

Saw Blades ≠ Noise Controls

The MIOSHA occupational noise exposure standard requires the use of feasible engineering controls when employees are subjected to noise exceeding the regulated exposure level. The goal is to reduce the employee's noise exposure by controlling the noise generated by the machine.

1. Operate the saw at the slowest speed necessary to produce the desired quality cut. A slower speed can still maintain the quality of cut if the blade has more teeth to reduce the load per tooth.
2. Use a blade tooth configuration, gullet size, and gullet shape to reduce the free-running noise of the blade.
3. Damp the resonance of the saw blade by:
 - using a spring-loaded rubbing block or oil-soaked felt against the blade,
 - applying a mastic compound to the saw blade,
 - inserting rubber washers under the saw collars,
 - applying constrained layers to the saw blade, or
 - constructing a sandwich-plate with the saw blade.
4. Maintain the saw blade sharpness to reduce the generated noise.

NOTE: This guide is intended for the benefit of the public and may not contain all of the information pertinent to a specific situation. For further information, consult:

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