

# 3M™ Hearing Protection Solutions

## The challenge of hearing protection

40 million workers are exposed to loud noise and 13 million suffer from hearing disorders despite industry regulations\*.

You can advance your hearing conservation programme with a customised and comprehensive approach to the hearing protection challenge. Implementing a solution that really makes a difference begins with understanding the hazards, the regulation and the factors that impact protection.

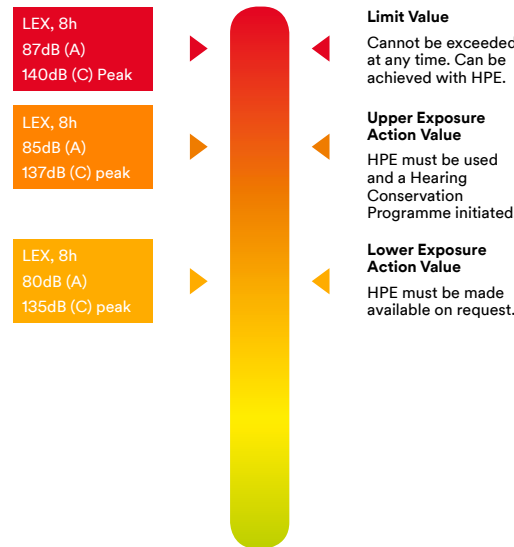
\* Source: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

## The facts

**The #1 reported occupational health issue:** data from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work shows that noise induced hearing loss is the most commonly reported occupational medical condition in the EU.

**One third of European employees potentially at risk:** according to the EU OSHA, one third of workers in Europe are exposed to potentially dangerous levels of noise.

## The regulations

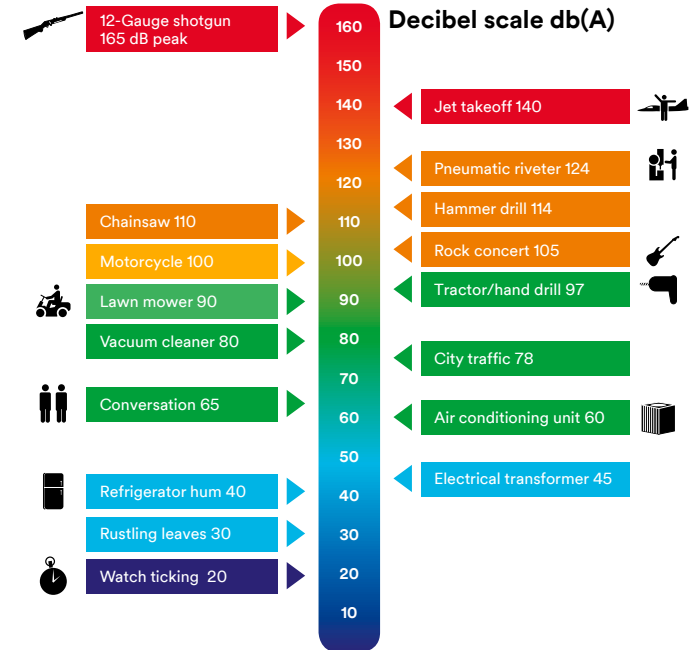


At the Lower Exposure Action Value, suitable hearing protectors must be made available on request. At the Upper Exposure Action Value, hearing protectors must be worn and information provided to workers on risks, control measures, hearing protectors and safe working practices. An effective hearing conservation programme should also be instigated.

The Limit Value is an absolute value which must not be exceeded under any circumstances and can be achieved by using hearing protectors.

## The hazards

At home and work, it's important to understand which sounds may cause hearing loss and require hearing protection.



**The real world hearing concerns of hearing protection variable noise levels:** Every environment is different and workers can face a wide range of sound levels throughout the day and in different areas at the same facility.

**The human factor:** Each person has a different shape, size and anatomy of the ear canal, so there is no one size fits all hearing protection solution. The key to achieving optimal protection is having the best fit possible.

**Employee communication:** Where there is an essential need for workers to communicate or hear warning sounds it is vital that their hearing is protected from hazardous noise levels.