



NIHL Audiogram Calculation Tool

The OHCOW NIHL (Noise-Induced Hearing Loss) Audiogram Calculation Tool was designed to assess values based on the worker's audiogram to clarify if their NIHL meets the minimum requirement for establishing a NIHL claim with the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

The NIHL Audiogram Calculation Tool allows anyone who has had an audiogram conducted, to input their results into the calculator to determine if those calculations fall within the criteria set out in the WSIB policy for NIHL # 16-01-04. *Other factors involved in the determination of eligibility, include but are not limited to, length of time working in a noisy work environment and decibel levels of noise exposures (**continuous exposure to 90 dB (A) of noise for 8 hours per day, for a minimum of 5 years, or the equivalent**), a pattern of loss consistent with noise-induced sensorineural hearing loss and the calculations taken from the audiogram performed closest to retirement and others, as per this policy.*

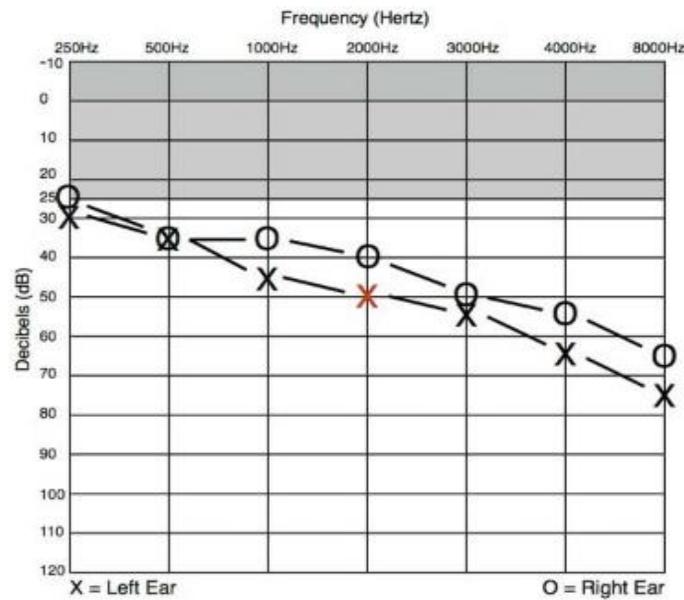
In Ontario, the WSIB uses the average of the hearing loss at 500, 1000, 2000 and 3000 Hz (hertz) (the 4 speech frequencies) to assess entitlement to benefits. The readings from these four (4) frequencies are added together and then divided by 4. An average hearing loss (in both ears) of 25 dB (decibels), along with a specific pattern of loss, allows eligibility for healthcare and rehabilitation benefits (the WSIB accepts a 22.5 dB average). An average hearing loss (in both ears) of 26.25 dB or higher will result in a permanent impairment and the worker will be eligible for a NEL (non-economic loss) award.

As we age, some hearing loss is expected, and the WSIB will factor this in the following manner: When considering eligibility, 0.5 dB per year over the age of 60 will be deducted from the average loss. That is for every year that you are over 60 (at the time of audiogram) the loss will be adjusted by that number. For example, a worker aged 65 has an average loss of 22.5 dB. Since the worker is 65, this number is adjusted by multiplying the number of years over 60 (in this case 5) by 0.5 dB, for an age adjustment of 2.5 dB. Therefore, once adjusted for age (22.5 dB minus 2.5 dB) there is an average loss of 20 dB which does not meet the minimum requirement.

The audiogram closest to retirement (if retired) is the only audiogram that will be considered by the WSIB, therefore calculations using this table should be done using that audiogram.

Continued on next page

Below is a sample audiogram with the values entered into the NIHL Audiogram Calculation Tool:



Right Ear	Hz (sound level)	Left Ear
35	500	35
35	1,000	45
40	2,000	50
50	3,000	55
160	SUM (add results)	185
40	RESIDUAL (divide by 4)	46.25
5	YEARS OVER AGE 60 AT TIME OF AUDIOGRAM (i.e. if you were 65, put 5; if 75, put 15, etc.)	5
2.5	AGE ADJUSTMENT (minus 0.5 dB for every year over the age of 60)	2.5
37.5	dB Loss	43.75

The following is an outline of the table we use in determining eligibility according to WSIB criteria:

Right Ear	Hz (sound level)	Left Ear
	500	
	1,000	
	2,000	
	3,000	
	SUM (add results)	
	RESIDUAL (divide by 4)	
	YEARS OVER AGE 60 AT TIME OF AUDIOGRAM (i.e. if you were 65, put 5; if 75, put 15, etc.)	
	AGE ADJUSTMENT (minus 0.5 dB for every year over the age of 60)	
	dB Loss	