At 3M, the journey towards reaching end to end compliance with regards to hearing protection lies in a simple three-step programme that will ultimately result in increased awareness to ensure that the hearing of your workforce is effectively protected.

Detection is the first step towards ensuring your workforce is protected. Noise levels within your working environment must be detected and monitored as part of an overall safety assessment. To this end, 3M has developed accurate noise detection meters to help identify hearing protection that may need to be worn and software that will assist with compliance, protection, noise control options and employee engagement – the ideal solution to noise measurement challenges. The meters range from basic and advanced sound level meters to noise dosimeters. The range includes the 3M Noise Indicator NI-100 which provides an easy method of detecting dangerous noise levels via its visual “go/no go” indicator – a simple and practical visual indication as to when hearing protection is required.

Protection is the next step and it is crucial to select hearing protectors that are both conducive to the working environment and comfortable and acceptable to the wearer. 3M’s hearing solutions have been designed to address the specific challenges within your business and offers a wide range of hearing protectors that have been developed by global experts who are readily available to advise you on how best to protect your workforce.

3M’s hearing protection portfolio offers a number of products that are tailor-made to the specific needs of the working environment. These include ear plugs, earmuffs and banded ear plugs as well as a host of accessories and training tools.

The final step is the process is validation – are your workers using the correct hearing protection devices? The 3M E-ARfit™ Validation System is used to measure the personal attenuation rating (PAR) of the individual wearing a 3M hearing protection device, measuring the level of protection provided in just 10 seconds. Moreover, the process ensures that workers become familiar with how to insert the recommended earplug for sufficient protection. This in-the-ear testing procedure is unique compared to other systems in the market, as it provides quantitative data that does not rely on subject response.

For more information on the correct hearing product to protect your workforce, please go to www.3M.co.za/ppesafety.
As a result of 3M's commitment towards improved safety and working conditions within South Africa, localising 8810 is a vital step towards improved respiratory health. Developed with technology pioneered by 3M, the respirator is locally manufactured and is 3M's innovative safety technology at its best.

3M’s 8810 provides effective and reliable respiratory protection for individuals who operate in working environments which regularly expose them to dust particles, and is manufactured in line with stringent international standards. 3M is the only local manufacturer to conform to the latest European standards EN149:2001 + A1:2009, with its respirators tested and approved accordingly. The locally manufactured respirators are SABS approved and are endorsed by Proudly South Africa. The manufacturing process complies with all the requirements of ISO 9001:2008.

Renowned for its innovative proprietary technology, 3M has developed Advance Electric Filter Material which provides the 8810 with the ideal balance between highly effective filtration and low breathing resistance for the most consistent high quality performance. Developed to resist significant wear and tear, the 8810 has a durable, collapse resistant inner shell and is designed in the traditional convex shape, with a nose clip and twin strap design.

Produced with the end-user in mind, 3M's innovative products offer enhanced comfort in uncomfortable working conditions which are labour intensive.

3M's state-of-the-art series of locally produced respirators can be distinguished by their distinctive packaging which bears the Proudly South African logo.

After 40 years of providing innovative solutions in the field of health and safety, it's no surprise that 3M has celebrated its fair share of milestones.

Indeed, over the past 40 years, 3M has become one of the world’s most trusted brands, offering innovative hearing and respiratory solutions in environments where workforce protection is of the utmost importance.

3M’s first foray into the world of respiratory and hearing safety began in 1972 when the company launched the first NIOSH approved filtering facepiece respirator and its patented E-A-R Classic™ Earplug. The hearing safety range was expanded in November 2007 with the acquisition of the AEARO Technologies Inc. range of earplugs. It was also during the seventies that 3M further cemented its position by offering powered air purifying respirators as well as reusable half face piece respirators.

During the eighties, 3M continued to forge ahead in the market, launching its first ear muffs and going on to launch portable fit testing for respiratory protection.

Further innovation in the area of hearing protection continued into the next decade, when 3M developed “no roll-down” E-A-R Express Pod Earplugs™. More developments in the respiratory field occurred when the company launched the 6000 series range of half and full facepiece respirators. Additional new technology saw the introduction of the Cool Flow™ valve, allowing for reduced heat and moisture. The technology was initially used in the 8822 disposable respirator, and was subsequently incorporated into use in other disposable respirator models too.

With the dawn of the new millennium came further innovation and 3M continued to corner the market in hearing and respiratory protection. The 2000’s has also seen the company develop the first full face respirator with Scotchgard™ coating on the lens, and a comfort head cradle that reduces pressure points and hair pulling. These, and other advancements, have helped to entrench 3M’s impeccable reputation in the market.

In 2013, as 3M celebrates 40 years of innovation in the occupational health and safety arena, its innovative hearing and respiratory solutions continue to make a difference to workers every day, the world over.