



Office of Risk Management and Environmental Health & Safety

STS NOTIFICATION LETTER

TO: [Employee name and address]
FROM: [RMEHS Representative]
DATE: [Current date]
SUBJECT: Standard Threshold Shift

The results of your recent OSHA physical examination indicate you have sustained a Standard Threshold Shift (STS) in your hearing ability. An STS is a permanent hearing loss of 10 decibels or greater averaged over the 2,000, 3,000, and 4,000 Hertz frequency ranges in either ear. This is based on a comparison of your most recent audiogram with your initial baseline audiogram. Allowances have been made for the contribution of aging to the change in hearing level.

The 2,000 and 4,000 Hertz frequency range is considered to be part of the speech frequency range. Losses in this range will eventually make it difficult to understand normal conversation. You may start to notice that people have to shout to make you understand. Telephone and radio use will be affected due to the absence of face-to-face contact. Reduction of these types of problems with the use of effective hearing conservation methods will enhance your quality of life.

As your employer, it is our responsibility to inform you of this hearing loss and provide you with information to preserve your present hearing level without additional losses. It is necessary to continue to wear effective hearing protection, earplugs, or muffs, when working in noisy environments. Noise induced hearing loss is a gradual process that you may not realize is occurring until it's too late and there is no treatment for it.

A meeting was held with you on [mm/dd/yy] to discuss information related to your noise exposure on and off the job, methods of controlling your personal noise exposure, and the effective use of hearing protection. RMEHS may also conduct additional monitoring of the workplace noise exposure levels in your area in the future. If so, you will be provided a copy of the results.

The following items were discussed:

- Explanation of STS and ways to prevent hearing loss
- Use of properly fitted hearing protection
- Workplace noise level data and future monitoring

Criterion met: STS OSHA Reportable STS

RMEHS Representative: _____ Date: _____

Employee: _____ Date: _____