

Toolboxcard

Noise and hearing protection

Applies to supervisors, employees and subcontractors

Noise is common in a shipyard

Grinding, chopping, drilling, welding and pneumatic tools often produce more noise than is safe for your hearing. Hearing damage usually develops slowly. You often don't notice it until it's too late. Damage to your hearing is permanent and cannot be repaired.



When is hearing protection mandatory by law?

- From **80 dB(A)**, the employer must provide hearing protection.
- From **85 dB(A)**, wearing hearing protection is mandatory.

Because high noise levels regularly occur in a shipyard, wearing hearing protection is mandatory in all halls at our shipyard.

On site

- Earplugs are always available on site.
- Do you regularly work in noisy environments? Then earplugs are not enough.
- Ask your supervisor for custom-made earplugs (otoplastics) or earmuffs if needed.
- When hitting metal, you wear **earplugs and earmuffs**. Even if you work in the area.

Employer's obligations

- Ensures that appropriate hearing protection is available.
- Provides information and instruction.
- Replaces damaged hearing protection.
- Indicates where hearing protection is mandatory. At our shipyard this is in all workshops and production halls.

Employee obligations

- Wear hearing protection in all halls and in other places where it is mandatory.
- Use hearing protection properly.
- Report and replace damaged or poorly fitting hearing protection



Common complaints

- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus).
- Hearing less well.
- Difficulty following conversations.
- Hearing sounds or warnings less well.
- Hypersensitivity to loud noises.

Why is this dangerous in a shipyard?

Poor hearing can cause you:

- Miss warning signals.
- Fail to hear a colleague calling out.
- Not notice a reversing vehicle or an overhead crane.
- Have difficulty communicating during lifting operations or other high-risk work.

Check before you start

- ☐ Do I have the correct hearing protection?
- ☐ Does it fit properly?
- ☐ Is it clean and undamaged?