

**NEW HEALTH CANADA / CANADIAN STANDARDS INITIATIVE
MACHINERY NOISE EMISSION DECLARATIONS ***

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As part of the formation of the European Union, there has been considerable activity in harmonising all European standards and preparing new ones. This activity has been reflected in the preparation of a great many new and updated ISO standards which affect standards bodies around the world. One such initiative is the standards work associated with machinery noise emission declarations. EU directives aimed at harmonising noise at work legislation and machinery noise labelling within the EU have created a large nucleus of countries who require noise declarations for all machinery installed by industry. As a result, many new ISO standards have been written primarily to allow the required information to be collected.

This considerable European activity affects North America in two ways. First, our manufacturers have to be able to measure sound levels from their equipment in conformance with the EU/ISO requirements if they wish to sell equipment to the EU countries. Second, it gives industry here the opportunity to take advantage of the newly available information on machinery noise emissions when making purchasing decisions. The result is a ripple down effect whereby European legislation may ultimately assist Canadians in building quieter facilities.

Health Canada has long been concerned with the prevalence of noise induced hearing loss and its costs to employees, to

workers compensation boards and to society. While regulation of workplace noise outside Federal facilities and territories is clearly a provincial responsibility, labelling of machinery is a federal concern. Health Canada has asked the Canadian Standards Association to assist them in preparation of voluntary guidelines for Machinery Noise Emission Declarations in Canada. A working group has been formed under the auspices of the CSA Industrial Noise Subcommittee and is currently drafting the guidelines, which will be harmonised with the EU Machinery Directives and their supporting ISO standards.

The guidelines will provide Canadian manufacturers with guidance on measurement standards and the noise emission declaration process. It will also give Canadian industry guidance in how to use Noise Emission Declarations to help purchase quiet equipment for their facilities.

A second draft of the guidelines are currently being reviewed by the working group, who will be seeking public comment from industry and labour. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the next draft when it becomes available in order to provide comments to the working group may contact the author, or Stephen Bly at Health Canada: 613-954-0308. A limited number of spaces may also be available on the working group for interested individuals.

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