

Hearing Conservation Practice

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the **Hearing Conservation Practice** is to set a minimum standard to protect employees, contractors, and visitors from noise-induced hearing loss at Cenovus worksites.

2.0 Scope/Application

This **Hearing Conservation Practice** applies to all Cenovus worksites and encompasses all Cenovus work activities.

Contractors are required to develop and implement their own hearing conservation program, as conditions require, when working at a Cenovus worksite.

3.0 Hearing Conservation Program

Where noise levels generated at a worksite are high or suspected to be high (85 dBA in Alberta or 80 dBA in Saskatchewan) such that it becomes necessary to raise one's voice to be heard at arm's length away, a **Hearing Conservation Program** is required and will be implemented by the Asset Team that consists of:

- a) Facility noise surveys;
- b) Warning signage in noisy areas;
- c) Personal noise exposure evaluations;
- d) Noise control strategies;
- e) Audiometric testing;
- f) Training; and
- g) A review of the program every 2 years.

3.1 Facility Noise Survey

A facility noise survey will be conducted by a competent person in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Noise surveys will be conducted at a schedule as established by the Cenovus CEN-EHS147 Occupational Health Risk Assessment Procedure, or when there is a complaint. noise

3.2 Noise Signage and Hearing Protection Requirements

Warning signs must be posted at all entrances to any building or in any work area where noise levels are elevated as below:

Warning Signage & Hearing Protection Requirements	Occupational Noise Levels	
	Alberta	Saskatchewan*
"Hearing Protection Required for Entry" (or equivalent)	>85 dBA	>80 dBA
"Double Hearing Protection Required for Entry" (or equivalent)	>105 dBA	>105 dBA

**In Saskatchewan, the range of noise levels measured (e.g. 87 – 93 dBA) in a building or a work area must be appended to the warning signage for that building or work area.*

3.3 Personal Noise Exposure Evaluation and Records Retention

If a worker is or may be noise exposed, a personal noise exposure evaluation will be conducted by a competent person following CSA Standard Z107.56-06.

Records of the personal noise evaluations will be retained permanently and be made available on request to affected workers and regulatory agencies.

3.4 Noise Control Strategies

Cenovus will reduce workers' exposures to noise at Cenovus worksites by implementing control strategies in the following order:

1. Engineering Controls
2. Administrative Controls
3. Personal Protective Equipment

In some cases, a combination of these control strategies may be required.

3.4.1 Engineering Controls

Engineering controls refer to engineering solutions that address a noise issue at the point of noise generation, such as substituting for quieter equipment, installing mufflers or noise dampening devices, and enclosing noise-generating equipment.

3.4.2 Administrative Controls

Administrative controls refer to mitigation strategies that reduce a worker's exposure by imposed rules and procedures, such as the implementation of a preventive maintenance program, limiting time spent in a noisy environment, and the posting of noise signage.

3.4.3 Personal Protective Equipment

Hearing protection is used in conjunction with engineering and administrative controls. Workers will only use CSA Class A hearing protection on Cenovus worksites.

In buildings or work areas with posted noise warning signage and hearing protection requirements or where noise levels are suspected to be high, hearing protection must be worn even if exposure is brief. As a rule of thumb, noise levels exceed 85 dBA if it is necessary to raise one's voice to be heard at arm's length away.

3.5 Audiometric Testing

In compliance with Alberta and Saskatchewan OH&S regulations, audiometric testing will be arranged through Cenovus Health and Wellness for noise-exposed employees.

Contractors are responsible for providing their own audiometric testing to their workers.

3.6 Training

All workers who may be exposed to excess occupational noise must take the Cenovus Hearing Conservation eLearning course available through Learning Management System and be aware of:

- a) Noise sources at their worksite,
- b) Potential health effects of overexposure to noise,
- c) Procedures for minimizing and controlling noise exposures,
- d) How to select, wear, and care for hearing protection, and
- e) Requirements to participate in audiometric testing.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

Service Providers hired to assess noise levels and exposures at Cenovus facilities must be certified professionals or have documented experience in noise measurement. Contractors hired to conduct audiograms must be certified audiometric technicians.

Roles and responsibilities for health and safety documents are described in the link below:

Cenovus CEN-EHS234, Roles and Responsibilities Standard

5.0 Internal Governance Documents

Document Type	Governance Documents
Policy	Corporate Responsibility Policy
Framework	Cenovus Operations Management System (COMS)
Policy	Enterprise Risk Management Policy
Web	Cenovus Risk Matrix
Web	Cenovus Records Classification & Retention Schedule
Regulatory	Alberta OHS Code (2009) a) Part 16 – Noise Exposure b) Schedule 3 and Tables 1 and 2
Regulatory	Saskatchewan OHS Regulation a) Part VII – Personal Protective Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 99 Exposure to Noise b) Part VIII – Noise Control and Hearing Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Applicable Sections

5.1 Internal References

Document Ref. #	Internal Reference Documents
CEN-EHS037	EH&SR Record Retention Practice
CEN-EHS022	EH&S/Operations Risk Management Practice
CEN-EHS143	Occupational Health Risk Assessment Practice
CEN-EHS147	Occupational Health Risk Assessment Procedure
Web - HR	Fitness for Work Practice
Web	Completed Cenovus Health & Risk Reports and Assessments
Web	Health & Wellness for employees

6.0 Management of Change

Proposed changes to this practice can be directed to EH&S Document Management.

7.0 Definitions and Acronyms

Definitions and acronyms for safety documents are described in the link below:

Cenovus CEN-EHS243, Definitions and Acronyms

The following definitions and acronyms are specific to the Hearing Conservation Practice.

dBA means the sound pressure level in decibels adjusted to the A-weighting.

dBA L_{ex} refers to a worker's total exposure to noise in dBA, averaged over the entire workday and adjusted to an equivalent 8-hour exposure.

Noise-Exposed Worker is a worker who routinely works more than 8 hours per month in areas where noise levels exceed or may exceed 80 dBA.