

Chapter 18: [Hearing Conservation](#)

Medical Surveillance Requirements

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URL: <https://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/hearingReqMedical.pdf>

1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to protect personnel from hearing loss caused by occupational exposure to excessive noise. They cover baseline and annual audiometric testing. They apply to workers, supervisors, the hearing conservation program manager, and Occupational Health.

2 Requirements

2.1 General

Personnel who routinely work in *designated high noise areas* must undergo baseline and annual *audiometric* tests. (Personnel who perform a brief task or job in a designated high noise area are not required to take an audiometric test; however, they must wear hearing protection while they work there.) (See [Hearing Conservation: Hazard Analysis and Control Procedures](#).)

The hearing conservation program manager may also recommend medical surveillance for personnel when a survey indicates a potential over-exposure to *high noise levels*. This recommendation is provided in writing to personnel and their supervisors, usually within the contents of a noise survey report or personal notification memo resulting from personal noise dosimetry.

Supervisors are responsible for enrolling personnel by assigning ESH Course 222ME, Hearing Conservation Medical Exam ([ESH Course 222ME](#)).

Personnel are responsible for participating in the tests. Before tests, personnel must avoid noisy environments (or properly wear hearing protectors) for 14 hours.

[Occupational Health](#) performs all required audiometric tests, at no cost to personnel. Audiometric testing must meet the requirements of [8 CCR 5097 \(c\)](#). Occupational Health

- Administers baseline and annual audiometric tests to personnel identified by the hearing conservation program manager (baseline must be completed before personnel start work)
- Maintains records of audiometric tests of all personnel for the duration of the person's employment
- Notifies personnel when they are overdue for an audiometric test
- Contacts personnel and schedules audiometric tests
- Evaluates the results of the audiometric test and provides them, in writing, directly to personnel tested and their supervisors

- Supplies and fits custom-molded earplugs for personnel who, for medical reasons, cannot use standard, disposable earplugs or earmuffs
- Refers personnel for a clinical audiological evaluation or an otological exam by a specializing physician within 30 days of the detection of a *standard threshold shift* or other abnormal audiometric test result

2.2 Audiometric Testing Equipment

In accordance with [8 CCR 5097 \(f\)](#), the audiometric testing equipment must be

- Checked before each day's use
- Acoustically calibrated at least annually
- Fully calibrated at least every two years

The equipment must be marked with a sticker or tag indicating the most recent calibration date, the type of calibration, and when calibration is due again. Before-use calibrations by Occupational Health Center staff need not be marked on the unit.

Equipment that is broken, inaccurate, or past-due for calibration must be tagged out of service until repaired or recalibrated. The tag should provide the date, the person's name, reason the unit was taken out of service, and the planned disposition of the unit.

Equipment must be properly stored in a secured, clean location, away from light, dust, and other contaminants.

3 Forms

The following forms and systems are required by these requirements:

- None

4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for these requirements:

- Occupational Health maintains paper copies of audiometric test results for the duration of the affected person's employment.
- Occupational Health is responsible for tracking the calibration dates and service records (as needed) of audiometric testing equipment.

5 References

[SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual](#) (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- [Chapter 18, "Hearing Conservation"](#)

- [Hearing Conservation: Hazard Analysis and Control Procedures](#) (SLAC-I-730-0A09C-013).
Describes processes for identifying and evaluating noise hazards and implementing controls
- [Hearing Conservation Program Site](#) (SharePoint)

Other SLAC Documents

- ESH Course 222ME, Hearing Conservation Medical Exam ([ESH Course 222ME](#))
- [SLAC Occupational Health Center](#)

Other Documents

- Title 8, *California Code of Regulations*, “Industrial Relations”, Division 1, “Department of Industrial Relations”, Chapter 3.2, “California Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (Cal/OSHA)”, Subchapter 7, “General Industry Safety Orders”, Group 15, “Occupational Noise”, Article 105, “Control of Noise Exposure” ([8 CCR 5095–5100](#))
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) S3.6, “Specification for Audiometers” ([ANSI S3.6](#))