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CSA Z1007:16
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Hearing loss prevention program (HLPP) management

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Contents

Preface

This is the first edition of CSA Z1007, *Hearing loss prevention program (HLPP) management*.

This Standard sets out requirements for, and provides comprehensive guidance on, the management of HLPPs designed to protect individuals exposed to occupational noise.

This management system Standard is designed to serve as the basis for other CSA Group hearing conservation Standards. Once effective management for the HLPP is established using this Standard, professionals involved in the HLPP can use detailed requirements and application guidelines in those other Standards for specifying equipment and processes to be incorporated in the HLPP.

This Standard strikes a balance between the latest best practices in hearing loss prevention and current regulations in various Canadian jurisdictions. Some of the requirements, therefore, are more stringent than existing regulations. Each section in this Standard contains both normative clauses (where compliance is required or recommended) and informative clauses (providing explanatory information and best practices). For the most part, the informative clauses precede the normative clauses in each section.

By permission of Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, AS/NZS 1269.0:2005 was used as a seed document for the development of part of this Standard.

By permission of The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, a division of the United States Center for Disease Control, parts of this Standard are based on *Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Hearing Conservation Program (Revised Criteria 1998)*, and *Preventing Occupational Hearing Loss — A Practical Guide*.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of federal, provincial, and territorial governments' occupational health and safety agencies.

This Standard was prepared by the Subcommittee on Hearing Conservation Management, under the jurisdiction of the Technical Committee on Occupational Hearing Conservation and the Strategic Steering Committee on Occupational Health and Safety, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

Notes:

1) *Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.*
2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by* CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization *as "substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity". It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
4) *To submit a request for interpretation of this Standard, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.org and include "Request for interpretation" in the subject line:*
   a) *define the problem, making reference to the specific clause, and, where appropriate, include an illustrative sketch;*
   b) *provide an explanation of circumstances surrounding the actual field condition; and*
   c) *where possible, phrase the request in such a way that a specific "yes" or "no" answer will address the issue.*

Committee interpretations are processed in accordance with the CSA Directives and guidelines governing standardization *and are available on the* Current Standards Activities *page at standardsactivities.csa.ca.*

5) *This Standard is subject to review within five years from the date of publication. Suggestions for its improvement will be referred to the appropriate committee. To submit a proposal for change, please send the following information to inquiries@csagroup.org and include "Proposal for change" in the subject line:*
   a) *Standard designation (number);*
   b) *relevant clause, table, and/or figure number;*
   c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
   d) *rationale for the change.*

One of the conditions associated with exposure to noise is tinnitus (ringing in the ears). It is often worse when background noise is low — for example, when one goes to sleep at night in a quiet room. Tinnitus is common, and for most people, the condition is merely an annoyance. In severe cases, however, tinnitus can cause difficulty in concentrating and sleeping. Although one of the most common causes of tinnitus is NIHL, there are many other causes not related to noise or hearing loss.

In a noisy workplace, the auditory demands placed on the workers to maintain safety can be quite challenging. Operators of industrial equipment often need to be able to distinguish subtle variations in machinery noise to ascertain operation within safe limits, despite noise from other machines and industrial processes. All workers also need to be able to hear warning sounds alerting them to dangerous events or situations that require immediate attention. In addition, they also need to be able to communicate orally with others to react appropriately. Balancing these auditory demands with the use of hearing protection is challenging, especially in the presence of pre-existing hearing loss.

Reducing noise in the workplace provides both short-term and long-term hearing health benefits for workers, and promotes a safer and more productive work environment for everyone. As a first step, efforts should be taken to remove the noise hazard from the facility. Buying quieter machinery and engineering noise controls initiatives are strongly favoured, since they provide immediate benefits in all areas of hearing health and safety.

1 Scope

1.1 General

This Standard specifies requirements for the management of hearing loss prevention programs (HLPPs) designed to protect individuals from occupational hearing loss.

1.2 Subjects addressed

Following principles set out in CAN/CSA-Z1000, this Standard specifies requirements for

a) management commitment, leadership, and participation;
b) assignment of roles and responsibilities;
c) identification and quantification of noise hazards;
d) selection and application of controls;
e) provision of protection (e.g., hearing protection devices);
f) training, monitoring, and measurement (e.g., noise exposure and audiometric testing);
g) documentation; and
h) continuous improvement and management review.

1.3 Subjects not addressed

The following subjects are not addressed in this Standard:

a) psychological effects of exposure to noise;
b) non-auditory effects of noise exposure; and
c) non-industrial noise exposure except as it impacts industrial noise exposure.

1.4 Relation to other Standards

This Standard is part of CSA Group's Z1000 series of Standards on management of occupational health and safety. (See Figure 3.) As such, it is based on the OHS management principles in CAN/CSA-Z1000.

