

To,

The Owners, Agents and Manager of all mines

**Sub:- Noise Levels and Noise Induced Hearing Loss among mine workers.**

In-continuation to DGMS Technical Circular No.18 of 1975 and No.5 of 1990 on "Protection of Workers against noise", it is brought to the knowledge of all concerned that Noise is emerging as an important and challenging health hazards for mine workers. With increasing mechanization of mining operations and use of heavy machinery the noise level in mines have increased over the years. Surveys conducted by this Directorate and other institutions have shown that noise levels in majority of the mining operations are higher than the recommended limit of 90 dB (A).

In an occupational health survey conducted in an belowground metal mine more than 80% of workers showed evidence of Noise Induced Hearing loss of which 27.7% and 13.1% had severe and profound hearing impairment. Noise Induced Hearing Loss was observed among all category of mine workers but the prevalence was highest among workers engaged in drilling operations. The occurrence and severity of NIHL was related to the degree of exposure to noise and years of service in the mine.

In order to prevent occurrence of Noise Induced hearing Loss among mine workers every mining company should formulate long term strategies and comprehensive hearing conservation programme which should have following components;

1. Noise Level Surveys including Noise Exposure Dose Profile of workers.
2. Engineering and Administrative Controls.
3. Awareness and Health promotion Programmes on Noise and its effects.
4. Personal hearing Protection.
5. Audiometric Examination of workers.
6. Maintenance of comprehensive records of Noise Level Surveys.
7. Periodic monitoring and review of Hearing Conservation Programme.

All concerned are; therefore advised to take necessary measures to prevent Noise Induced Hearing Loss among mine workers and to conduct Noise Level Surveys including Noise Dose Exposure Profile of workers.

Sd/-  
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