

Hearing test requirements for NSW workers

Small Mines Roadshow 2024

February to April 2024



Work Health & Safety Regulation 2017 clause 58 audiometric testing

- Commenced on 1 January 2024
- If you employ workers who **frequently use hearing protection** to control noise that exceeds the exposure standard for noise, you will need to provide your workers with regular hearing tests.
- **Baseline hearing test** for new workers completed with **3 months** of commencement,
- **Monitoring hearing test at least every two years** during their employment,
- **More frequent hearing tests** may be required for workers exposed to high, average noise levels throughout their work shift, (e.g., $\geq 100\text{dB(A)}$).
- Record keeping: All reports must be confidential. Workers must receive a copy of reports.

If a worker's hearing loss interferes with the safe performance of their work

PCBU should ensure that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to modify the work environment, including:

- volume control on equipment such as telephones
- acoustically treated meeting areas with low noise and low sound reflections
- supplementary visual warning signals, or
- alternative work for the worker if other measures do not remedy the situation.



Fact sheet: New hearing test requirements for NSW employers and workers

If a threshold shift or tinnitus is reported

The PCBU must **review noise control measures** at the workplace to ensure they remain effective in reducing the risk of further hearing impairment. Actions may include:

- review worker tasks to identify changes that may have caused an increase in noise exposure.
- ensure higher order controls, e.g. **eliminate, isolation, engineering**, are used where reasonably practicable to minimise worker exposure to noise.
- **substitute** ototoxic chemicals for less hazardous chemicals or review workplace controls to ensure they remain effective in eliminating the risk of inhalation, absorption, and ingestion.
- ensure hearing protectors worn by workers are **adequate for the level** of noise exposure
- **retrain** workers to ensure hearing protectors are **fitted and worn correctly**.
- **ensure workers wear** hearing protection consistently throughout their work shift.

Code of practice

SafeWork NSW



Code of practice

Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work

December 2022

This code provides guidance on how to manage the risks associated with hazardous noise in the workplace using the following systematic process:

- Identify hazards
- Assess risks
- Eliminate risks so far as is reasonably practicable
- Control risk
- Review control measures.

Code of practice for managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work



Any questions?

