

Academic Citizenship: Rules in the Classroom & Laboratory

Effective Spring Semester 2015

Section VIII. Cadaver Lab (202B ASP) Hearing Protection And Preservation Policy

A) General Statements

During the course of study using the cadaver lab, it is necessary to use a Stryker Saw (electric bone saw). The saw generates a great deal of noise as it cuts through bony tissue. As students learn in BIOL 223, Human Anatomy and Physiology I, the eighth cranial nerve (VIII; acoustic nerve, auditory nerve or vestibulocochlear nerve) is the softest of the cranial nerves and, hence, the most easily damaged by loud noises. This damage is irreversible and leads to hearing loss. Indeed, regular concert goer's in their mid-teens to late-20's are showing hearing loss that was once reserved for individuals in their 60's.

OSHA has specific policies and fact sheets [1, 2] dealing with the protection and preservation of one's hearing [3] (hyperlinks active).

While those policies are "the legal standard", it is Dr. Carman's professional opinion (cf <http://www.drcarman.info/bio223lx/223lex10.pdf>, slides 66-70 if you need a refresher) that OSHA's policies are not stringent enough, hence, the hearing protection and preservation policy for use in the cadaver lab when the Stryker saw is in use follows in Section B.

B) Specific Statements

1) It shall be the policy that **at any time the Stryker saw is in use**, ALL students will purchase and wear hearing protection as described below:

A) Absolutely NO ear plugs will be used so as to prevent potential contamination of the external ear, external auditory canal and/or tympanic membrane;

B) Only ear muff types of hearing protection may be used as they minimize potential contamination much like the use of goggles in the lab;

38 C) For the first lab period when the ear muffs are used, the muffs must be brought in **in**
39 **the original wrapper, still sealed**, for Dr. Carman to examine and confirm safe
40 applicability;

41 D) The ear muffs shall have a minimum noise reduction rating (NRR) of not less than 25
42 decibels and shall be readily verifiable;

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44 E) Each student is responsible for obtaining and bringing their own set of ear muffs in
45 advance of the date[s] they are needed;

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47 F) Ear muffs of this type are available at most home improvement stores (e.g., Lowes or
48 The Home Depot) or sporting goods stores (e.g., Cabella's or Sportsman's Warehouse);

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50 G) Failure to have hearing protection on the days it is required shall result in a loss of
51 one letter grade for each infraction;

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53 H) Three infractions will result in an "F" for the course;

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55 I) Each student needs to put his/her name on the hearing protection for identification
56 purposes;

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58 J) Because hearing protection can make communication of a verbal nature challenging,
59 pre-lab lecture must be listened to carefully;

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61 K) Activities in the cadaver lab must be closely watched by all (use a buddy system: one
62 person cutting with another person watching his/her back) so as to minimize potential
63 danger and/or injuries;

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65 L) When the Stryker saw is no longer in use, students may remove their ear muffs and
66 place them in a safe and clean area.

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68 2) As necessary, this policy shall be updated as quickly as possible to reflect critical changes of
69 necessity.

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