



Re: Sound moderators in Canada

1 message

Singer, Tim (HC/SC) <tim.singer@canada.ca>
To: " " <@gmail.com> <@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 7, 2016 at 11:05 AM

Dear Mr. ,

Thank you for your e-mail of September 1, 2016, addressed to the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, regarding sound moderators. A copy of your correspondence was forwarded to me for response. I regret the delay in replying.

Health Canada scientists have expertise on the human health effects of noise exposure in support of the Department's mandate under the *Radiation Emitting Devices Act*. Part of this work includes monitoring and analysis of research that can support evidence-informed decisions on the health effects associated with noisy products. **Health Canada acknowledges the concerns you have raised regarding the potential impacts of noise emissions originating from the use of firearms and the possibility that this creates an exposure that is hazardous to hearing.**

As you are aware, sound moderators are regulated under the *Criminal Code* and do not fall under the scope of application of legislation administered by Health Canada. It is therefore recommended that you contact the Department of Justice on this matter.

Health Canada has published guidance on noise-induced hearing loss available on Health Canada's website (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/environ/hearing_loss-perte_audition-eng.php). This guidance includes recommendations on how to reduce risks from activities involving exposures to elevated noise levels.

The exposures you are referring to in your e-mail are known to potentially generate elevated sound pressure levels. Health Canada's guidance outlines steps individuals can take to protect their hearing, including the use of adequate hearing protection. In this regard, it is especially important to ensure that the manufacturer's instructions for the proper use of hearing protection are carefully followed, as proper fitting is essential to the effectiveness of any ear protection. Furthermore, you may wish to provide yourself with an additional measure of safety by using double protection. Double protection would consist of using both insert earplugs together with over-the-ear style earmuffs. If you regularly engage in high noise activities, like hunting or target shooting, you may want to invest in custom hearing protection. Customizable hearing protection is a service offered by many audiologists. The proper use of hearing protection will substantially reduce your risk of hearing damage.

I hope you will find this information helpful.

Thank you for writing.

Tim Singer

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