

# Demonstration Program for Hearing Conservation in Korea

**Kyung-Yong Rhee, Kwan-Hyung Yi, Jung-Sun Park**

Department of Industrial Health Management

Industrial Health Research Institute

Korea Industrial Safety Corporation

34-6, Kusan-dong, Boopyung-gu, Inchon 403-120, Korea

## - Abstract -

This demonstration program is planned for introduction of hearing conservation program. The existing systems for hearing conservation in Korea that are regulated by Industrial Safety and Health Law, are not well organized without integration. The purpose of this demonstration program is to integrate various activities such as health examination, work environment measurement, health education, etc. that are performed in workplace

Because that demonstration program for hearing conservation should be available for application in workplace, main strategy of this program should be based

on existing activities for hearing conservation in workplace. The model of demonstration program for hearing conservation is suggested as a feedback model for encouragement and improvement of workers' health behavior in this study.

Firstly, hearing conservation program based on OSHA's(Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulation in United States of America and various activities regulated by Industrial Safety and Health Law in Korea were reviewed. Secondly, the model of demonstration program for hearing conservation was suggested as program for change of workers' health behavior by feedback of related information produced by various activities in workplace including noise exposure level, audiometric data and so on. Thirdly, this demonstration program was applied to one workplace.

According to application of demonstration program for hearing conservation, feedback of noise exposure level, audiometric data by consulting to each worker can produce change of workers' health behavior from negative attitude or apathy to hearing loss to positive attitude or concerned to hearing conservation. As a result, for successful hearing conservation program feedback by consulting is the most important factor. This feedback can be managed by the various persons; physician, nurse and so on. Health manager can play an important role in managing hearing conservation program in workplace because he or she is involved in everyday working life with workers.