	Big Ox Energy - Riceville, LLC Safety Management System		RIC.SAFE.POL.140-021.NoiseExposure	
			Initial Issue Date	03/02/2017
<b>NOISE EXPOSURE</b>			Revision Date:	
			Next Revision Date:	03/02/2018
Preparation: Safety Manager	Authority: President	Issuing Dept: Safety	Page:	Page 1 of 3

## **Purpose:**

This standard provides the guidelines to review noise as a common workplace hazard. All workers shall wear appropriate PPE that minimizes the risk to all workers exposed.

## **Scope**

This Standard applies at all work locations under the company management. Locations may add to the requirements contained herein through additional scope required based on the aforementioned guiding regulations.

This standard applies to work locations wherein another party manages and the company personnel undertake work and to all the company managed personnel whilst engaged in any activity on behalf of the company.

This standard shall be applied to all the company personnel, contractors and their subcontractors. Contractors may, however, when agreed through the company project engagement processes, utilize their own standards and procedures in so far as the requirements of their standards are at least equivalent to those of this standard, the customer's standards and those of applicable national and Local regulations which should be read and complied with in conjunction with this standard.

This standard applies to noise levels in excess of 85 dBA.

## **Responsibilities**

The implementation of this standard is the responsibility of the company senior management including project management, Production Management, Safety management, Supervisors and/or Foreman.


The company' managers are responsible for the application of, and compliance with, this standard at work locations where they have operational responsibilities. The company' managers will also be the focal points for associated liaison with, and coordination of, contractors' compliance with this standard, at the managers respective work locations.

All representatives are responsible for monitoring compliance with this procedure. Contractors are responsible for their personnel, and their subcontractor's personnel, compliance with this standard and / or other standard as agreed per above. The Company personnel have a responsibility to comply with this standard. Each employee is responsible for complying with the site safety plans, along with the rules and regulations that issued by the employee's supervisor.

It is the responsibility of each supervisor to ensure the hearing conservation steps mentioned are implemented and enforced.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

The following outlines precautions that should be taken by employees, contractors and subcontractors of Big Ox Energy – Riceville LLC:

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#### Sound Surveys

- All facilities will be monitored on a regular basis with sound survey equipment (sound level meters and sound dosimeters). Noise maps will be formulated with the results of the sound survey data. These maps and or signage noting areas requiring hearing protection must be posted at the location or job sites. Specific Tasks which require protection will be noted in training documentation for that task.

#### Identification of High Noise Sources

- Where noise in any location (buildings, units, etc.) exceeds 85 dBA, all entrances to the location must be marked with signs that identify it as a high noise area, requiring the use of hearing protection.
- All employees or contractors who enter areas where the sound levels are 85 dBA or greater shall wear approved hearing protection
- The onsite manager shall evaluate hearing protection for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used.

#### Temporary Work Sites

- It is the responsibility of the Big Ox Energy – Riceville, LLC employee in charge, or his / her designate, to ensure hearing protection is worn on all locations, projects and temporary work sites where noise levels exceed 85 dBA.


#### Hearing Protection

- Provided at no cost to employees.
- Hearing protection shall be replaced as necessary.
- Supervisors shall ensure that hearing protectors are worn.
- Employees shall be properly trained in the use, care & fitting of protectors.
- Earplugs and/or ear muffs must be made available at all work sites.
- Equipment must not be altered by anyone under any circumstances.

#### Audiometry

- Within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, a valid baseline audiogram shall be established against which future audiograms can be compared. When a mobile van is used, the baseline shall be established within 1 yr. Testing to establish a baseline audiogram shall be preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise. Hearing protection may be used to meet the requirement. Employees shall also be notified to avoid high levels of noise.
- All production (field) employees who are exposed to noise levels more than 85 dBA must have an audiogram annually.
- Each employee's annual audiogram shall be compared to that employee's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred. If a comparison of the annual audiogram to the baseline audiogram indicates a standard threshold shift, the employee shall be informed of this fact in writing, within 21 days of the determination.
- If a threshold shift has occurred, use of hearing protection shall be re-evaluated and/or refitted and if necessary a medical evaluation may be required.

Accurate records of all employee exposure and audiometric measurements shall be maintained as required by the regulation..

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## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) forms the final line of defense between employee and hazard and applies to all employees at the work site, including subcontractors, visitors and client or customer representatives. Where possible, hazards will be eliminated or controlled to reduce the risk associated with a specific task. These controls include:

- Elimination of the hazard
- Isolation of the hazard
- Administrative Controls

The Company will make available all required PPE for its employees. All employees will receive training in the use, care, maintenance and storage of the PPE issued to them. All personal protective equipment will be within the requirements of the local OH&S/OSHA legislation and the specific requirements of a customer or client. Where site-specific PPE requirements exist, employees will follow those requirements.

No piece of PPE will be modified or changed contrary to the manufacturer's instructions or specifications or OH&S/OSHA legislation. All PPE that is of questionable reliability, damaged or in need of service or repair will be removed from service immediately. All PPE that has been removed from services will be tagged "OUT OF SERVICE". Any PPE tagged "OUT OF SERVICE" will not be returned until repaired and inspected by a qualified person.

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be selected based on the following information:
- Hazard Assessment
- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Customer/Client Requirements
- Occupational Health and Safety Legislation requirements

All employees are responsible to insure that only approved PPE, that is in clean and in good condition or repair, is used.

## **TRAINING**

A training program shall be provided for all employees who are exposed to action level noise. The training shall be repeated annually for each employee. Training shall be updated consistent to changes in PPE and work processes. Big Ox Energy – Riceville, LLC shall make available to affected employees copies of the noise exposure procedures and shall also post a copy in the workplace.

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Insubordination in regards to this standard will be dealt with as per Big Ox Energy – Riceville, LLC Disciplinary Program.