

MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) has noise regulations published for mine operators and miners. These noise standards are slightly different than OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines.

You can directly view a compliance guide to the standard via this link:
[Compliance Guide to MSHA's Occupational Noise Exposure Standard](http://www.msha.gov/regs/compliance/guides/noise/guide303.htm)
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Some important excerpts from the guide include:

"Noise is one of the most pervasive health hazards in mining. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has identified occupational noise-induced hearing loss as one of the ten leading work-related diseases and injuries. MSHA estimated that 13% of the mining population of the United States (about 37,000) would develop material hearing impairment during their working lifetime under the previous noise standards.

Prolonged exposure to hazardous sound levels over a period of years can cause permanent, irreversible damage to hearing. Hearing loss may occur rapidly under prolonged exposure to high sound levels, or gradually when levels are lower and exposures less frequent. An individual may not notice hearing impairment until after substantial hearing loss occurs. In addition to adversely affecting the quality of life, hearing impairment can jeopardize the safety and productivity of affected miners as well as those around them."

"[Section 62.130](#) of the rule requires all mine operators to use all feasible engineering and administrative noise controls to reduce miners' noise exposures within the PEL without adjustment for the use of hearing protectors. Until now, this requirement has applied only to metal and nonmetal mines."

"You can choose either engineering controls or administrative controls, or a combination of both, as long as the controls you choose reduce the miner's noise exposures to the PEL. If a single control method fails to reduce exposure to the PEL, you must use both feasible engineering and administrative controls as necessary to reduce exposure to the PEL. When administrative controls are used, you must post the procedures for the controls and provide a copy to the affected miners."

eNoise Control can assist your mine in the effort to reduce noise with noise consulting and engineering controls. We have experience in mine applications, MSHA rules and the hazards of noise that are pervasive in your work environments. Unger can offer noise enclosures for compressors, sound curtain partitions, silencers for blowers, and other engineering control measures for your facility. Please call today to discuss your noise control needs at your mine facility.