



Industrial Hygiene (IH) Services

We all take the sounds around us and the air we breathe for granted. However, unsafe work environments cost employers millions of dollars in employee lost time and claim costs every year.

Industrial Hygiene involves anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and controlling workplace conditions that may cause employee injury or illness.

Our in-house safety consultants specialize in the recognition and evaluation of workplace hazards, coupled with cost-effective recommendations to improve workplace safety and employee health. Assessments are provided to FFVA Mutual policyholders at no additional cost. *

How assessments benefit employers:

- Identify potential environmentally-related hazards in the workplace, and
- Comply with OSHA laws

Types of IH assessments offered:

1. Air sampling
2. Noise monitoring

Air Sampling	Noise Monitoring
Measure airborne hazards in the breathing zone of employees or in the area of a particular process or machine. Results can then be compared to OSHA PELs and other occupational exposure limits.	Measure employee exposure to workplace noise levels and then compare results with OSHA’s Action Level (AL) and Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for noise. We can also do area monitoring to identify machinery (including running or faulty equipment) or job functions that may result in overexposure.
Sampling methods vary, but typically personal sampling pumps coupled with particular sampling media are used. Time of sampling varies, but it most commonly full shift. Common types of air contaminants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance Dust – found in food manufacturing or cosmetic manufacturing where powders are produced • Paint or ink vapors –often identified in printing or spray painting operations • Silica Dust – present in the construction industry with masonry or concrete work • Welding Fumes – found in metal fabrication or welding shops 	To monitor, we use sound-level meters and/or employee worn personal noise dosimeters over a work shift. Monitoring helps employers maintain or achieve OSHA compliance with regards to noise. The Action Level (AL) is the point at which a hearing conservation program is required – 85dBA over the 8-hour workday. In addition, employers are required to attempt to keep work day exposure under the 90dBA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) using engineering controls and administrative controls. When this is not possible, hearing protection is required.
Cost to employer: No charge for assessment * Employers are responsible for paying lab fees. A lab analysis cost estimate will be provided before sampling is scheduled. After sampling is approved and completed, the samples are sent to a certified laboratory for analysis.	Cost to employer: No charge for assessment or results.



What employers receive after an air and/or noise assessment:

- A written report with sampling and/or lab analysis results
- Recommendations regarding types of controls to implement
- OSHA related compliance recommendations, and
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance

Controls to reduce employee exposures (implement in order):

1. Engineering Controls (ventilation, noise dampeners, and chemical substitutions) that remove the exposure and do not involve the employee.
2. Administrative controls (such as job rotation or training) manage the exposure and require employee action.
3. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees. Examples include ear plugs, gloves, or respirators that create a safe barrier between the employee and the noise or air contaminant. To be effective, PPE relies on management's oversight for consistent employee use.

Proactive assessments show employees that you care about their work environment and support a strong safety culture.

To make an IH assessment appointment for your workplace, [click here](#) or visit safety@ffvmutual.com for more information.

