



**RECORDING  
HEARING LOSS  
on OSHA 300**

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**By**

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# Recording Hearing Loss

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- New recording rules beginning January 1, 2003.



All states must use this criteria.



## 1904.10 Recording Criteria - Occupational Hearing Loss

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- If an employee hearing test reveals that the employee has experienced a work-related Standard Threshold Shift (STS) in one or both ears, and the total hearing level in that ear is 25 dB avg. or more above audiometric zero at 2K, 3K, 4k Hz, the loss is recordable.



## Step 1: Has STS with aging occurred?

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- | ■ Age    | Type   | Date    | 2K  | 3K  | 4K  | Hz  |
|----------|--------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ■ 30     | BL     | 8/20/95 | 05  | 05  | 10  |     |
| ■ 37     | Retest | 8/10/02 | 20  | 20  | 25  |     |
| ■ Change |        |         | +15 | +15 | +15 | =45 |
- Then  $45 \text{ less } 8 \text{ (aging)} = 37/3 = 12.3 \text{ avg.}$
  - STS with aging has occurred.



## STS Follow-up Still Required

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- Employee to be notified in writing within 21 days.
- Hearing protection attenuation calculated.
- Fitted or refitted, instructed or re-instructed in care and use of hearing protection.
- Enforcement of wearing hearing prot.



## Step 2. Does current test exceed normal?

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- | ■ Age | Type   | Date    | 2K | 3K | 4K | Hz |
|-------|--------|---------|----|----|----|----|
| ■ 37  | Retest | 8/10/02 | 20 | 20 | 25 |    |
- Thresholds total 65.
  - $65/3=21.67$  avg.
  - Does not meet the 25 dB average loss from audiometric zero criteria for possible recording.



## Step 2. Does current test exceed normal?

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- | ■ Age | Type   | Date    | 2K | 3K | 4K | Hz |
|-------|--------|---------|----|----|----|----|
| ■ 37  | Retest | 8/10/02 | 25 | 30 | 35 |    |
- Thresholds total 90.
  - $90/3=30$  avg.
  - Does meet the 25 dB average loss from audiometric zero criteria.



## Step 3. Does retesting confirm the STS?

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- 30-calendar day retest is allowed. No longer than 30-calendar days are allowed.
- Logging occurs after the 30 day retest.
- If retest confirms STS, have 7 days to record.





## Step 4. Is hearing loss work-related?

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- Work-relatedness determined by physician or “licensed health care professional”.
- Case by case basis.
- No presumption of work-relatedness when workers are exposed to 85 dBA TWA or greater.



## Considerations in Determining Work-relatedness.

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- Prior noise exposure.
- Audiometer calibration records and test environment.
- Investigation or related activities.
- Personal medical conditions.
- Age correction.



## Consideration in Determining Work-relatedness, continued

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- Effectiveness of hearing conservation program.
- Hearing protection wearing, attenuation, fit, insertion and consistent or inconsistent use.



## Step 5. Is the loss persistent?

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- If STS not present in future routine testing, required by noise standard, employer may erase or line out.
- Do not have to maintain documentation of removal due to non-persistency.
- Removal for non-persistency not at discretion of reviewing professional.



## Additional Notes

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- The requirement to check the hearing loss column on the Log has been delayed.
- Construction, agriculture, oil and Gas drilling and servicing, and shipbuilding industries are not required to test under 1910.95, but if they do, then must record.