



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To: DSDs, Staff and Branch Chiefs

From: Associate Deputy State Director for Management Services

Subject: Oregon State Office Hearing Conservation Program - Annual DD:10/01/2006
Compliance Requirements

The Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) *Hearing Conservation Program* establishes requirements and procedures that will eliminate, or significantly minimize, the risk to employees of suffering hearing impairment from exposure to excessive levels of noise in the work environment.

This program applies to the work activities of all Oregon State Office employees and volunteers, whether in the State Office or stationed in the field where excessive noise exposure may result. Supervisors and/or project leaders are responsible to identify those employees who may be exposed to excessive noise levels during the work day(s). Each employee identified should receive a hearing evaluation in accordance with the monitoring and testing requirements specified in Sections 16.4.5 & 6 of the *Hearing Conservation Program*. This program had been published as a Handbook supplement and may be accessed at the following website: <http://web.or.blm.gov/records/im/2004/im-or-2004-093.htm>. Audiometric testing is available through the Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Service.

Any employee identified as being exposed to excessive noise during the course of their workday must be scheduled for a baseline audiogram, if one has not be previously done and annual retesting must be scheduled. Please note that an exit audiogram test is required upon termination of employment.

Employee testing must be scheduled *prior* to October 1 each year. Requests to schedule such testing are to be coordinated through the Safety Office.

Individual supervisors are directly responsible for the safety and health of their employees and play an important role in ensuring that each employee receives appropriate safety training. To assist supervisors in providing information to employees regarding the causes and prevention of hearing loss, a Power Point® presentation is available on the BLM Intranet Safety Web Page at the following address: <http://web.or.blm.gov/safety/training/training.htm>. This site also contains additional information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding the prevention of hearing loss.

To schedule an employee for a hearing test, please contact Peggy Tribble, State Office Safety and Health Program Manager at 503-808-6202

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by

/s/

Mark Colville for John Keith

Authenticated by

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Staff Assistant

Distribution

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