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Workshop brochure

Conversion to Audiometric Surveillance

2.5-day program

About the workshop

This 2.5-day program provides training in the audiometry requirements of WA's new Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulation 58 (enacted on 1 April 2024). Compared to the long-standing WorkCover WA requirements, the new regulation and key reference documents introduce very different methods for conducting "surveillance" testing and managing results in WA.



Suited to audiometric testers and non-testers

The workshop content is aimed at audiometric testers, health services managers, health and safety personnel and anyone else with an interest in delivering legislation-compliant audiometric services in WA.

We offer two workshop outcomes, depending on background and required outcome:

- 1. *Certificate of Competence (2.5-days).* A pathway for existing WorkCover WA Approved Audiometric Officers (AAO) to achieve compliance with the audiometric surveillance/monitoring protocols specified in the new WHS law and key reference documents. <u>Click here to REGISTER</u>
- 2. **Certificate of Attendance (1.5-days).** Suitable for non-audiometric testers seeking to understand the audiometric surveillance/monitoring protocols specified in the new WHS law and key reference documents. **Click here to REGISTER**

What is audiometric surveillance?

Audiometric surveillance, or monitoring, is the process of conducting periodic hearing tests on noise-exposed workers with the purpose of **identifying changes in workers' hearing over time**.

Work-related hearing "shift" (deterioration) is viewed as an injury or illness. Regulations across Australia, including WA, require companies to regularly monitor hearing and prevent work-related hearing loss.

More about the new audiometry requirements and protocols

From 1 April 2024, all high-noise industries across the WA must comply with Work Health and Safety *regulation 58 Audiometric testing*.

Employers are directed to undertake surveillance testing according to the comprehensive key guidance documents: *Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work* Code of Practice and *Australian Standard AS/NZS1269.4 Auditory assessment*.

Key changes under this new legislation include the introduction of mandatory audiometric testing at least every two years, a lower noise exposure standard, conducting monitoring tests well into the work shift and applying calculations for measuring hearing shift (deterioration); all very different requirements to the long-standing WorkCover WA regulations.

Achieving compliance with the new regulations

- Do you follow the requirements for testing and managing test results under the new regulation?
- Are you able to accurately analyse results and compare with a baseline?
- Do your testing protocols align with the best practice specifications of the new key guidelines?

This workshop provides answers to the key questions and will guide your practice in implementing legislationcompliant changes.

For current WorkCover WA-approved testers, the workshop builds on and "converts" your existing knowledge and skills to achieve competence with WHS regulation 58, the Code of Practice and Australian Standard 1269.4. To achieve the *Certificate of Competence* attendees must successfully complete on day 3: (1) an open book written assessment, and (2) demonstrate competence in best practical skills (including audiometry, otoscopy, audiogram description, audiogram comparison calculations).

Achieving a *Certificate of Competence* will achieve status as a WA Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) "**competent person**", and eligible to conduct regulation 58 hearing tests.

Non-testers will be issued with a *Certificate of Attendance* after attending days 1 and 2 only (no assessments).

Workshop content

Audiometric surveillance basics and terminology	Hearing protection: types, limitations, effectiveness
Noise and other hazards that cause hearing loss	Hands-on audiogram comparison exercises
New audiometry legislation and requirements in WA	Extended Waugh and Macrae criteria
Relevant Australian Standard and Code of Practice	• WorkCover WA vs surveillance: what's the difference?
Principles and aims of measuring "hearing shift"	Revised case history questions
Company requirements following hearing shift	Question/answer and discussion sessions
AS/NZS1269.4 and OSHA hearing shift protocols	Software for comparing audiograms
Latest advice from government (including DEMIRS)	Review of best practice testing techniques

Who would benefit from attending the workshop?

This new workshop is highly relevant to existing testers who seeking to upgrade/convert their skills and knowledge to the new audiometry requirements in WA and achieve status as a DEMIRS "competent person".

The content is also highly relevant for health assessment managers, supervisors and other non-clinicians responsible for planning audiometry services for customers and staff in WA's high-noise industries.

Course presenter

The workshop presenter is Glenn Johnson, Director and Principal Audiologist at The Hearing Company. Glenn has designed and presented audiometry courses around the world and is widely regarded as a dynamic and engaging educator.

The Hearing Company is Australia's largest and most experienced and respected audiometry training and consulting business. Our 2,000+ course graduates are practicing audiometry in organisations ranging from small medical practices through to Australia's largest industrial and resources corporations.

Cost and registration

Click here to REGISTER



Course Presenter: Glenn Johnson, Director and Principal Audiologist

Certificate of Competence: \$1,950.00 ex GST

Certificate of Attendance: \$1,200.00 ex GST

For more information <u>visit our website</u> or contact Course Manager, Lynne: <u>admin@hearingcompany.com.au</u> or 1300 118 222 (select option1)

Supporting audiometry practices with training, equipment and advice