



Audiogram

Employers performing audiograms are doing so as a part of a comprehensive health surveillance program, aimed at promoting a safer workplace where audiometric testing contributes to a part of an overall fitness assessment. Monitoring the effects of workplace exposure and ensuring legislative compliance is best achieved through a comprehensive health surveillance program including audiometric testing.

INTRODUCTION

Noise induced hearing loss is the leading non-fatal occupational disease claim for the last decade. Not surprisingly, many Canadian employers are legislated to monitor the effects of workplace noise through audiometric testing.

Typically, monitoring using audiometric testing is done once prior to entry into the workplace as a baseline, periodically at the recommended industry rate or as outlined by the legislative requirements of the province, and finally at the exit from the workplace. ^[1,2,3,4,12]

Most employers consider monitoring using audiometric testing for hearing loss to be a measure solely intended to maintain legislative compliance. They overlook important safety benefits of such monitoring, such as assessing the effectiveness of noise exposure management systems and identifying individuals with hearing limitations, which can sometimes lead to serious incidents.

OVERVIEW

CannAmm's audiogram program is the ideal choice for employers. Additional benefits are hiring or transferring employees between provinces, and maintaining medical records confidentially for the required length of time. The goal of the audiometric testing is to provide the data required for your hearing conservation program to assess the effectiveness of hearing protection and the degree of hearing loss related to exposure to noise.

The audiogram offered by CannAmm takes twenty minutes to half an hour to complete and consists of five parts:

- Part 1: Consent for release of clinical information both past and present.
- Part 2: Documentation of a comprehensive noise exposure history and current hearing status, including a check for recent loud noise exposure and a physical examination of the ear.
- Part 3: Technician testing at six different frequencies at various decibel levels (loudness).
- Part 4: CannAmm's trust through physician review of the history and clinical information to determine testing status and provide intervention when required.
- Part 5: Secure and confidential reporting of the final testing status to the authorized company representative.

The technician performing audio testing must be trained by an agency acceptable to the province in which the test is performed, where applicable. For example, in Alberta, Occupational Health and Safety is the agency responsible to enforce the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act. The act specifies the training requirements of the technician and mandates that the technician must work in consultation with a physician, audiologist, or occupational health nurse. ^[10]

SAFETY

The main purpose of introducing audiometric testing into a workplace is to identify any immediate hearing limitations that may present a risk to individuals operating in safety-sensitive roles or environments where hearing is an essential requirement of safe work.

If you're operating in multiple provinces, OH&S requires having a new baseline test completed prior to the worker going to the new site.

Employers who proactively take steps to address noise exposure achieve greater fiscal success and operational stability, and promote a culture of productivity and safety.^[4,5,6,7]

MEDICAL EXAM DELIVERABLES

| Deliverables | CannAmm | Comparable |
|--|---------|------------|
| Compensable Claim Mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentation of recent noise exposure• Documentation of prior workplace claims• Baseline: availability of records for future claims | ✓ | |
| Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Information Protection Act• Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act | ✓ | |
| National Availability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standardized documentation exceeds all provincial requirements• Each audiogram is quality assured• Testing is available coast to coast | ✓ | |
| One-Stop Shopping <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book multiple tests with just one request• Optionally combine with drug and alcohol testing• Call or book online | ✓ | |
| Result Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health advice letters | ✓ | |
| Trusted Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountability to Canadian medical standards• Exam performed by OHS qualified technicians• Physician determination of final test status | ✓ | |

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