



## **Noise induced hearing loss and certain occupational exposures – call for additional research**

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) provides advice to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in Great Britain and the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland about the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) Scheme – the scheme by which employed earners in the UK receive state compensation for industrial accidents or certain scheduled occupational diseases (prescribed diseases).

In considering which diseases it should recommend be added to the list of prescribed diseases, IIAC relies primarily on high quality, peer-reviewed scientific research published in respected international journals. The Council does not have its own research budget to carry out primary research.

IIAC regularly receives requests to consider adding certain 'noisy' occupations to the list of prescribed exposures covered by the terms of prescription for PD A10 (noise-induced hearing loss). To consider extending PD A10 IIAC require good quality evidence that the noise exposure levels in a specified occupation are greater or equal to 98dB(A) ideally averaged over an 8hr working day (i.e. exposures are at least as high as those for those currently prescribed exposures for PD A10).

Recently the Council has sought evidence on noise exposures levels from the following occupations:

- Work involving the use of pneumatic percussive tools on concrete or roads (e.g. jack hammers or road breakers)
- Work involving the use of circular saws to cut natural stone
- Work involving the blow mould extrusion of plastic

However, consideration for prescription for these exposures has been hampered by the lack of available evidence, despite seeking information from the scientific research databases, the Health and Safety Executive, trade union officials, industry and making calls for evidence on the IIAC website and in the Society of Occupational Medicine newsletter.

IIAC is, therefore, asking the scientific research community to undertake research to provide good quality noise exposure data (hygiene data), ideally averaged over an 8hr working day, in relation to the particular jobs or working practices set out above (sound level meter dB(A) Leq measurements, exposure duration and 8hr equivalent noise exposures, Lepd, or directly obtained from personal dosimeters) .

Whilst the Council does not have its own research budget, it may be able to offer a small stipend for completion of this work. Any researchers interested in undertaking this research and wishing to discuss IIAC's specific needs and queries should contact:

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