

## Noise in the Entertainment Industry— Hearing Protection

Noise surveys in Vancouver pubs and clubs show that workers are exposed to hazardous levels of noise. We know that regular exposure to noise at or over **85 decibels**, including music, can cause permanent hearing loss. Noise induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases in the world—but it’s totally preventable.

Here are some noise exposures for pub/club workers in Vancouver. These levels are equivalent to an 8 hour work day.

Occupation	8 hour exposure
<b>Bartender</b>	<b>94 dBA</b>
<b>Coat checker</b>	<b>85 dBA</b>
<b>Doorman</b>	<b>89 dBA</b>
<b>Manager</b>	<b>90 dBA</b>
<b>Server</b>	<b>92 dBA</b>



**Musicians' Earplug**

These results show that many workers are over-exposed to noise and that employers should investigate the need for a “Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program”, as required by the WorkSafeBC *Occupational Health & Safety Regulation* (Part 7). All noise exposed workers must be included in such a program.

### Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program Components:

1. control the noise
  - a. keep the volume down on recorded music—check with patrons
  - b. require that performers keep the volume down
  - c. ensure musicians are using equipment suitable for the room size
  - d. check to see that musicians are using in-ear monitors
  - e. do musicians have directional speakers?
  - f. investigate noise absorbing materials for walls, floors, ceilings
2. wear hearing protection provided by employer
  - a. earplugs are most suitable
    - i. some are designed for musicians: “Hi-Fi”, custom molded “Musicians’ Earplug”
3. participate in annual hearing tests provided by employer
  - a. to check for subtle changes in hearing
  - b. on-line list of authorized testers available



**Hi-Fi Earplug**

For further information, check the WorkSafeBC.com website, <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/HearingLossPrevention/Home.asp>. Or call the Hearing Loss Prevention section at 604 276-3090, Toll Free 1-888-621-7233, local 3090.