

USE CASE

Hearing Conservation Program

Compliance-Driven. Physician-Led. Built for Scale.

Summary

Acuity International provides Hearing Conservation Programs that ensure compliance, prevent noise-induced hearing loss, and maintain operations through audiometry testing, Medical Review Officer (MRO) oversight, automated Standard Threshold Shift (STS) detection, and onsite or mobile delivery under a single-vendor model.

Why it matters: According to the CDC, about **25%** of U.S. workers have experienced hazardous noise exposure; **14% (~22M)** are exposed in a typical year. Among noise-exposed workers, **~53%** report not always wearing hearing protection – elevating risk, recordability, and productivity impacts.

Challenge

Fragmented vendors, employees travel to clinics, and scattered records slow clearances and complicate audits. Because noise hazards are widespread, standards are complex. Employers must:

- Monitor exposure and enroll at/above action levels.
- Establish valid baseline audiograms and perform annual tests.
- Detect and manage STS per OSHA guidelines and determine recordability 1904.10.
- For mining, meet MSHA 30 CFR Part 62 timing and program elements.
- For federal roles, align with agency-specific qualification standards and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian noise-exposed personnel.

Solution

Acuity standardizes hearing conservation across your footprint – combining in clinic or mobile/on-site teams, certified technicians, board-certified physician oversight, and digital workflows in Occupational Hearing Conservation. The medical tracking system, our mLink platform, aligns with OSHA guidelines and automates STS detection, queues RMO review, triggers retests within required windows and centralizes records and dashboards for audit-ready compliance in your industry.

What's included: Integrated On-site Services Aligned with OSHA Guidelines

- **Audiometry:** Baseline and annual pure-tone air-conduction testing booth standards & calibration controls.
- **Automated STS Detection:** Age-adjustment support, RMO review and disposition.
- **Retest Workflows:** Within 30 days when indicated, HPD re-fit, education, and referrals, as needed.
- **Recordability Evaluation:** Document average thresholds for log decisions.
- **Federal Alignment:** Agency-specific medical qualification standards and DoD HCP policy.
- **Hearing Conservation:** Tracked on mLink Platform – scheduling, live status, dashboards, and unified records at the examinee level.

Cadence We Support

- Pre-placement (baseline);
- Periodic (scheduled);
- Post-incident or Exposure;
- Return-to-Work (RTW) with physician clearance as required.

Hearing Conservation Program in Action Scenario

Annual audiogram flags STS in a machinist.

1. Record STS in the mLink platform for auto-detection; route case to RMO for further evaluation and sound localization accuracy (SLA).
2. Schedule retest within 30 days; confirm booth-verified conditions and deliver HPD re-fit education.
3. Retest in same ear for RMO; evaluation based on OSHA 1904.10 recordability; RMO advises on work restrictions/referral.
4. Close-out case: Record document notices, training, and HPD actions in the mLink platform; flag trends to enable targeted controls.

Result

Worker safety is protected; decision is documented; and productivity is preserved through rapid retest and on-site delivery.

**703.261.1110**

Ready for us to back up your team? Call us today!



Benefits



Compliance confidence (OSHA/MSHA, agency standards) with audit-ready documentation



Faster time-to-clearance via mobile/on-site audiometry and same-day digital workflows



Fewer lost hours and improved HPD utilization.



One record of truth across sites/contracts – simplifying reporting and trend analysis

Program Overview

Industry	Typical Surveillance Programs
Manufacturing & Construction	Machinists, welders, fabricators, millwrights, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, laborers. According to the CDC and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), ~18% of manufacturing workers report hearing difficulty; ~20% of noise-exposed tested workers show material impairment.
Mining (MSHA)	Pit/plant operators, blasters, haul truck drivers, maintenance. MSHA Part 62 requires baselines and re-testing in ≤6 months; ≤12 months if using mobile vans.
Energy, Utilities & Field Operations	Line workers, compressor/turbine techs, oilfield crews, water/waste ops; heat/noise dual risks.
Transportation/Aviation Ground	Ramp agents, tug/belt drivers, de-icing/maintenance.
Shipyards/Maritime	Fitters, sandblasters, painters, engine room staff.
Public Safety (Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement)	Apparatus ops, chainsaw/extrication, small-arms range staff. CDC states that in services (incl. public safety), 41–90% of noise-exposed workers report not wearing hearing protection.
Federal Agencies	Services are aligned to agency qualification standards, hearing thresholds, and DoD HCP policy for noise-exposed civilians.

KPI Dashboard (What We Track For You)

- STS rate vs. industry benchmarks (NIOSH dashboards by sector).
- Average time-to-clearance (audiogram → RMO decision → return-to-work).
- Record completeness for audits (baseline + annual + retests + training/HPD).
- Reduction in lost productivity (min/hours avoided via on-site testing + fewer repeat visits).
- Optional: % retests completed ≤30 days, % RMO reviews <24–48 hrs, % HPD re-fits documented.

Technology + Delivery

- **Structured Hearing Conservation Program:** Automated STS detection; age-correction tools; recordability prompts; notices and letters; dashboards and exports.
- **Hearing Conservation-Certified Techs and Physician Oversight:** Evidence-based protocols; RMO reviews each abnormal/STS case with clear disposition.
- **Clinical & Mobile/On-Site Audiometry at Scale:** Simplified and standardized quality testing across large and dispersed workforces; robust and experienced provider network in workforce medical services.
- **Unified Records:** Single examinee records management supporting and agency documentation.

~22M

Exposure & prevalence: workers exposed annually; ~58% of workers' hearing difficulty attributable to workplace noise.

8 - 15%

Sector snapshots: services + public safety report hearing difficulty; 41–90% of noise-exposed report not wearing HPD.4.

\$49 - 67M/yr

Economic signal: NIOSH estimated average U.S. workers' comp claims for OHL.



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