

The Hearing Care Centre

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Noise Management Services and Audiometric Screening

Thank you for your enquiry about hearing screening services. Please find enclosed/attached our brochures on

- Noise Management
- Screening Audiometry
- Custom Hearing Protection



Mobile Screening Vehicle

Initially we recommend a Noise Risk Assessment, which is a simple inexpensive method of assessing your company's compliance with Noise at Work regulations. It will provide you with recommendations on further steps to ensure compliance with current legislation. The assessment may take approximately 2 hours and be carried out by a qualified assessor. The current price is £800. If you have a Health & Safety Officer or Occupational Health Professional who has already performed such a risk assessment you may not need this step.

Once you have a risk assessment identifying a need for screening audiometry (hearing tests), we can offer a range of solutions tailored to the number of tests required. Please note that in 2007 the permitted noise level exposure for employees decreased and so employees previously outside the scope of screening may now need to be screened. We can offer per-head test fees for appointments at local hospitals such as The Chaucer Hospital in Canterbury or QEQM Hospital in Margate and this will be most suitable for small numbers of tests (under 20). The rate is dependant on the exact number of tests and how flexible you can be on dates and times, but £25 to £40 per head is usual. For larger numbers of employees where downtime and travel time is an issue we can offer on-site testing at your premises in Kent. We do not usually travel outside Kent but can recommend other audiologists if you have multiple sites some of which are outside our normal area.

We perform onsite screening in a custom-built vehicle incorporating an IAC testing booth. It can be powered by generator or plugged into a mains outlet so testing can be performed with minimal disruption. We charge a daily rate for this type of testing and this is usually £600 but will vary according to your location, times and which of our staff is needed. Up to 40 tests can be carried out each day. An exact quotation will be provided if you call 0870 300 9262.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) recommends a baseline screening for new employees and that all employees are re-tested every three years. Higher risk employees may need to be tested annually or every two years, or on change of work location.

We are aware that there are other companies offering cheaper screening. However these tend to consist of unqualified staff using a basic audiometer and no sound-proofing, which may render results inadmissible in a court case or insufficient to your insurers. You should ensure that you will be provided with

- Test personnel qualified to BAAT or BSA Certificate in Industrial Audiometry as a minimum standard.
- Test environment should ideally be IAC testing booth. In some cases a quiet room may be adequate, though it is essential that the room should be below 35dBA and this measured with a Soundlevel Meter prior to testing. All equipment must have been calibrated within 12 months.
- Test subjects should be given a questionnaire on their medical history prior to their appointment in order for them to provide accurate information. Their consent to the test and release of the results should be incorporated.
- The screening should include otoscopic examination of each ear by a suitably qualified person to identify any medical conditions which would be a contra-indication to testing or be referable to a General Practitioner.
- The screening results should be presented in a format identifying the audiometric results and the HSE category of each subject as a minimum. This will be suitable for an occupational health professional to make recommendations. If the results are to be sent to a general manager with no occupational health input, we recommend you have a full report including summary of results and recommendations on how best to manage problems.
- We can, where requested, increase the package we offer to include standard letters to employees and their doctors about test results needing further investigation.
- For at-risk employees moving through locations of varying noise levels we can provide noise-monitoring dosimetry to measure noise exposure to help plan work patterns to reduce noise exposure.
- Where existing hearing protection is inadequate or unworn, we can provide competitive prices for custom in-the-ear hearing protection. 80-85dB are the action points and this will normally be the level of noise which would make conversation difficult from 2m away.

The Hearing Care Centre offers comprehensive, medically-approved screening audiometry packages. Due to the changes in Noise at Work legislation, our services are in demand and we advise you to contact us as soon as possible if you require onsite screening. Quotations are available free of charge.