

What is SureAudio?

SureAudio is SureHire's central database for Construction Labour Relations—Alberta. All of the CLR's testing history to date, has been inputted into this system. If your company (or current provider of audiometric testing) has records that you would like imputed into SureAudio please contact the CLR. The larger the database, the more effective this program will be.

Workers are tracked from employer to employer during the time period they work for CLR participating employers. This is to ensure that workers will be tested in compliance with OH&S Legislation.

In the event that a worker files a WCB hearing loss claim, SureHire will provide all testing history as required by the workers compensation board. Any worker is entitled to copies of their records upon written request. Records can be sent to the worker's physician or audiologist.

Reporting

Reports of the testing program will be provided to the employer as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The reports provided to the employer will include statistical data to assist in evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. No confidential medical information will be included in these reports.

How to Determine if a Worker Needs to be Tested

SureAudio offers a feature called list scrubbing to determine whether or not a worker needs to be tested.

To find out which workers are eligible for testing, your company can go about this in one of two ways. The first option is to log-on to SureAudio and upload a list of all your active workers and within moments, SureAudio is able to determine which workers are due for testing. SureHire will provide the template that this list must be saved in.

The second option is to email your company's active worker list to SureHire's bookings department. The bookings department will then contact your company with the list of workers that need to be tested. There is no further need for your company to track who is due for testing and when. SureHire's automated system ensures companies are compliant with Occupational Health and Safety's audiometric requirements without taking on undue hardship. When active worker lists are provided to SureHire, companies will be informed as to which workers are due for testing in the upcoming 3 months, and which workers are past due. It is encouraged that employers schedule testing for workers within the 3 month time period that their testing is due.

Because workers are tracked from employer to employer, the instances of redundant testing will be reduced. If a worker transfers between companies participating in this audiometric testing program, upcoming audiometric testing will be based upon their testing history with their previous employers.



Construction Industry Audiometric Testing Program



SureHire Inc.

Toll-Free: 1-866-944-HIRE (4473)

Website: www.surehire.ca

Construction Labour Relations

Toll-Free: 1-800-450-7204

Website: www.clra.org

Audiometric Testing to Meet OH&S Requirements

Alberta Legislation & Requirements

In Alberta you are considered to be noise exposed if you have:

- An average noise exposure of 85dB over an 8 hour shift; or
- An average noise exposure of 84dB over a 10 hour shift

Workers who are noise exposed are required to wear adequate hearing protection and be enrolled in a hearing conservation program which includes baseline and periodic audiometric testing.

Baseline audiometric testing needs to be completed within 6 months of a worker being hired. The next test is required 12 months after the baseline test. Subsequent tests are required every 24 months thereafter.

Periodic audiometric testing is used to assess whether workers have experienced occupational hearing damage while employed at their company. This information can be used as evidence in a WCB case if a hearing loss claim is ever filed.

The responsibility to schedule required testing rests on the employer. Our tracking system allows employers to know which workers need to be tested and when. Additionally, because of the unique needs of CLR participating employers, we have included in the program the ability to accommodate the reality of a transient workforce. Workers are tested in accordance with OH&S legislation. For more information on this tracking system, read the **SureAudio** portion of this pamphlet.

Testing Program Requirements

Construction Labour Relations—Alberta has initiated this audiometric testing program on behalf of its participating employers to address the legislative requirements for the testing of noise exposed workers in a multi-employer environment with a transient workforce. The goals of this program are to:

- Facilitate the ability for employers to be in compliance with legislation
- Provide a mechanism to fairly share in a cost effective testing delivery service
- Maintain a central database to determine when testing is required
- Monitoring audiometric testing in a transient workforce

Companies are eligible to utilize this service given that they are a participating employer in good standing with the CLR. Individual companies do not need to set up separate agreements with SureHire to be eligible to book audiometric testing.







Before your company can use CLR's audiometric testing program, you will be required to fill out and submit a form detailing 1-3 contacts at

your company in regards to this program. If no contact person is given, your company will not be able to utilize the audiometric testing services.

Construction Labour Relations—Alberta will process invoices for the costs that may be incurred for the operation of this program. The program does not cover the cost of the worker's time to take the test, which will remain a cost to the employer at the time the test is taken. There is no additional cost for testing.

Hearing Conservation Program

It should be noted that this program is a testing and central database program, and does not in and of itself address all aspects of a noise management system, such as noise level testing and noise management/reduction in the workplace as required by legislation. These remain the responsibility of the employer. Your program must include the following six components.

-  **Noise Measurement**
Identify if there is noise exposure by having the noise levels of your workplace measured.
-  **Noise Management**
Reduce noise level exposure through engineering, personal protective devices or administrative controls.
-  **Audiometric Testing**
Use testing to monitor the effectiveness of your noise management efforts.
-  **Record Keeping**
Track the success of the program through the gathered data.
-  **Education**
Provide both the worker and employer with information regarding the hazard of noise exposure and how to reduce the risk.
-  **Program Evaluation**
Determine the effectiveness of all aspects of the program in reducing noise induced hearing loss.

The primary focus of this program will be on providing the audiometric testing portion of the program and a method of managing the program with the unique problems associated with a multi-employer industry and a transient workforce.

Audiometric Testing

Audiometric testing is the main component of SureHire's role in your company's hearing conservation program. SureHire has the capability to come on-site to offer testing services anywhere in Alberta. This service is provided directly, without the aid of other testing providers unless absolutely necessary. SureHire operates fully functioning (4 person) mobile audiometric units that have been solely dedicated to testing for CLR participating employers. Current capacity allows for approximately 128 audiometric tests/unit in an 8 hour period.

Booking Process

All bookings for audiometric testing will be taken through SureHire's head office. The bookings department, available at **1-866-944-HIRE** or **tpa@surehire.ca**, is available from 8am—5pm Monday through Friday. If your company requires testing, you can either phone or email a request during regular business hours. Advanced notice is required.

In addition to the booking practises mentioned above, SureHire will send out a notification to the contact person of all CLR participating employers whenever a testing unit will be going on-site. This notification will include the date and site location. If your company would like to have your workers tested during that site visit, you will be able to contact SureHire to arrange testing.

Testing Process

Workers scheduled for testing will be asked to fill out a release form as well as a brief form detailing their noise exposure history prior to testing. After the paperwork is complete the testing process itself is quite short, ranging from 10-15 minutes of actual testing time.

Upon completion, and as a part of your company's education requirements for a noise management program, the worker will receive an audiometric card detailing their audiometric test results and a pamphlet outlining hearing protection in the workplace.

Anyone with abnormal results upon immediate testing will be informed at the time of testing. Their result will be reviewed again when it is entered into SureHire's audiometric database (**SureAudio**) to determine whether there has been an abnormal shift in hearing since their last test. Upon review, individuals with abnormal results will be mailed a follow-up letter with recommendations for further assessment by either a family doctor or audiologist.