

Resolution No. 5

Date: April 30, 2004

City: Washington, D.C.

NAHB Resolution

Title: Hearing Conservation in Construction  
Sponsor: Construction Safety and Health Committee

WHEREAS, the National Association of Home Builders recognizes the importance of providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees; and

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has two standards for regulating worker exposure to excessive noise □ one for the manufacturing industry and one for the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, OSHA is proposing revisions to its existing construction noise standard to include the manufacturing industry hearing conservation components, which consist of a written program; monitoring job sites for excessive noise; performing annual hearing tests on workers, and maintaining medical records; and

WHEREAS, noise in residential construction operations is intermittent and brief compared to factories and assembly lines, where it is generally constant; and

WHEREAS, OSHA already has a noise standard for the construction industry that allows for flexibility in protecting workers from noise generated by construction activities;

WHEREAS, OSHA has not provided justification for changing the existing construction industry noise standard and a new regulation will result in increased compliance costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders urge the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to:

1. Rely on the existing construction industry noise standard to minimize hearing loss in workers instead of creating new requirements.
2. In the event that it does develop a new construction industry noise standard, recognize the differences between residential and general construction and:

- a. Include only those specific residential construction activities that data show pose a high risk of hearing injury.
- b. Allow the use of actual, historical or objective (i.e. industry-derived) noise exposure monitoring data to identify high noise level risks and tasks.
- c. Minimize paperwork and recordkeeping requirements.
- d. Eliminate the need to conduct site specific noise monitoring and perform individual hearing (audiometric) tests.
- e. Be effective in preventing construction-related hearing loss, as well as cost-effective and reasonable for employers.

Board of Directors Action:  
Joint Executive/Resolutions Committee Action:  
Resolutions Committee Action:  
Construction Health and Safety Committee:

**Approved**  
Recommends Approval  
Recommends Approval  
Recommends Approval