



☐☐ New European directive for hearing protection

The European Directive 2003/10/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks of noise and vibration.

This new directive reduces the limit of harmful sounds with 5 dB and contains the following limits for a day and a week:

- Where noise exposure exceeds 80 dB, the employer shall make individual hearing protectors available.
- Where noise exposure matches or exceeds 85 dB, individual hearing protectors shall be used.

This new directive introduces also the notion of Exposure Limit Values as follows :

- Under no circumstances shall the exposure of the worker exceed the exposure limit values of 87 dB(A) for a day and 81 dB(A) for a week.
- The individual hearing protectors shall be so selected as to eliminate the risk to hearing or to reduce it to a minimum.



☐☐ Wearing a double protection

The wearing of a double hearing protection (earmuffs plus earplugs) can be made necessary for executing tasks in high noise environments.

This is explained by the mechanical acoustic coupling which exists between the devices but also more particularly by the fact that the wearing of a double protection reduces the risk to hearing.

Source : INRS, ND 1789-140-90