



seamless solutions

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Reduce Recordable Hearing Loss in the Workplace

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (March 2013) —“In 2008, approximately 2 million workers were exposed to noise levels that put them at risk of hearing loss.” -National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

With on-the-job, noise-induced hearing loss a widespread occupational issue, it's easy to see it's a problem that needs attention. Safety managers have long struggled with having to include recordable cases in the OSHA 300 log. It's obvious no one wants to see their employees get hurt, or find that by the time noise-induced hearing loss is recognized, the damage has already been done.

So how can managers find at-risk employees before permanent hearing loss happens?

A recent guidance statement on noise-induced hearing loss from the American College of Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) identifies the early warning signs to look for in audiometric test results. The guidance statement refers to metrics that aren't usually accessed in a hearing conservation program, but can be calculated from available data. In particular, the data includes a 10-dB non-age corrected standard threshold shift (STS) or an 8-dB age-corrected STS. Individuals meeting either of these criteria are at greater risk of a recordable hearing loss in the coming years, and are consequently at risk of permanent hearing impairment.

In addition, the ACOEM guidance statement mentions the importance of finding temporary threshold shifts that could lead to an STS. And while it's not required by OSHA, it's also highly recommended to test at 8k Hz to assist in identifying a noise notch or age-related hearing loss.

Benson Medical Instruments has a full range of hearing conservation solutions that make it easy to spot potential cases of concern. The seamlessly integrated and advanced analytical features of these products allow users to produce lists according to ACOEM protocol and identify standard and temporary threshold shifts with ease to find those people who show an “early warning” shift.

David Mayou, Sales Manager at Benson Medical Instruments, understands his customers' need to find potential problems in the workplace before they become permanent ones. “We're proud that our solutions help safety managers move beyond basic compliance and spend more time

preventing injury. This way, our customers benefit by targeting their resources where they're most effective, making the best use of their time and money.”

Benson Medical Instruments Co. designs and manufactures audiometers, spirometers, and software to manage hearing conservation and occupational spirometry programs for companies. For more information: David Mayou, Sales Manager, Benson Medical Instruments Co., 310 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 5000, Minneapolis, MN 55415 USA (Office) +1 612-827-2222 (Email) sales@bensonmedical.com (Website) www.bensonmedical.com

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