advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types of hearing protection devices.
- Selection, fitting, use and care of hearing protection devices.
- The purpose of audiometric testing, and an explanation of the test procedures.
- Employee's rights to information, training materials and records

The training will be provided to all new employees and will be repeated annually for all employees exposed above the action level of an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.

RECORDKEEPING

The company will maintain records of all noise level and noise exposure monitoring. These records will be retained for a period of at least two years.

The company will maintain records of all audiometric tests for at least the duration of the affected employee's employment. These records will be provided upon request to the employee, former employee, and representatives designated by the individual employee.

EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Employees affected by this policy will be given copies of the Hearing Loss Prevention standard (WAC 296-17) and this company policy. A copy of the Hearing Loss Prevention standard will also be posted in the workplace.