

## Group Standard

### H2 - Noise exposure control

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| Group standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Title: <b>Noise exposure control</b>                                |                                             |                                                            |                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Function: <b>Health, Safety, Environment and Communities (HSEC)</b> |                                             |                                                            |                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No. of Pages: <b>3</b>                                              |                                             |                                                            |                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Approved :<br><br><b>12 November 2014</b>                           | Effective:<br><br><b>1 April 2015</b>       | Supersedes:<br><br><b>B2 - Hearing conservation (2009)</b> | Auditable From:<br><br><b>1 April 2015</b>                                                        |
| Owner:<br><br><b>Global head of Health, Safety, Environment and Communities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                     | Approver:<br><br><b>Executive Committee</b> |                                                            | Target Audience:<br><br><b>All Rio Tinto staff and each Rio Tinto Group business and function</b> |
| Direct Linkages to other relevant Policies, Standards, Procedures or Guidance notes:<br><br><b>Rio Tinto management system, Workplace health exposure monitoring Group procedure, Health and medical monitoring Group procedure, Manage protective equipment Group procedure.</b>                                                                                   |                                                                     |                                             |                                                            |                                                                                                   |
| Document purpose:<br><br><b>To support implementation of the Group Occupational Health and Safety policy. It defines the minimum acceptable requirements for behaviours and/or conditions in respect of managing the potential for occupational health impacts associated with workplace noise exposures, which, if not met, could materially impact the Group.</b> |                                                                     |                                             |                                                            |                                                                                                   |

## H2 - Noise exposure control

### Intent and scope

This standard applies to employees and contractors working at all Rio Tinto business units and managed operations, through all stages of their lifecycle from exploration through to closure. It covers workplace noise hazard identification, exposure evaluation and controls to avoid hearing damage.

The intent is to:

- Reduce exposures to hazardous noise to prevent the permanent disability of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL).
- Assist compliance with local legal requirements and industry standards.

This standard is risk based and applies where there is a high or critical risk of a harmful effect. It also applies where a relevant occupational exposure standard is exceeded.

### Control requirements

Requirements in this standard apply in addition to any defined in the Rio Tinto management system.

#### Planning

- 1.1 Risk assessment, measurement and control of workplace noise hazards must be conducted by a competent person.
- 1.2 There must be design criteria to reduce noise exposure risk for the purchase or build of new fixed and mobile workplace equipment. This also applies to changes to existing equipment.
- 1.3 Defined areas or tasks requiring use of hearing protection must be created where it is likely that:
  - a) area or similar exposure group (SEG) average eight-hour noise levels exceed 85 dB(A); or
  - b) impulse noise exceeds 140 dB(C).

#### Implementation and operation

- 1.4 Defined hearing protection areas must:
  - a) be identified and signposted or otherwise clearly communicated to those working in the area;  
and
  - b) have a documented noise management programme.

No employee should be exposed to more than 82 dB(A) at the ear while wearing hearing protection. This shall be confirmed periodically by fit testing of provided hearing protection where it is a critical control.

- 1.5 Personal protective equipment is the last resort as a control option. Use of hearing protection devices (HPDs) must be implemented according to the requirements of the Manage protective equipment Group procedure. Only operation approved HPDs shall be used.

## **Monitoring**

- 1.6 All monitoring must meet the requirements of the Workplace health exposure monitoring Group procedure.
- 1.7 Medical surveillance programmes that meet the Health and medical monitoring Group procedure must be used when:
  - a) SEG average eight-hour noise exposure exceeds 85 dB(A) or impulse noise exposure exceeds 140 dB(C); or
  - b) recommended by the medical adviser; or
  - c) there is a legal requirement.

Audiometric testing must be offered two yearly. For SEG exposures that exceed 94 dB(A), annual audiometry testing is required.