

Noise Levels for Common Equipment

The following table can be used to determine if employees should participate in the University of Florida's Hearing Conservation Program (HCP). If an employee's use of equipment exceeds the allowable time more than two times per month, that employee needs to be included in the HCP. If an employee uses a piece of equipment that exceeds 85 decibels (dBA), regardless of duration, hearing protectors need to be used. The Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) needed for each piece of equipment is given. For equipment not listed, please contact EH&S at 392-1591 for an evaluation.

Noise Source	Sound Level	NRR Needed	Time Allowed
Airboat	108 dBA	30	2 minutes
Band Saw	104 dBA	26	6 minutes
Blender	91 dBA	13	2 hours
Blower	99 dBA	21	19 minutes
Concrete Saw	112 dBA	34	1 minute
Chain Saw	110 dBA	32	1 ½ minutes
Combine operator	95 dBA	17	48 minutes
Compressed Air	92 dBA	14	1 hr. 35 minutes
Edger	86 dBA	8	6 hrs. 20 minutes
Fire Alarms	95 dBA	17	48 minutes
Front End Loader	95 dBA	17	48 minutes
Hedge Trimmer	103 dBA	25	7 ½ minutes
Juice Extractor	86 dBA	8	6 hrs. 20 minutes
Miter Saw	109 dBA	31	2 minutes
Plant Tissue Grinder	90 dBA	12	2 hrs. 30 minutes
Pneumatic Staking	103 dBA	25	7 ½ minutes
Pressure Washer	100 dBA	22	15 minutes
Radial Arm Saw	103 dBA	25	7 ½ minutes
Riding Lawn Mower	90 dBA	12	2 hrs. 30 minutes
Sprayer, 1,000 gal.	101 dBA	23	12 minutes
Tablesaw	93 dBA	15	1 hr. 16 minutes
Tractor	92 dBA	14	1 hr 35 minutes
Vacuum	87 dBA	7	5 hours
Weedeater	96 dBA	18	38 minutes
Wet/Dry Vac	94 dBA	16	1 hour