

THURSDAY EVENING, 21 MAY 1981

- 5:00 Social Hour.
- 8:30 Engineering Acoustics Workshop.

FRIDAY MORNING, 22 MAY 1981

- 8:00 Registration.
- 8:25 SS. Physical Acoustics VII and Noise VI: Outdoor Sound Propagation.
- 8:30 TT. Musical Acoustics III and Psychological Acoustics VI: Perception and Cognition.
- 8:30 UU. Psychological Acoustics VII: Loudness, Temporal Factors and Related Topics.
- 8:30 VV. Shock and Vibration III: Structure and Machine Dynamics.
- 9:00 WW. Engineering Acoustics VI: Acoustics in Telecommunications II.
- 9:00 XX. Physiological Acoustics VI and Psychological Acoustics VIII.
- 9:00 YY. Speech Communication VIII: Perception II: Dichotic, Listening, Acoustic Cues.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 22 MAY 1981

- 1:30 ZZ. Noise VII: Jet and Flow Noise.
 - 1:30 AAA. Psychological Acoustics IX: Pitch Perception and Musical Sounds.
 - 1:30 BBB. Speech Communication IX: Perception III: Developmental, Language- and Hearing-Impaired and Vibrotactile.
 - 1:30 CCC. Late papers.
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PROPOSED REGULATION FOR NOISE IN ONTARIO

Report of the III Technical Meeting of the CAA Toronto Chapter,
January 19, 1981

Our third meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Proposed Regulation for Noise and Related Code prepared by the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Ontario Ministry of Labour. John Swallow presided over a panel of five experts from the Ministry of Labour, Industry, and Medicine. Each member of the panel spoke for about 20 minutes, addressing issues of particular concern to his sector.

Mr. John McEwen, representing the Ontario Ministry of Labour, stressed the need for devising a practical program for reducing noise exposure in industry. He discussed some of the more contentious problems, namely acceptable levels for noise, (85 or 90 dBA), provision of personal hearing protectors, warning signs on the job site, definition of impact noise, the rule for relating noise level and exposure time (i.e. whether to halve the duration for every 3 dB or 5 dB increment in level), and the locus of responsibility for assessment of hearing, whether government or industry.

Ms. Marilyn Pike, an audiologist working with the Ministry, described a working model for a hearing conservation program. She defined the goals for such a program as protection and identification. Major components of the program included measurement of noise, hearing tests, records of exposure, noise control and diagnosis. Thus, a wide range of expertise would be required from hygienists, safety engineers, industrial physicians and nurses, family physicians, otolaryngologists and audiologists. She proposed an occupational health committee to regulate the program from within the industry. The standards for each program component were detailed.

Mr. Greg Michel of Bruel and Kjaer Canada Limited discussed the instrumentation problems of noise measurement. These included difficulties in distinguishing impulse noise and impulsive from steady-state noise. He commented that these distinctions were often only possible using an oscilloscope on site and thus it might not be practicable to make the measurements in survey and/or monitoring situations. The problem of evaluating exposure was also discussed and the point stressed that personal dosimeters had originally been developed for steady-state levels. Mr. Michel also mentioned difficulties associated with using instruments in the cold Canadian North where batteries cease to operate and called for some standardization in the use of terminology for noise measurement.

Dr. Peter W. Alberti, Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital reviewed in detail the recommendations of a Task Force on Occupational Hearing Loss to the Minister of Labour and Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety. The topic of the brief dated December 1979, was Occupational Hearing Loss: Prevention, Compensation and Rehabilitation. Among the problems discussed were the need to develop methods to reliably estimate noise dosage, the labelling of equipment for emission levels, lack of audiometric records in industry as well as methods for maintaining records and documentation of work histories. Recommendations included the mandatory use of personal hearing protection coupled with noise reduction at the source, and periodic assessment of standards.

The last panel speaker was Mr. Tony Taylor of Ontario Hydro. The focus of his address was the need to study the layout of equipment within the plant in order to assess the risk of noise exposure to the workers realistically. He described some of the current methods used at Ontario Hydro installations both to reduce noise at the source and to provide suitable enclosures and barriers to decrease the effective noise dosage. An evaluation was made of the costs and benefits associated with such programs.

The speakers were thanked by Mr. Alberto Behar, and a lively question and answer period ensued.

Sharon M. Abel