

1. NOISE

1.1 PURPOSE

Contractors are required to comply with OSHA's Noise Standard 29 CFR 1910.95. This section is to inform Contractors of their responsibilities regarding noise to ensure NSU remains compliant with all applicable regulations.

1.2 ACTIVITIES

NSU follows the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) threshold limit values for determining noise exposures and for complying with OSHA's regulation. The eight-hour Time-Weighted Average (TWA) is 85 decibels (dBA). This is the maximum weighted-average noise level that employees may be exposed to without hearing protection during an eight-hour work shift. OSHA requires implementation of noise exposure controls for exposures at or above 85dBA with hearing protection and the implementation of a noise monitoring program.

Several different types of rules govern noise and contractors are to follow:

- OSHA noise regulations.
- State of Florida regulations regarding noise.
- Local State noise regulations; and
- NSU policies regarding noise.

OSHA noise standards consist of program with two-stages:

1. A hearing conservation program must be implemented when employees are exposed to 85 decibels or more of noise in an 8-hour day. Noise monitoring performed to determine levels.
2. Engineering or administrative noise controls are required when exposure exceeds 90 decibels. Engineering controls can be the replacement of noisy machinery with quieter equipment, enclosing the noise source or receiver, or redesigning the space to reduce noise level. Administrative controls ensure employees are not exposed to a particular noise source for any long periods of time and less than 8-hours.

1.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Contractors must protect their employees in accordance with OSHA regulation from exposure to high levels of noise, the public and University staff by following local regulations and NSU policies related to noise.

- 1) Contractors will be asked to cease work activities when noise levels to NSU employees or students can be expected to meet or exceed OSHA's Action Level of 85 dBA (8-hour TWA).
- 2) Contractors can resume activities when engineering or work controls have reduced the level of noise to below OSHA requirements.

- 3) Should this not be feasible, the Contractor must schedule work for a time when NSU employees and students are not impacted.
- 4) Construction site personnel will utilize hearing protection when noise levels are determined to be in excess of OSHA's requirements.
- 5) Noise monitoring will be performed to determine noise levels.
- 6) Disposable ear plugs or ear muffs will be utilized dependent upon conditions.
- 7) If power tools, nail guns, or other such devices must be used to accomplish the assigned work, the Contractor shall notify Facilities Management as to what type of equipment will be used and the duration of the work.

1.4 REGULATIONS

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95

Occupational Noise Exposure

1.5 ACCOUNTABILITY

All contactors will be responsible for complying with the guidelines as described above. Contractors are to communicate to their employees and Subcontractors all the guidelines and relevant information. All work shall be performed in accordance with University policies and procedures as well as all applicable laws and regulations.