JER-8000-MGT-PRO-0033 Noise Management

(AS/NZS, ISO 45001:2018, Clause 8.1.2)

1. SCOPE

The procedure applies to all KGL Resources Workers, and all work activities including routine daily work and emergency response operations undertaken by KGL Resources workers.

2. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines to manage risks arising from noise at KGL Resources workplaces.

3. RELEVANT LEGAL & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of all personnel to comply with this procedure and seek guidance from the Project Director where clarification is required.

- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NT)
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (NT)'
- Code of Practice Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss and Work 2020 (NT)

4. DEFINITIONS

Competent Person	Workplace noise assessments must be undertaken by a competent person, in accordance with the procedures in AS/NZS 1269.1 (Measurement and assessment of noise emission and exposure). Any sound exposure meters (noise dosimeters) used should comply with AS/NZS 2399. A competent person is one who has accurately calibrated noise measuring instruments and through training and experience: a. understands what is required by the WHS Regulation for noise; b. knows how to check the performance of the instruments; c. can interpret the results of the noise measurements; and d. can undertake noise assessments in accordance with the procedures in AS/NZS 1269.1 (Measurement and assessment of noise emission and exposure). Any sound exposure meters (noise dosimeters) used should comply with AS/NZS 2399.
Hazardous Noise	Hazardous noise is noise exceeding the exposure for standard noise limits as specified in the WHS Regulation: a. an average exposure limit over 8 hours of no more than 85 dB - measured in accordance with AS/NZS 1269.1; and b. a peak exposure of at any point in time of no more than 140 dB - measured in accordance with AS/NZS 1269.1.

Safe Work Method Statement (**SWMS**)	A SWMS is a pre-start risk assessment that is undertaken prior to commencing any high-risk construction work or as otherwise required by a supervisor or manager. For more information, refer to the KGL Resources Risk Management Procedure.
Take 5	A Take 5 is a pre-start risk assessment that is undertaken by all workers prior to commencing work and is completed in accordance with the KGL Resources Risk Management Procedure.
Workers	Workers include employees, contractors, sub-contractors, volunteers and consultants who conduct work for KGL Resources.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Senior Leadership Team	1. Establish safe systems of work that mitigate noise risks. 2. Ensure adequate resources are available to managers and/or supervisors and workers to comply with this procedure. 3. Review and act on reported organisational risk management performance.
Safety Manager	1. Establishes and maintains hazard identification, risk management and training systems within the KGL Resources Safety Management System, including consultation with workers. 2. Assesses and reports on risk management performance to the Senior Management Team. 3. Ensures this procedure is fit for purpose and meets all legislative requirements. 4. Ensures that this procedure is implemented and is regularly reviewed and monitored for ongoing effectiveness. 5. Supports managers and supervisors in the implementation and operation of this procedure. 6. Recommends change or improvement to this procedure as required. 7. Provides advice on risk management of hazardous noise requirements to managers and supervisors. 8. Reviews and monitors hazardous noise risk management by managers and supervisors. 9. In consultation with managers and supervisors, ensures the provision of training for workers relating to hazardous noise.

Managers and Supervisors	1. Reviews work activities for hazardous noise risk. 2. Leads and undertakes hazardous noise risk assessments in accordance with this procedure, including consulting with workers. 3. Prior to introducing new plant or equipment into the workplace, ensuring that noise implications are reviewed, and risk assessments completed. The supplier of the plant may be asked to provide results of noise level assessments carried out on the item. 4. Ensures that workers receive appropriate training on the risks of exposure to noise and the appropriate control measures, including hearing protection and instruction in its correct use and maintenance. 5. Ensures that identified workers undertake audiometric testing and monitoring. 6. Ensures that workers wear prescribed PPE such as hearing protection and leads by example by also wearing hearing protection when in designated areas.
Worker	1. Complies with this procedure. 2. Must wear prescribed PPE such as hearing protection in all areas where it is required.

6. HAZARDOUS NOISE RISK MANAGEMENT

The presence of hazardous noise in the workplace is a health and safety risk that can permanently damage the hearing of workers.

Exposure to excessive noise in the workplace may cause permanent or temporary hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing of the ears), impaired verbal communication, fatigue and work errors.

The potential for harmful effects from sources of noise increases with both the intensity and the duration of noise exposure. Small increases in the hazardous noise level increases risk significantly: exposure to 85 dB can be tolerated without hearing protection for up to 8 hours; at 88 dB the length of tolerable exposure drops to 4 hours.

KGL Resources manages risk associated with hazardous through a risk management approach. The key elements of KGL Resources' systematic approach to risk management include:

a. hazard identification;
b. risk assessment;
c. controlling risks; and
d. reviewing control measures to ensure they remain effective.

This is to be undertaken in line with the **KGL Resources Risk Management procedure.**

The assessment of hazardous noise risks should be considered when a worker completes a Take 5 and, where applicable, a SWMS.

6.1 Hazard Identification

Hazards associated with workplace noise should be identified through:

a. workplace observation including workplace inspections, audits, incident data/records, walk-through surveys and direct observation of work tasks;
b. review of operating information for plant/machinery;
c. consultation with workers on proposed work activities, conditions and hazards;
d. review of previous injury/incident records;
e. review of prior risk assessments conducted in that area or for that job or work task;
f. specialist workplace noise assessment; and
g. use of the Hazardous Noise Hazard Identification Form see JER-8000-MGT-FRM-0035. This form shall be used where a potential exposure to noise levels more than 80dB have been identified.

6.2 Risk Assessment

Once the hazard identification is completed, the need for a workplace noise assessment may be required. The purpose of risk assessment is to assess hazards – understand the nature of the risk that could be caused by hazardous noise, how serious and how likely the risk could be and then implement the most effective controls.

Workplace noise assessments should be considered in circumstances where:

a) installation or removal of machinery or other noise sources is likely to cause a significant change in noise levels;
b) a change in workload or equipment operating conditions is likely to cause a significant change in noise levels or exposure times;
c) a change in building structure is likely to affect noise levels;
d) any changes to working arrangements affecting the length of time workers spend in noisy work areas; and/ or
e) there is some concern about the noise level in specified areas.

Workplace noise assessments must be undertaken by a Competent Person. The results of hazardous noise assessments must be documented in a Hazardous Noise Hazard Identification Form.

6.3 Risk Control Measures for Hazardous Noise

Risk controls should always be considered in the order of the hierarchy of control starting with elimination. In some circumstances, two or more risk controls may be required to reduce the risk of hazardous noise exposure.

Risk control measures for noise must be documented in a Take 5 or SWMS.

KGL Resources applies the hierarchy of control to eliminating, so far as is reasonably practicable, or minimising the risks associated with noise. Set out in **Table 1** below are some examples of risk controls to eliminate or minimise these risks according to the hierarchy of control.

Table 1: Examples of risk control measures for hazardous noise

Risk Control Hierarchy		Example of risk control measures for excavation work
Level 1	• Eliminate the hazards	• Eliminate the need to work with noise.
Level 2	• Substitute the hazard with something safer • Isolate the hazard from people • Reduce the risks through engineering controls	• Buy 'quiet' - One of the most cost-effective and long-term ways of reducing noise at work is to introduce a purchasing and hiring policy to choose the quietest plant for the job. • Change the way the task is undertaken. • Isolating the source of noise from workers. • Engineering the source of noise.
Level 3	• Reduce exposure to the hazard using administrative actions • Use personal protective equipment	• Applying administrative noise controls, such as keeping workers out of noisy areas and limiting the time workers spend in noisy areas. • Personal hearing protectors, such as ear-muffs or ear-plugs should be used.

6.4 Audiometric Testing

Audiometric testing must be:

a) provided to any worker who is exposed to excessive noise and who is required to frequently use personal hearing protectors for noise that exceeds the exposure standard specified in the WHS Regulation;

b) provided within three months of the initial exposure;

c) provided every six months if exposures are at a high LAeq,8h, which is equal or greater than 100 dB(A); and

d) regularly provided after initial testing or testing for high exposure at least every two years.

Monitoring hearing with regular audiometric testing is recommended in situations where workers are exposed to:

a) any of the ototoxic substances listed in Appendix A of the Code of Practice where the airborne exposure (without regard to respiratory protection worn) is greater than 50 per cent of the national exposure standard for the substance, regardless of the noise level;

b) ototoxic substances at any level and noise with LAeq,8h greater than 80 dB(A) or LC,peak greater than 135 dB(C); and

c) hand-arm vibration at any level and noise with LAeq,8h greater than 80 dB(A) or LC,peak greater than 135 dB(C).

Audiometric testing and assessment of audiograms must be carried out by Competent Persons and conducted well into the duration of the work shift to enable an assessment of any temporary hearing loss.

Workers should be given the results of audiometric testing accompanied by a written explanation of the meaning and implications. The reasons for any changes in hearing levels over time should be investigated.

7. REVIEW AND REVISION OF CONTROL MEASURES

Noise risk controls must be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure their effectiveness and to ensure that new risks have not been introduced. A review is required:

a) when the control measure is not effective in controlling the risk;

b) when temporary or permanent threshold shifts in workers' hearing are revealed through audiometric assessments or a worker reports a recent diagnosis of tinnitus;

c) before a change at the workplace that is likely to give rise to a new or different health and safety risk that the control measure may not effectively control;

d) if a new hazard or risk is identified;

e) if the results of consultation indicate that a review is necessary; and

f) if a health and safety representative requests a review.

If following a review of the risk controls the worker is to continue using personal hearing protectors, KGL Resources must:

a) verify that the nominal performance of the worker's personal hearing protector is adequate for the level of exposure to noise;

b) examine the protector carefully and ensure it is not damaged;

c) check the protector fits the worker closely with no leakage paths for noise;

d) ask the worker if they have any difficulty using the protector;

e) check the worker uses the protector correctly and consistently whilst performing their work.

If workers are found through audiometric testing to have hearing loss at a level that interferes with the safe performance of their work, all reasonably practicable steps must be taken to modify the work environment. This may include providing:

a) volume control on equipment;

b) acoustically treated meeting areas with low noise and low sound reflections;

c) supplementary visual warning signals; and

d) alternative work for the worker if other measures do not remedy the situation.

8. INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION, TRAINING & SUPERVISION

Training should be provided to:

a) managers and supervisors of workers who may be exposed to hazardous noise or other agents that may contribute to hearing loss;

b) workers who may be exposed to hazardous noise at work; and

c) any KGL Resources worker responsible for the purchase of plant, noise control equipment and personal hearing protectors.

The contents of any training program should include:

a) the health and safety responsibilities of each party at the workplace;

b) what noise is, and the impact on hearing of exposure to hazardous noise;

c) exposure to noise in their particular workplace, and use where applicable of audiometric measuring devices;

d) general and specific control measures that are necessary to protect them and other persons who may be affected by their work;

e) the requirements of this procedure;

f) arrangements for reporting defects likely to cause hazardous noise, or circumstances where the Worker has experienced/been exposed to hazardous noise; and

g) when and how to use personal hearing protection and its proper care and maintenance.

9. INCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

Any incidents arising from fatigue must be reported in accordance with the **KGL Resource Incident Management Procedure**.

10. BREACH OF THIS PROCEDURE

Workers must comply with this procedure at all times. KGL Resources takes breaches of this procedure very seriously.

If an employee is found to have breached this procedure, they may be subjected to disciplinary action in accordance with KGL Resources' disciplinary processes. Contractors of KGL Resources who are found to have breached this procedure may be the subject of action under their contract with KGL Resources.

11. CONSULTATION

This procedure has been developed and implemented in consultation and co-operation with KGL Resources' workers.

12. RELATED DOCUMENTATION

JER-8000-MGT-PRO-0006	Risk Management
JER-8000-MGT-PRO-0023	Incident Management
JER-8000-MGT-FRM-0017	Safe Work Method Statement
JER-8000-MGT-FRM-0018	Take 5
JER-8000-MGT-FRM-0035	Hazardous Noise Identification Form

13. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

VERIFICATION	
Monitoring	Compliance with this procedure will be monitored through training and regular audits.
Evaluation & Review	The risk rating is medium, reviewed every 2 years. A review will be undertaken sooner if there are changes to legislation, standards and industry codes, or following an SMS review, changes as defined by WHS Regulators, or to ensure continual improvement.
Version Control	Version 1: May 2026

14. APPROVAL

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Project Director