

**85B.4 Definitions.**

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise provides:

1. “*Excessive noise exposure*” means exposure to sound capable of producing occupational hearing loss.

2. “*Hearing level*” means the measured threshold of hearing sensitivity using audiometric instruments properly calibrated to the American national standards institute audiometric zero reference level.

3. “*Occupational hearing loss*” means that portion of a permanent sensorineural loss of hearing in one or both ears that exceeds an average hearing level of twenty-five decibels for the frequencies five hundred, one thousand, two thousand, and three thousand Hertz, arising out of and in the course of employment caused by excessive noise exposure. “*Occupational hearing loss*” does not include loss of hearing attributable to age or any other condition or exposure not arising out of and in the course of employment.

[C81, §85B.4]

[98 Acts, ch 1160, §2](#)

Referred to in [§85.34](#)