

Food Processing — how loud is it?

This guide lists average noise exposure levels for various food processing jobs and lists recommended hearing protection devices for those exposure levels. **Note:** An individual worker's exposures may vary from these exposures.

Noise-induced hearing loss results from a combination of high sound levels and extended periods of exposure to sounds above 85 dBA.

Protect your hearing when performing these jobs.

Noise exposure levels

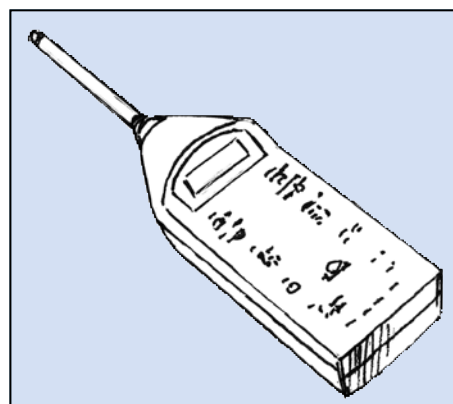
These are all eight-hour (or equivalent) exposures.

Food Processing		Noise level (dBA)
Industry	Task	
Drinks	Bottle filling/labelling	85 - 90
	Casking/kegging	85 - 100
Meat	Power saws	up to 100
	Bowl-choppers	>90
	Packing machinery	85 - 90
Milling	Hammer mills	95 - 100
	Grinders	85 - 95
	Bagging lines	85 - 90
Bakery	Dough-mixing room	85
	Bread slicing	85 - 90
Dairy	Production areas	85 - 95
	Bottling lines	90 - 95

Hearing protection devices (HPD)

Hearing protection should be selected based on

- Noise exposure
- Communication demands
- Hearing ability
- Use of personal protective devices
- Temperature and climate
- Physical characteristics of the job or worker



An integrating sound level meter averages noise levels over time.

Recommended HPD for various noise levels

Noise level	Recommended HPD
Less than 90 dBA	Class C, Grade 1
Less than 95 dBA	Class B, Grade 2
Less than 100 dBA	Class A, Grade 3
Less than 110 dBA	Earplugs + earmuffs

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number on shift: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by attendees:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
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11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



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