

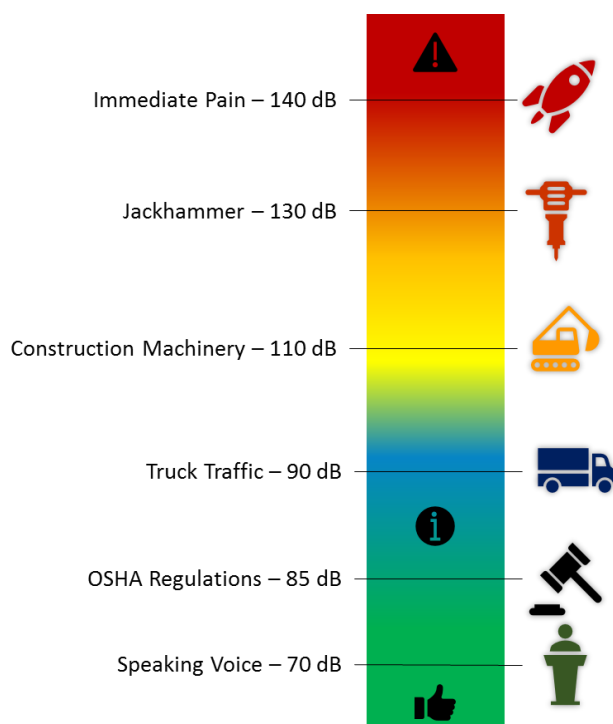
Hearing Protection

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U.S. businesses pay more than \$1.5 million in penalties annually for not protecting workers from noise, and hearing loss directly impacts the quality of life not only for those workers but also their families.

OSHA Standard 1926.52(b) *When employees are subjected to sound levels exceeding those in Table D-2 of this section, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table, **personal protective equipment** as required in Subpart E, shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.*

- OSHA regulations state that 85 decibels (dB) is the action level where workers may need to use hearing protection.
- Hearing protection must be provided for the level and/or range of noise that workers will be exposed to during their work hours.
- The best hearing protection is a solution that is worn properly by the worker every single time they are exposed to loud noise on the job.
- Never improvise hearing protection by stuffing cotton, tissue, wax or other items into your ears.
- When choosing hearing protection, consider the employee's hearing needs on the job, their current hearing ability, convenience, ease of use, the work environment and the compatibility with any other PPE the worker may need to wear.
- Where noise levels are extremely dangerous or potential impact noise levels are present workers may have to wear two layers of hearing protection such as a combination of ear plugs and ear muffs.



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