

Hearing Conservation Manual (Fifth Edition)

T. H. Hutchison and T. Y. Schulz, Editors
Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing
Conservation (CAOHC), (2015), 422 pp., softbound,
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This fifth edition comes 17 years after the last update. It is for people concerned with occupational hearing conservation (OCH) but is also a valuable resource for those in industrial noise control and to those working in loud, hazardous industries like lumber, mining and the military. It is both informative and useful for an authoritative reference. (Editors note that the standards and regulations cited may be obsolete and advise readers to check for updates.)

There is an introduction followed by 16 chapters, a comprehensive glossary, 22 appendices, and an index. Each chapter ends with authoritative references.

I will list the chapters only and discuss some overall impressions.

Chapter 1	Occupational hearing conservation team
Chapter 2	The effects of noise and the conservation of hearing
Chapter 3	The hearing conservation program
Chapter 4	Anatomy and physiology of the human ear
Chapter 5	Causes and management of hearing disorders
Chapter 6	Introduction to sound
Chapter 7	Standards and regulations
Chapter 8	Noise measurement and control
Chapter 9	Planning the audiometric monitoring program
Chapter 10	Understanding audiograms
Chapter 11	The audiometric monitoring program
Chapter 12	The “problem audiogram,” the occupational hearing conservationist and the professional supervisor
Chapter 13	Hearing protection devices
Chapter 14	Use and care of hearing protection devices

Chapter 15 Training and motivation

Chapter 16 Recordkeeping and program evaluation

Each chapter has a most useful “heading” giving the purpose and the topics covered.

I was impressed with the chapter on standards and regulations which has, in addition, a comparison of the three US government occupational noise regulations and the recommended NIOSH criteria document:

- 29CFR9 10.95 — OSHA hearing conservation amendment
- 30CFR 62-MSHA
- 49CFR 227 and 229-FRA
- Pub No. 98-126 NIOSH criteria document

The sound (a.k.a. noise) treatment is brief and very elementary, but perfect for a readable introduction. The chapter on noise measurements shows modern instruments which will be a big help for the novice.

The appendices are, for the most part, copies of major noise regulations and relevant ANSI standards. Appendix U is an informative but brief discussion of “Engineering noise control” made up of several technical papers. Appendix V is a very useful chapter, showing all relevant websites, four pages of them.

I like this book and am glad to have a copy. It is well edited, well written, and chocked full of illustrations; it is perfect for a new or practicing industrial hygienist and for those in noise control engineering that need to know how industrial noise affects workers and what a hearing conservation is all about. This is a reference book worth having if you are involved with, or subjected, to injurious noise.

This book is highly recommended. Get a copy.

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