

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE – AUDIOMETRIC

INTRODUCTION

Noise-induced hearing loss is completely preventable through noise control and hearing conservation measures. Regular audiometric testing makes it possible for early detection of noise-induced hearing loss. Changes in an individual's audiometric results may indicate that noise conditions in the workplace have changed or that hearing protection is not being used properly.

SCOPE

Audiometric medical surveillance applies to personnel who have been identified and assessed as noise exposed workers through noise surveys and personal dosimetry.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

The Audiometric Medical Surveillance module is written in accordance with the University of Guelph Hearing Loss Prevention Program as governed by the requirements of Ontario Regulation 851, section 139 made under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario.

[University of Guelph Hearing Loss Prevention Program](#)

CRITERIA

Individuals identified through noise surveys and personal dosimetry that are working in areas considered as noise hazard areas if sound levels are regularly at, or above, 82 dBA.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Please reference section 4.0 "Responsibilities" of the University of Guelph ["Hearing Loss Prevention Program"](#)

TESTING FREQUENCY

The normal frequency of audiometric testing is every two years unless otherwise advised by Occupational Health and Wellness. Testing may be required on an annual basis or sooner dependent on an observed temporary shift in hearing or resultant from a noise assessment.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

All incidents are to be reported using the University's illness and injury incident reporting process.

RECORDS MAINTENANCE

All personal medical records are maintained confidentially according to accepted medical practice by Occupational Health and Wellness.

OHW will report anonymously observed trends in hearing loss to the area supervisor and EHS for further assessment.

OHW with the worker's consent will communicate any identified standard threshold shift to the supervisor and EHS for further assessment.

COSTS

Costs for audiometric testing that is outsourced from the University will be covered by the department.