

Hearing threshold	The sound level below which a person's ear is unable to detect any sound. For adults, 0 dB is the reference level.
Noise-exposed worker	As per Schedule 3, Table 1 of the Alberta OH&S Code, any worker who is or may be exposed in excess noise levels as per defined exposure duration (85dBA TWA), is considered to be a noise-exposed worker and is required to

Traumatic noise exposures

An incident where workers are exposed to sudden extremely elevated noise levels, i.e. explosion.

4.0 Guiding Principles

The University believes that:

- All employees have a responsibility to identify and control hazards in the workplace;
- Faculty and staff are active participants both identifying hazards that exist in their work areas and protecting themselves from identified hazards;
- Support is provided for those exposed to identified hazards in their work area through effective communication and collaboration with Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) and Staff Wellness;
- Regular communication between managers and their staff to identify potential hazards and controls is essential;
- This program is a legislative requirement under the Alberta OH&S Code;
- All parties have an obligation to meet their responsibilities under this program.

5.0 Responsibilities

5.1 Faculty & Staff:

- Report any noise concerns to their direct supervisor or manager for investigation;
- Attend all health surveillance activities, as defined by the health surveillance program for noise exposure;
- Seek solutions to health and safety issues in their work areas;
- Follow implemented controls that keep noise exposures in work areas to ALAR.3 (e)621.129 n6 (under)2.4

audiometric technician. The contract company will be responsible to provide results to the employee, and a copy will be forwarded to the Occupational Health Nurse, Staff Wellness.

Equipment used to conduct audiometric testing will be maintained according to manufacturer requirements. Maintenance records will be documented and retained for not less than 67 years.

At the time of audiometric testing, a medical history will be collected in the form of a questionnaire. The audiometric technician will review the audiogram for indicators of early NIHL. If there is any indication, the tester will advise the employee of these results. At this time additional education regarding the proper use of hearing protective devices will be reinforced. Test results will be forwarded to the Occupational Health Nurse, Staff Wellness for interpretation and monitoring.

8.0 Recall Testing

Noise exposed workers will be recalled within 12 months of their baseline test, and every two years thereafter. Recalls will be coordinated and managed through Staff Wellness. The supervisor/manager will ensure that time is provided for the employee to attend scheduled appointments.

Workers may also be recalled for testing following an acute exposure to noise, such as an explosion. In the event the worker has an acute exposure, recalls will be performed at regular intervals, to monitor return to normal hearing. Staff Wellness will co-ordinate and manage all recalls related to acute noise exposures.

9.0 Referrals and Follow Up

In the event that audiometric testing indicates a possible hearing loss audiogram or a significant threshold shift, the worker will be notified of the change. The abnormal test results will be sent to the occupational health physician for review.

If the audiometric testing results are confirmed as possible hearing loss or as a significant threshold shift, the physician is responsible to notify the Occupational Health Nurse, Staff Wellness, who will then notify the worker within 30 days. Any worker with a confirmed possible hearing loss audiogram or significant threshold shift will be offered a one-on-one education session with the Occupational Health Nurse to provide focused education. Employees who do not participate in the one-on-one education session will be sent a notification letter indicating the results of their hearing test and recommended follow-up care.

Staff Wellness will document all physician recommendations and will co-ordinate further referrals, recall testing or education that is recommended.

10.0 Education

The worker will receive hearing loss related education as needed. Proper use of HPD will be demonstrated and hearing protection fit testing will be provided to the employee by Staff Wellness.

11.0 Post Exposure Testing

In the event that a worker has a traumatic noise exposure, Staff Wellness is to be notified and will coordinate follow up testing, if required. This will be conducted in conjunction with an occupational physician/audiologist. Any traumatic noise exposures will be reported to the area manager for investigation.

12.0

CSA Standard Z107.6:16 (R2020), Audiometric testing for use in hearing loss prevention programs

EH&S Hearing Conservation Program