

BULLIVANT & ASSOCIATES INC.

Your Partners in Health & Safety

End of Feb./06

Health & Safety Newsletter

Did You Know?...

The Ministry of Labour is consulting on proposed changes to the **noise requirements** in the Regulation for Industrial Establishments (Reg 851) under the Occupational Health & Safety Act. The noise provisions in Regulation 851 have not been amended since they were introduced in the early 1970's.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- ◆ Update provisions in the Industrial Regulations to prevent noise-induced hearing loss
- ◆ Adopt exposure limits for noise that address today's industrial needs
- ◆ Ensure changes are done in consultation with industry and labour stakeholders

The Ministry **proposes** to revoke the current noise provisions in Regulation 851 and replace them with the following key elements:

- ◆ A time-weighted average exposure limit of 85 dBA and,
- ◆ A 140 dBC ceiling limit (dBC indicates the sound measurement corrected for variation in the measuring equipment response to very high levels of noise)

Personal Protective Equipment

Section 25(1)(a)(b)&(d) of the Occupational Health & Safety Act **requires employers** to ensure:

- ◆ the equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided;
- ◆ the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition; and
- ◆ the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are used as prescribed.



In order for the employer to provide the protective devices required, a **hazard assessment** must be done to determine the source of, nature of (physical, biological or chemical), duration of exposure to (long-term or short-term) and exposure level of the hazard. Once a hazard is identified, attempts must be made to **control the hazard**. It is best to control a hazard at its source (ie: eliminate or substitute with less hazardous material) or between the source and the worker (ie: barrier screen or local ventilation). If engineering controls are neither feasible nor result in completely eliminating the hazard, control must then be exerted at the worker. Personal protective equipment is an example of such control. A company **Personal Protective Equipment Program** must be established to assist with hazard control.

Take into consideration when choosing Personal Protective Equipment...

- ◆ Must meet legislated requirements—must comply with applicable laws & regulations
- ◆ Must provide adequate protection of the worker—consider nature and size of the hazard and duration used for
- ◆ Must be comfortable and easy to use for the worker—proper fit will promote use and effectiveness
- ◆ Must not create any new hazards
- ◆ Must meet company standard

Training must be done for all that will be using Personal Protective Equipment. Training must include:

- ◆ Hazards in the workplace
- ◆ When personal protective equipment should be worn
- ◆ How it will protect you
- ◆ How to wear it—proper fit
- ◆ Care of personal protective equipment
- ◆ Legislated requirements
- ◆ Consequence of not wearing it

Monitoring and Enforcement must be part of **any** Personal Protective Equipment Program. **Management should always Lead By Example.**

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