

1.8. NOISE MANAGEMENT POLICY

This Noise Management Policy details practices and procedures to protect workers, contractors and visitors who are at risk of developing noise induced hearing loss.

This policy addresses, as far as it is practicable, guidance and advice on all aspects of noise management, noise exposure and controls measures.

Noise is an unwanted or damaging sound that may damage hearing and cause other health effects such as stress, hypersensitivity to noise, increased blood pressure and increased heart rate. It can also interfere with communication at work, which could lead to accidents.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss or Hearing Impairment occurs from exposure to excessive noise at work. Occupational noise induced hearing loss is also commonly known as industrial deafness.

The National Standard for Occupational Noise states that the national exposure standard for noise in the occupational environment is an average daily exposure level of 85 decibels.

This is consistent with overwhelming scientific evidence which indicates that exposure levels above 85 decibels represent an unacceptable risk to the hearing of those exposed.

PTC will use the following prioritised options for control in the workplace;

Elimination	Removing the hazard or its source from the workplace
Engineering Control	Physically altering the work environment such as changing or altering the source of the noise through the use of closures, silencers, or modifications to machines.
Administrative controls	Designing jobs to reduce exposures
Personal Protective Equipment	Using devices to protect the body

One control measure may prevent the risks from exposure to excessive noise, or a combination of control measures may be used.

Elimination, engineering and administrative control measures are preferred because they actually reduce a person's exposure to noise.

Personal hearing protectors reduce the risks from exposure to excessive noise but do not actually reduce noise exposure.

PTC will provide as required its workers eye muffs or ear plugs PPE to help reduce risk from noise.

PTC will include noise management procedures in any induction course for new workers.