



Australian Government

HLTAUD010 Assess and respond to occupational noise risk

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in HLT Health Release 10.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to determine and respond to occupational noise risk, including the testing of individuals at risk and developing strategies for employers.

This unit applies to workers who have a responsibility for promoting and managing good hearing health in the workplace in an industrial context. This may include audiometrists, allied health assistants supporting audiometrists and audiologists in health care organisations, nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand standards and industry codes of practice.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

N/A

Unit sector(s)

Audiometry

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements define the essential outcomes</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

1. Assess noise hazard risks	1.1 Review features of the workplace that may impact on hearing loss, according to Australian/New Zealand standards 1.2 Assess the level of hearing conservation risk based on established indicators and parameters according to Australian/New Zealand standards 1.3 Identify and access specialist expertise required for workplace noise measurement
2. Develop strategies to manage occupational noise risk and prevent hearing loss	2.1 Select appropriate control measures from the hierarchy of controls to mitigate hearing conservation risks 2.2 Develop and document strategies with recommendations to manage occupational noise risk and prevent noise-induced hearing loss 2.3 Discuss identified strategies with employers 2.4 Provide current information and resources about noise hazard management to organisations
3. Conduct screening	3.1 Prepare for and conduct hearing tests in accordance with Australian/New Zealand standards 3.2 Take basic case history and explain administrative procedures to client 3.3 Obtain client consent and maintain confidentiality of client information 3.4 Use audiometry equipment and instruments according to manufacturer instructions 3.5 Review test results for validity, reliability and accuracy according to organisational procedures 3.6 Identify unreliable test results and repeat testing to achieve reliable results 3.7 Record results according to Australian/New Zealand standards 3.8 Review and interpret results according to Australian/New Zealand standards 3.9 Communicate outcome of tests to client 3.10 Clean and store equipment according to manufacturer instructions and infection control procedures

4. Identify those at risk of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL)	4.1 Conduct monitoring audiometry according to Australian/New Zealand standards 4.2 Assess current test results against previous reference audiometry 4.3 Advise client of identified risk of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) using client-friendly language 4.4 Advise employer of risks identified for the client 4.5 Provide information on strategies that assist in mitigating risk for noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) 4.6 Identify the need for referral and refer client to other health professionals
5. Evaluate and review strategies	5.1 Evaluate success of workplace strategies based on results of testing 5.2 Adjust strategies and recommendations based on evaluation 5.3 Provide updated information to employers about revised strategies and recommendations
6. Educate individuals about workplace hearing risks	6.1 Provide educational information to individual workers on noise induced hearing loss risks (NIHL) 6.2 Provide information and guidance to mitigate noise induced hearing loss risks (NIHL)

Foundation skills

The foundation skills essential to performance of this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

Skill	Description
Reading	- interprets organisational procedures related to assessing and responding to occupational noise risk. - interprets equipment manufacturer instructions.
Writing	- documents test results using approved templates and terminology. - writes concise and clear summaries for referrals and reports. - maintains client records in line with documentation standards.
Oral communication	uses active listening and questioning techniques to discuss occupational noise hazards, risks and risk controls.

	· uses clear, respectful language to explain test procedures and obtain informed consent. · uses active listening and questioning techniques to clarify client expectations and concerns.
Numeracy	· interprets decibel levels, threshold shifts, and exposure limits. · estimates and compares occupational noise exposure to safe levels.
Learning	· retrieves and evaluates information sources. · operates and monitors equipment safely and efficiently. · reflects on own practice and modify approach as needed.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for HLTAUD010 Assess and respond to occupational noise risk

Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- assessed the occupational noise risk in at least 2 workplaces, and for each workplace, developed and communicated strategies to mitigate those risks

Across these workplaces, there must be evidence that candidate has:

- conducted hearing test on at least 10 different clients in an industrial context according to occupational noise management Australian/New Zealand standards
- provided noise induced hearing loss risk information and guidance to at least 2 individual workers

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This includes knowledge of:

- contexts for testing for industrial hearing loss, including:
 - types of client
 - work situations that lead to the need for industrial hearing tests
- national and state/territory legal and ethical considerations relevant to assessing and responding to occupational noise risk, including:
 - duty of care
 - informed consent
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - records management
- work roles, including:
 - responsibilities and limitations
 - boundaries of audiometrist role
 - generalist and specialist functions
 - relationship between audiometry and other health professionals
 - role of employers and other organisations
 - indicators for referral
 - hearing conservation including protectors, environment and noise dosing

- requirements of all sections of Australian/New Zealand standards relating to occupation Noise Management
- sources of information on occupational noise risk and occupation noise management
- hierarchy of controls for managing noise risks
- strategies to mitigate hearing conservation risks
- causes and prevention of noise-induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)
- sources of specialist expertise
- methods and types of industrial hearing and noise assessments:
 - monitoring assessment
 - reference assessments
 - manual and automated
 - noise level measurements

Assessment Conditions

The following conditions must be met for this unit.

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - equipment that meets Australian/New Zealand standards relating to occupation Noise Management
 - appropriate testing environment
 - documentation that meets industry-recognised notation standards
 - organisational procedures relevant to assessing and responding to occupational noise risk
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
 - integration of problem solving activities
 - time constraints for completion of testing
 - provision of services to individuals with varied needs

Assessors must satisfy the current Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) /AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
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HLTAUD003 Assess and respond to occupational noise risk	Not equivalent	Major changes in elements, performance criteria and performance evidence. Knowledge evidence updated. Foundation skills added.
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Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>.