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RECENT CITATIONS UNDERSCORE NEED FOR NOISE ASSESSMENT, NOISE REDUCTION PLANNING, AND PROVIDING PROPER HEARING PROTECTION DEVICE.



Houston, Texas. June 4, 2015 – Juler Group Incorporated identifies noise assessment and noise reduction planning as an acute need for HSE professionals.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently cited a casting company for exposing employees to dangerously high levels of work place noise. The alloy casting process uses a variety of molds and molten alloys to form many products.

The places where noise may exist in metal casting facilities include shakeout, tumblers, chipping and grinding, mill rooms and sand slingers.

Noise is a hazardous agent with an OSHA limit for continuous noise of 90dBA and for impulsive noise of 140dBC. OSHA considers noise induced hearing loss as one of the most prevalent work place problems affecting the lives of many working Americans leading to both temporary and chronic long term hearing loss.

An employer that ignores the risk of exposure to hazardous agents such as noise ignores the fact that there is more than health effects leading to a one-time impact through workman's compensation or litigation. Noise in the work place have been directly linked to business consequences such as:

- Poor productivity due to isolation; team work avoidance, and increased breaks and lunch times
- Poor productivity due to fatigue and hand-eye coordination
- Poor work quality due to vision impairment and loss of mental acuity and focus
- Total quality loss due to increased confusion, and refusal to follow directions and policy
- Work sabotage due to low morale, sense of failure and bad attitudes
- Harassment in the work place; gender, race, and ethnic
- Factor in increased near misses and accidents

HSE practitioners should never lose site of the fact that noise impacts the health of the individual, which drives the occupational health professional to act, and that the business suffers in ways that affect the its credibility, sustainability and bottom-line. These facts serve as a reminder of the need for proper risk assessment for all hazardous agents in the work place. This event underscores several key needs:

- The completion of a thorough noise risk assessment that identifies all noise sources in the operation and their impact on the overall noise profile. The citation reveals that the company did not perform basic occupational health industrial hygiene monitoring,
- The completion of the documented risk assessment including a hazard control plan that outlines monitoring needs, and noise reduction procedures.

For the occupational health professional the importance of this activity and the need to craft a deliberate plan that incorporates all hazardous agents for all "potential" hazards must be recognized to avoid both employee health problems and business liabilities.

Juler Group Incorporated is a professional and technical services company offering total solutions for the occupational health and safety professional. Juler Group provides risk assessment services, industrial hygiene support, safety culture/program design and implementation, HSE audits, process safety services, leadership and ethics services, and unequaled training development and delivery.

For further information regarding our noise services contact Robert Juler at 800.698.2826.