

Audiometry Assessments - Compared

Criteria	Screening Audiometry	Occupational Noise Management Audiometry
When?	Standard screening service that is part of a standard pre-employment medical to assess if a person can hear adequately for normal conversation in a normal job.	Workplaces in all states where workers are exposed to noise >85 decibels (dB) over an 8 hour period or exposed to peaks > 140dB. Required under WHS laws.
Initial Audiometry test (at start of employment)	Testing is done in both ears separately, ranging from 500Hz to 8000 Hz. Where possible, avoid noise >85dB for 16 hours prior to test.	Must be completed within 3 months of a worker initiating employment. Requires 16hrs of quiet time prior (no exposure to noise >85dB)
Ongoing Audiometric test	Not required, unless workplace noise levels change. May require Occupational Noise Management Program.	Monitoring Occupational Noise Audiometry is required (16hrs of quiet time not mandatory)
Frequency of ongoing testing	Not specified nor required.	Monitoring Occupational Noise Audiometry is required at least every two years after baseline.
Who may request the test	Employer only.	Employer only.
Paperwork	Pre-Employment Medical paperwork, Excel Audio calculator, or printout of Workplace Audiometrics software result form.	Occ Noise Management Audiometry

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Test process	Air conduction; right and left ears tested separately. Testing ranges from 500Hz to 8000Hz.	Air conduction; right and left ears tested separately. Testing ranges from 500Hz to 8000Hz. Headset removed and refitted; 3K, 4K, and 6K tests repeated. Results reviewed by doctor.
Are ears checked prior to testing? (otoscopy)	Yes	Yes
How are results assessed?	Results assessed against known clinical criteria for normal hearing or company guidelines if provided. The doctor will take into account the candidate's job role and determine any hearing loss, however, it is not a legally defensible result or able to be used again to monitor hearing loss down the line.	The operator must work out the mean and average of the overall testing. Results are sent to an internal health surveillance department for review by a doctor specialising in Occupational Noise Management. Final reports are released to the company with recommendations regarding their next hearing test and any PPE requirements.
Tester	Tester must complete RTO - HLTAUD001 - Training assess hearing course.	Tester must complete HLTAUD001 and HLTAUD003 - Assess and respond to occupational noise risk training course to perform Occupational Noise Management tests.
Equipment	Audiometer within calibration date with appropriate headset and meeting AS/NZS1269.4:2014	Audiometer within calibration date with appropriate headset and meeting AS/NZS1269.4:2014
Test Environment (Test room can include booth)	Sonic clinics: Ambient noise levels assessed and certified every 3 years. Client premises: only in special, pre-assessed and agreed to circumstances.	Ambient noise levels assessed and certified every 3 years.