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 Hearing Conservancy

One *Learning* Community

[www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca/)

## **Hearing Conservation**

## **Audiometric Testing**

# **What is Audiometric Testing?**

Audiometric testing (also referred to as hearing tests) measures the individual’s hearing ability and acuity. It can identify hearing threshold shifts in exposed employees during their employment. Also, it can be used to determine the effectiveness of noise control measures by the hearing threshold of exposed employees.

Under Section 7.8(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, the employer must give workers who are exposed to noise that exceeds noise exposure limit an initial hearing test as soon as practicable after employment starts but not later than 6 months after the start of employment, and a test at least once every 12 months after the initial test.

# **Who Should be Tested?**

Any workers exposed to noise greater than 85 dBA Lex (a full shift averaged exposure) or 140 dB peak sound level should participate in the testing. These have been evaluated independently by noise level surveys or previous dosimetry. In our schools, this is Secondary and Middle School Tech ed, Phys Ed and all level Music teachers that are 1 FTE. Hearing protection is available to all staff from Supervisors and Administrators and is expected to be used by those requiring testing.

# **Who Conducts the Audiometric Testing?**



Phone: 1-888-501-2661

Email: info @connecthearing.ca

Connect Hearing has been selected as a Board authorized provider to conduct this testing for workers on behalf of the Greater Victoria School District. The annual audiometric testing is a Health & Safety Department funded program. Individual departments are not charged for the testing; however, release time to attend is the responsibility of the worker’s department.

# **How Do I Arrange Testing?**

Routine annual testing within the school district occurs in the Spring.

1. OH&S will contact the respective high school administrators to arrange a day to conduct testing at their location with the contractor. Administrators are responsible for scheduling and ensuring the attendance of all required workers for testing during the selected day.
2. Middle school workers requiring audiometric testing will contact administrators at the closest available high school to arrange attendance during the selected testing day.
3. If workers are away during the scheduled day, their Supervisor may coordinate their attendance at an alternate location or arrange to attend one of Connect Hearing’s office locations.
4. The SD61 Appointed individual will arrange testing for the Facilities Department yard at 491 Cecilia Rd.
5. If you are a new worker requiring testing and it is more than six months until the scheduled annual testing, your Supervisor should arrange testing by contacting Connect Hearing directly to arrange a time to attend their closest location.

# **What Does Testing Entail?**

Testing is conducted within a mobile facility that comes to the workplace. Workers should bring any previous audiometric testing information and arrive on time for their scheduled appointment. Site supervisors will be responsible for ensuring the scheduling is sustained and workers are attending during their scheduled appointment times.

The Connect Hearing technician will walk them through the evaluation process and will be able to inform workers of their preliminary results immediately following the testing. They may also make suggestions for follow-up and the best hearing protection for you to use. Workers should retain a copy of their hearing test results.

# **What Happens with Testing Information?**

As required by Section 7.8(3), Connect Hearing will file the test results with WSBC. A record will also be provided to the Health and Safety Department to be retained while the worker is employed by the district.

These records will be kept confidential and not released to anyone without the written permission of the worker, or as otherwise required by law.

Your tester will discuss results with you and the Health and Safety Department reviews the results of testing trends, as well as providing further guidance and follow-up to those workers showing early warning signs or hearing loss.

If it has been determined that you have experienced occupation-related hearing loss, you should tell your employer and seek medical treatment if required. You should also file a claim with WorkSafeBC.

All workplace parties can find additional information about results interpretation on the WorkSafeBC website at: [Understanding workers’ hearing test results](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/hazards-exposures/noise/hearing-loss-prevention/understanding-workers-hearing-test-results).