

YPSW 2018 ANNUAL MEETING TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Incorporating Occupational Health and Safety into the Design of Workplaces and Processes

Bay Club Hotel and Marina – San Diego, California

January 18-19, 2018

Preventing Occupational Hearing Loss in a Global Manufacturing Network – John Mulhausen

John Mulhausen is Director of Corporate Safety and Industrial Hygiene at 3M. He opened his presentation by highlighting the business benefits from placing priority on strong health and safety performance. He attributed global safety and health excellence to having in place the right principles, people, and processes. As part of these principles, there is a corporate expectation of developing and maintaining engineering standards and a global safety and health plan (GSHP). Included in 3M's GSHP are essential elements on Medical Surveillance and Noise Control & Hearing Conservation. 3M believes having great people is a critical asset for EHS excellence and translates this belief into practice by certifying subject matter experts in areas such as air and noise monitoring. Efficient global processes are also viewed as critical for safety and health excellence. 3M has developed global processes for safety, industrial hygiene, process safety, and ergonomics. Standardized, accurate noise exposure assessments and an integrated hearing conservation strategy are also key factors in 3M's efforts to address occupational noise exposure. Global engineering control guidelines, training and knowledge resources, detailed understanding of exposures, annual noise control prioritization and planning, and management of change are key features of the Company's hearing conservation strategy. The effective use of hearing protective devices and lessons learned through quantitative fit testing were also covered during the presentation. John concluded with case studies involving two 3M manufacturing plants. Both facilities were recognized for their success in "Getting the Noise Out" as recipients of Safe in Sound Hearing Conservation Excellence Awards.