

Hearing Loss

The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board uses regular occupational medical guidelines including the American Medical Association (AMA) for its decisions about hearing loss injuries.

Hearing Loss

Hearing loss can happen from:

- A work-related injury
- Age
- A non-work injury or illness.

We accept claims for work-related, noise-induced (driven) hearing loss (NIHL), but do not accept claims for age-related or non-work injury hearing loss or illness.

Hearing Tests (Audiograms)

Hearing tests show hearing loss. We suggest that your employees get a hearing test when they first start working, and at regular periods from then on. It is important to do a hearing test when employment ends. Hearing tests should also be done within five years of a worker retiring.

Prevention

Prevention is the best way to avoid hearing loss at work.

- Choose machinery with low noise levels.
- Build in baffling around loud machines.
- Minimize the time workers are exposed to noise.
- Provide the proper hearing protection for the job.
- Work with your employees to teach them about required hearing protection and post teaching materials in your work place.
- Make hearing protection an agenda item at your employee orientation and employee meetings.

To find out the acceptable noise levels for your industry check your Federal and/or Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

This policy supports *Mission: Zero*, and the injury prevention work and training that you are already doing in your work places.

For more information, visit our website at www.wcbsask.com or www.worksafesask.ca.

