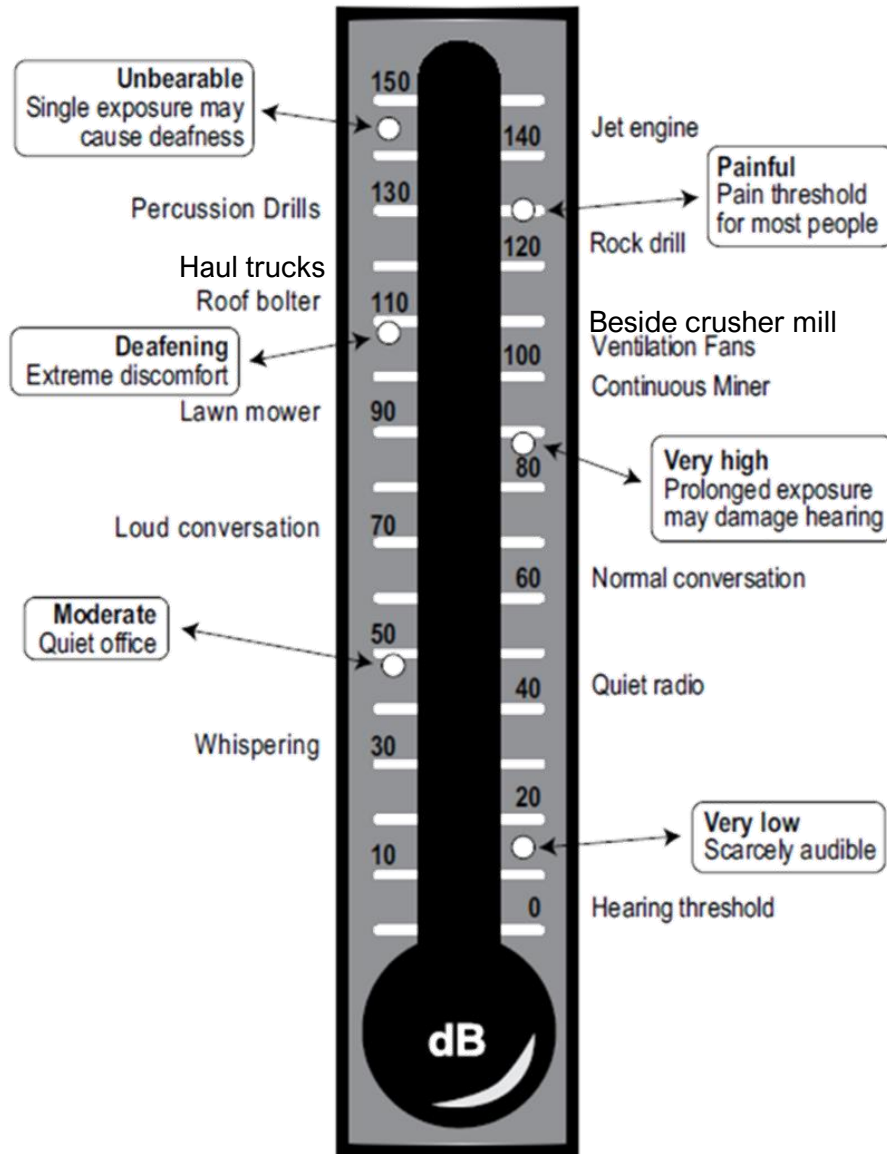


Industrial Deafness
is 100% preventable



What is industrial deafness?



- Hearing loss caused by exposure to excessively loud noise at work
- Repeated exposure to noise above **85dBA**
- Also known as noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)

**Industrial deafness is
100% preventable**

Common mining sound levels - underground

Task/Operation	Sound level dB (A)	Maximum unprotected exposure time
Longwall mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beside operating shearer and chain conveyor Main gate operator, coal passing 	94 88	1 hr 4 hrs
Continuous miners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joy CM, miner filling, beside operator Lee Norse CM, miner filling 	94 98	1 hr 24 mins
Roof bolting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falcon, roof bolting in operation Borer, Joy single boom drill 	112 96	58 secs 38 mins
Underground equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LHDs Ventilation fans Chain conveyor 	95-100 90-100 100-105	15 mins - 48mins 15 mins - 2.5 hrs 5 mins - 15 mins

Common mining sound levels – surface

Task/Operation	Sound level dB (A)	Maximum unprotected exposure time
Coal preparation plant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beside crusher mill Beside operator of vibrating screens 	102 98	10 mins 24 mins
Processing plant equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-waters, jaw crushers, autogenous grinders Car shake outs Chutes and hoppers 	90-100 103-116 100-108	15 min – 2.5hrs 23 sec- 8mins 2-15 mins
Earthmoving equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front end loader Cabin of drilling machine 	104-108 86-100	2-6 mins 15mins-6.4hrs
Surface mining equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haul trucks Crawler tractor Rotary drills 	84-109 96-107 95-106	1.9 mins – 9hrs 3-38 mins 4-48 mins

Hearing testing and monitoring

- Order 43 medicals include audiometry testing to monitor for signs of hearing loss
- Periodic health data shows **13.7%** of the workforce have some hearing impairment
- Its not just older workers who are affected, **workers < 35** are also getting hearing loss
- Industrial deafness can affect your health and safety at work and 'fitness' for work

15%

of Order 43 periodic worker restrictions in 2022 were due to hearing impairments



Industrial deafness is
100% preventable

Symptoms and impact of hearing loss

Symptoms

- Tinnitus
- Muffled hearing, can't hear clearly
- Increased blood pressure
- Disturbed sleep, fatigue, headaches



Social Effects

- Social isolation
- Lower self esteem
- Depression
- Stress and anxiety
- Difficulty communicating

What can you do to protect your hearing?

- Be aware of excessive noise sources
- Follow workplace controls
 - Follow signage, lights and visual reminders on site
 - Use correct work procedure to reduce noise e.g. appropriate machinery for tasks, use noise reducing equipment provided
 - Report any damaged equipment
 - Participate in job rotation to reduce noise exposure
- Talk to your employer, health and safety representative or union rep if you have any concerns
- **Always wear your hearing protection**



**Hearing
Protection
Recommended
Beyond
This Point**

Protect your hearing in ALL noisy environments

Also protect yourself outside the work environment

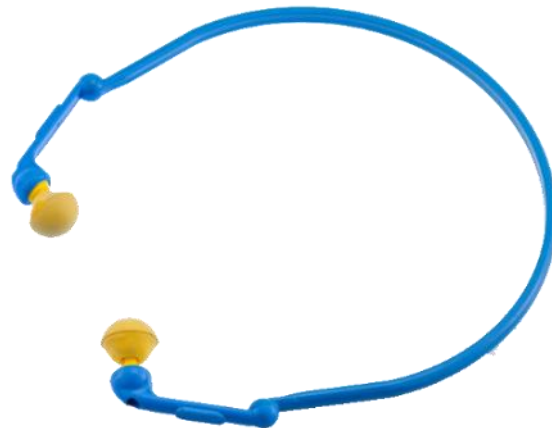
- Activities outside work that can generate excessive noise
 - Using a lawn mower or whipper snipper
 - Using power tools
 - Loud hobbies e.g. shooting
 - Loud sporting events e.g. supercars or music events
 - Listening to music through headphones or earphones

Wear hearing protection in all noisy environments



**Hearing
Protection
Recommended
Beyond
This Point**

Hearing protection facts



To be effective, PPE must:

- Be adequately rated
- Have a variety to accommodate different body shapes
- Suit the individual and the task
- Be used!

E.A.R Fit testing



- Ensures ear plugs or ear muffs are correctly fitted
- Can measure the amount of protection you receive
- Recommended to maximise your hearing protection


Claiming for industrial deafness

You may be able to claim the cost of hearing aids and certain tests if you have hearing loss as a result of working in a noisy environment.

Claiming is simple:

- Requires a doctor's certificate
- For further information:
 - Contact the Mining and Energy Union (MEU)
 - Coal Mines Insurance (CMI)
 - www.coalservices.com.au

Industrial deafness claims



Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is commonly known as 'industrial deafness'.

If you are concerned about your hearing, you should ask your doctor for an assessment.


You may be able to claim for the cost of hearing aids and certain hearing tests if your hearing loss is the result of working in a noisy environment.


Please note:
If you have left the NSW coal mining industry and have since worked in a noisy environment, your claim must be lodged against your last noisy employer.

If you are unsure of your rights, please contact:

- your Mining & Energy Union (MEU) Representative, or
- Coal Mines Insurance (CMI).

Our Industrial Deafness Specialists will work with you to lodge the necessary paperwork.





How to lodge a claim for industrial deafness

- Your GP will need to provide a report stating that he/she believes you are suffering from some hearing loss due to the noisy environment you work/worked in.
- Complete and send an Industrial Deafness Claim Form to CMI:
CMI Hearing Loss
PO Box 219
Boolaroo NSW 2284
Or email hearingloss@coalservices.com.au
- Or, your MEU Representative can lodge a claim on your behalf.
- CMI will contact you to talk through your claim and will let you know if further information is needed to make a decision.

If your claim is declined, CMI will write to you to explain why. You may also contact the team by phone.

If your claim is accepted, you may need to attend a 'Medical Panel Assessment' to assess your hearing loss. The assessment is arranged by the District Court and CMI will work with you to lodge the necessary paperwork.

Mining & Energy Union (MEU) NSW:

Northern District T: 1300 712 791	South-West District T: (02) 4271 7577
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Coal Mines Insurance

T: +61 (2) 8270 3245
E: hearingloss@coalservices.com.au

Coal Mines Insurance Pty Limited: ABN 70 000 011 727
March 2022

Industrial Deafness Resources

<https://www.coalservices.com.au/health/industry-health-topics/industrial-deafness/>

- Videos
- Toolbox Talk
- Posters
- Education



Scan the QR code to
access industrial
deafness resources



