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The noise control in laboratories and health areas: a keyword in order to practice biosafety

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The environmental noise control is an increasing preoccupation at the international level in order to observing the effects on the human health. At the outdoor environment or in habitations, in work places and health areas, these effects are verified, as mentioned by World Health Organization (1995; 1999) and in rich bibliography about this subject. In areas with biological and chemical risk, where the development of activities need of great concentration, noise is a stressor agent and causes direct and indirect effects on the human health as well as affecting the intelligibility of the speech, the performance of activities and causing work accidents. However, the exposition to the main sound sources found in laboratories and hospitals located at the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), a Brazilian health institution, could have been avoided if some noise control measures had been employed. This paper presents the main situations observed at the evaluation developed during 2007, in 744 environments of work and shows how environmental noise comes interfering at the workers performance in Fiocruz.