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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).

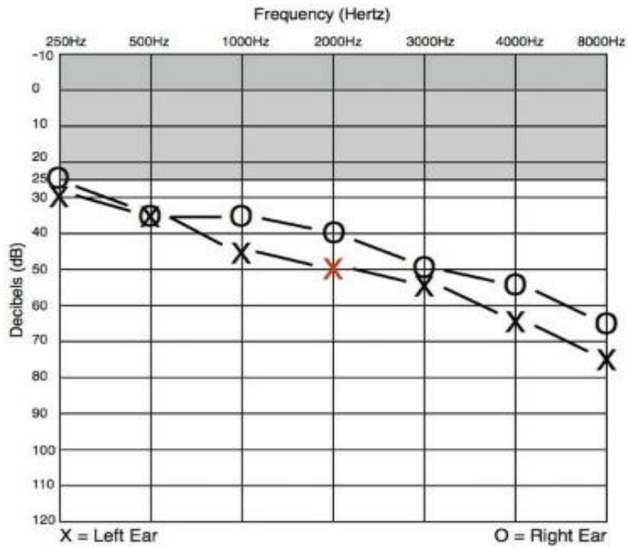
The NIHL Audiogram Calculation Tool allows anyone who has had an audiogram conducted, to input their results into the calculator to determine if those calculations fall within the criteria set out in the WSIB policy for NIHL # 16-01-04. *Other factors involved in the determination of eligibility, include 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 26.25 dB (decibels), along with a specific pattern of loss, allows eligibility for healthcare and rehabilitation benefits. 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. If the worker's average hearing level is below 26.25 dB in either ear, the worker is not considered to have an occupational disease.

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.

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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
37.5	dB Loss	43.75

SAMPLE

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	
0	SUM (add results)	0
0	RESIDUAL (divide by 4)	0
0	dB Loss	0