Welcome to Occupational Hearing Loss Prevention

If you are new to the Hearing Loss Prevention Program world, welcome! Prepare to roll up your sleeves.

An effective and compliant Hearing Loss Prevention Program (HLPP) requires the tireless efforts of numerous professional disciplines (in alphabetical order): Administrative Assistants, Audiologists, Department Managers, Information Technologists, Industrial Hygienists, Human Resource professionals, Nurses, Physicians, Plant Managers, Safety professionals, and not to mention the workers themselves.

CFR 29 1910.95 (The Hearing Conservation Amendment) states that the supervisor of HLPP-related testing activities must be a licensed Audiologist, Otolaryngologist, or "other" qualified physician serving to professionally supervise *audiometric monitoring programs;* as such, their primary duty is to see that audiometric data of noise-exposed workers is collected and interpreted appropriately

Administrative Assistants, Human Resource professionals, Industrial Hygienists, Nurses, Plant Managers, and/or Safety professionals commonly pull double duty as the on-site Hearing Loss Prevention Program Supervisor whose primary responsibility is to supervise HLPP implementation and to maintain program effectiveness. (reference: CAOHC (Council of the Accreditation of Occupational Hearing Conservationists; http://www.caohc.org/professionalsupervisor.html)

Maintaining an effective and compliant Hearing Loss Prevention Program requires continuous supervision, meticulous organization, and consistent *time-sensitive responses* to test outcomes. CFR 29 1910.95 is unique in that full compliance requires specific, detailed follow-up actions in response to certain events in a timely manner. Experienced on-site HLPP supervisors know that it is simply not enough to conduct annual audiometric surveillance only for the sake of having documentation of annual testing on-hand in the event that OSHA calls. Annual audiometric surveillance is but the first step in the annual testing cycle. As you will learn, certain test outcomes (10 dB shifts, potential Recordables, medical referrals) require consistent, time-sensitive follow-up actions; documentation protocols, all of which are detailed in CFR 29 1910.95 and CFR 1904 and of course in T K Group Reports, apply. Furthermore, retest outcomes may require additional follow-up actions (i.e. supplemental training, mandatory use of hearing protection, hearing protector fit checks, refits, etc.)

If you are new to the Hearing Loss Prevention Program world, T K Group is here to support your complete Hearing Loss Prevention Program requirements. We offer the following advice:

1. **Review Reports Immediately**. Do not allow dust to collect on reports without knowing their content.

1781 S. Bell School Rd. | Cherry Valley, IL 61016
Phone: 815.332.3460 | Fax: 815.332.5175
Company Website: **http://www.tkontheweb.com**

2. Recognize Events Requiring Time-Sensitive Actions And Act Accordingly. Avoid (test) scheduling delays; post applicable Recordable events to the OSHA 300 log within the OSHA mandated time interval.

3. Document, Document, Document. Retain *all* records and document *all* HLPP related operations.

4. Remain Engaged. Monitor protector usage and lead by example. Do not allow associates to see their HLPP Supervisor walk through high noise areas without hearing protection properly inserted.

5. Remember That You Are Not Alone! When you work with T K Group, you have access to year-round professional support services. Contact the appropriate staff member when you need support.

Authored by: Robert Williams, Au.D. | Director Audiology | T K Group, Inc.

1781 S. Bell School Rd. | Cherry Valley, IL 61016
Phone: 815.332.3460 | Fax: 815.332.5175
Company Website: http://www.tkontheweb.com