Hearing Protection

The legal responsibilities and product selector

KIMBERLY-CLARK PROFESSIONAL* Hearing Protection offers a wide choice of innovative and traditional hearing protection products, designed to offer users maximum comfort and encourage conformity.

- All conform to EN352-2: 2002
- ISO 9001: 2000 quality assured manufacturing
- Designed to suit both male and female users

Why is Hearing Protection important?
Continued exposure to noise above certain levels causes permanent hearing damage. Hearing cells cannot be repaired nor do they regenerate.

How is noise measured?
The decibel scale is used in acoustics to quantify sound levels. The reference level (0dB) is set at the threshold of human perception.

When does it become a problem?
Workers are exposed to noise levels at different frequencies that may vary depending on the type of industry and activities performed. Noise levels above 80dB will start causing progressive hearing damage as the noise intensity and exposure increase.

Employer's responsibilities
As a general guidance to the European Directive 89/391/EEC, employers must determine what levels of noise each worker is exposed to.
Under the EU noise legislation, employers must provide the option of suitable hearing protection where noise exceeds 80dB(A). At 85dB, employers must provide and strictly enforce the use of Hearing Protection.

Choosing the correct Hearing Protection Devices (HPD)
European standards require that hearing protection equipment is tested to determine the levels of protection each product offers. These protection levels are called Single Number Ratings (SNRs) – look out for them in the product descriptions.
Following a risk assessment, the HPD selection would require that the environmental noise level and the desired final noise levels, at the end organ of hearing, are subtracted to determine the requested SNR. This would achieve an adjusted desired noise level of between 75dB and 80dB. A final adjusted level below 70dB is considered to be over-protection.

Product Selector Guide

Description	SNR	Multiple-Use	Comfort	Soft Foam	Easy to Fit	Innovative Design	Patent Pending	Replacement Part	Metal Detectable Version Available
 JACKSON SAFETY* H50 Multiple-use Ear Clips	23	✓	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	67237	✗
 JACKSON SAFETY* H30 Multiple-use Comfortflex Earplugs	28	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✗	✗
 JACKSON SAFETY* H20 Earplugs	25	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
 JACKSON SAFETY* H10 Disposable Earplugs	31	✓	✓✓	✓	Requires Rolling Down	✓	✓	✗	✓