

October 2016

Willow Creek Community Church
Audio Volume Policy

We shall operate at levels lower than OSHA allowable exposure levels, and shall be in compliance with metering, logging, and action requirements to ensure a safe environment. This shall also remain true for Production staff and volunteers, who are exposed to 200% to 500% more duration than an attendee, with work weeks which can occasionally include up to 5 conference sessions, 4-6 special artists, Midweek, and 3 Weekend services, with their associated sound checks, line checks, and rehearsals.

Campus wide, SPL meters shall be used in any room with levels reaching 85dB(A)-slow, and the maximum level shall be logged for every service.

The Main Auditorium (and any room with a program of 30 minutes or more of music) shall, in addition to SPL(A)-slow peak, measure and log Leq(A) for the entire service/exposure/dosage period.

Maximum levels shall be limited to 105dB(A)-slow and 130dB(C)-fast *

For any typical service, Leq(1-hour) shall be below a safe 94dB(A)-slow **

“Concerts” and special events, where attendees are expecting (and sometimes paying for) a louder experience, Leq(2-hours) shall be below 100dB(A)-slow ***

For reference (as measured at FOH):

Main Auditorium services currently average Leq(1) 80-88dB(A)

The congregation alone can reach levels of 97dB(A)slow

Concert-type conference sessions and events have averaged LEQ(1) 85-92dB(A)

* 10dB lower than OSHA allowable noise exposure levels.

** 11dB lower than OSHA allowable noise exposure for 1 hour, and meets the more strict, newly adopted EE ISO Action-Level-2 standard for workplace noise exposure.

*** Meets OSHA allowable noise exposure for 2 hours. This is the maximum level allowed through our house system, and is electronically-limit-protected to not allow more than this.

