

**INDUSTRIAL HEARING  
TESTING**

55 Cedar St  
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Volume 3

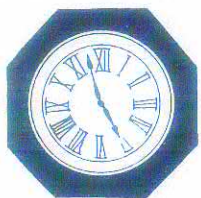
No. 4

**HAVE YOU  
HEARD . . . . .**

**about all of the other  
services available at  
IHT????**

**Hearing Conservation  
Products & Services**

- Noise Surveys
- Customized  
Employee Training  
Sessions
- Hearing Protection
- Audiometer Sales
- Equipment  
Calibration
- Recordkeeping  
Software
- Posters & Support  
Literature
- Audiological  
Referrals

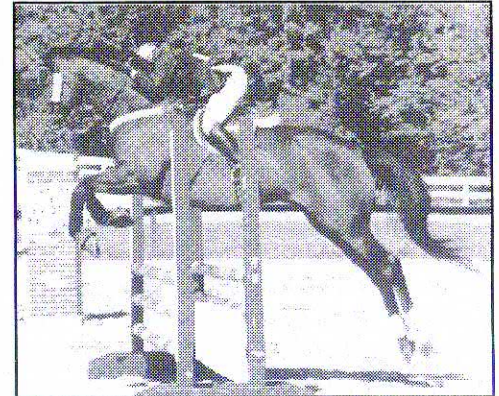


**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Closed weekends  
Tel. (508) 752-4663

**PERSONALLY SPEAKING . . . . .**

I was standing at my “booth” at a recent sales show. A fellow approached me and recognized the “Wavelength” logo on the display table that was full of newsletters (kind of like the one you’re reading now). He told me that seeing camels on the last letter caught his attention. As a result, he decided to become a customer based on what he learned about our company from reading it. This information did not impress my upper management nor did they mention a raise (family is so hard to impress sometimes!). Nonetheless, it presented an opportunity for me (and a great excuse!) to put a picture of another animal on this newsletter. Hopefully it will catch someone else’s attention.



The sales show, by the way, was the very first conference sponsored by the **Safety Council of Western Massachusetts**. They held it in the Springfield area, and the participation of all was enthusiastic. Our company has participated in a tremendous amount of shows this year that seemed so helpful to the attending audiences from the various manufacturing industries. For example, a customer told me that they have been able to be on top of their game by offering the most advanced processes because of what they learned from attending Eastec each year. Call me if you want more details about some of these resources I’ve mentioned.

In the photo this time is one of my prize possessions by the name of “Bermuda One.” I don’t know how the name came to be, I just know I’ve not been there. I actually carry on a “second life” and spend every waking moment that I’m not at work for IHT, at the barn with my other large family of equines! If you call and want to talk about horses, I could probably even disguise it for a little while as a business call . . .

Besides Bermuda, in this issue, we’ve got more ear talk. There seems to be some confusion surrounding the issue of whether or not your company is responsible for **re-testing**, if so, what is the criteria, etc. So I have tried to address two things in the “Re-test or Not?” article. First, I tried to disguise selling re-testing to our clients as subtle advertising. As a great marketer once said to me, **“Advertising is what makes you think you longed all your life for something you’ve never heard of before.”** But quite seriously,

*Continued on page 2*

***The next time you begin to think you are all-powerful,  
try ordering someone else’s dog around.***

it has been said that our clients had no idea that we were and most certainly are available for re-testing at your site. Read that article for details.

Another hot question is always "What do I do with those STS Candidates?" Peruse "STS Blues" for answers. Also, notice that there is an index of past articles that you may request and I will happily forward.

We've added another rig that is now based out of the Albany, New York area. For any of you who may have a sister company that we could help service in that newly expanded turf, let us know!

As always, I like to plaster all those smiling faces in the centerfold for a couple of reasons. The most important one is that our customers know who they're dealing with. By having listed each of our job descriptions perhaps you can get to a particular answer more quickly.

We have some additional services to make you aware of. For our veteran clients who have not had the report delivered in person by Dr. Hengen or someone from our office in a while, we are offering a "refresh-er visit" for a small \$350 fee. You may well benefit from a personal visit to put some excitement back into running your program with some current information.

Speaking of information, we are offering CAOHC courses on a regular basis now (flyer enclosed) all around N.E. For those of you who run an in-house program, you should seriously consider becoming CAOHC certified.

Finally, if there is anything we may help you with in regards to your program, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone. Thank you all for your continued business, and read on! ❖

ANDI HENGEN  
Editor

## TO RE-TEST OR NOT TO RE-TEST?

*That seems to be the question lately. . . . .*

There is often some confusion surrounding who you should include in a re-test group, if anyone, how quickly you have to, if at all, etc. As the Hearing Conservation Program Administrator, you could probably use some information to help sort this out, and help develop a company policy or philosophy about how to handle these sometimes optional situations.

**The possibility for re-test candidates arises when:**

1. The employee has just been reported to you as suffering from a "Standard Threshold Shift" (STS) or Persistent Threshold Shift (see STS Blues for follow-up action for these situations).

2. An employee has suffered an STS substantial enough to be a potential OSHA log recordable.

**The necessity for re-testing is when:**

3. Employees were absent on the day of the annual testing. Just because you had the hearing testing scheduled, and some employees did not report to work that day, this does not excuse the responsible party for providing an annual audiogram and annual training and education to that employee! You must make arrangements to have the annual work-up done no matter.

When weighing out the cost-effectiveness of re-testing, consider your population of testees. If they are to be re-tested for STS reasons, then you must also repeat the training and education portion. If this is not something you feel comfortable doing yourself, OR if you have upwards of four to five employees to cycle through a re-test situation, it probably becomes more cost-effective to have the trailer back on site.

4. If you are going to conduct a return visit, new employees could be cycled through the testing. (With the mobile test van exception, you can wait the year until the trailer stops by again, provided these affected employees wear hearing protection at 85dB).

I would like to make all of our clients aware that as your hearing testing company, we offer re-test visits with the mobile trailers. Prices are already listed for on your current contract under "Return Visit" fees. It is usually a more cost-effective venture to schedule a re-test visit with us rather than sending people off-site.

❖

*Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.*

# GOT THOSE STS BLUES?



Often times the criteria of how to handle an employee with an STS (Standard Threshold Shift) can be confusing. Remember, the definition of an STS is that this employee has suffered too much change or deterioration in their hearing too quickly. Therefore, we want to single these individuals out somewhat, and draw some attention to the situation to try and prevent further damage. For a successful Hearing Conservation Program, you should get to the bottom of this quickly. Look for trends in departments or personalities of your employees. Often times, one supervisor may be creating damaging effects on your program by not exemplifying proper protection on themselves!

No matter which OSHA regulations your state follows (some state regulations are more stringent than federal regulations), all employers from ALL states are presently required to conduct certain minimum, mandatory follow-up procedures when an STS occurs.

First, let us review how to calculate an STS. An STS is identified by an average change of 10dB over the

2k, 3k and 4k frequencies. In the report that you receive from us, there is a column calculated per ear, per test, labeled STS. This represents the average. When comparing the STS column, we compare the current test STS average back to the original baseline average. When the spread between the two is ten or more, this is flagged as an STS. (Also note, that this average may be adjusted slightly because of age correction application.)

When an STS occurs you need to follow up:

- a. A re-test may be performed within 30 days to determine if the STS is persistent. (See article "To Re-test . . ." for further discussion.)
- b. All employees must be notified in writing within 21 days of the determination of the STS. (The copy of the letter accompanying the report to our clients is this notification.)
- c. Fit or refit and train or retrain the worker in hearing protection use and care (We can do this during a return visit).
- d. Have the audiogram reviewed by an appropriate authority, i.e. audiologist, doctor, otolaryngologist, etc. (That's part of what we are doing for our clients already.)
- e. Determine if this audiogram will become the new baseline. (We are also attending to this for our clients).
- f. Refer the employee for further evaluation if hearing protection is causing a medical disorder.

**I don't want to bore anyone with the same subjects every newsletter, so if you've missed something previously printed, please call for a copy.**

## INDEX OF ARTICLES PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:

### **NO. 1-1995**

- OSHA 200 Log - "Which Hearing Losses are Recordable?"
- "Do You Know What Your Noise Levels Are?"

### **NO. 2 - 1995**

- "When Do You Need To Implement Hearing Protection?"
- Honor Roll - 10 Year+ HCP's
- New York Nuisance Noise Law
- Free Hearing Conservation Speaker Available For Your Professional Group Meetings.

### **VOL. 2 • NO. 3 - 1996**

- Boston Federal Safety & Health Council Info.
- OSHA VPP (Voluntary Protection Programs)
- How to give a whale an audiogram

## **Proposed Changes to Recording Hearing Loss**

OSHA requested comments last February concerning appropriate criteria for recording occupational hearing loss on the OSHA Form 300. The **proposed** recordability criterion is a confirmed work-related average threshold shift of 15dB at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz in one or both ears as measured from the worker's **original** baseline audiogram. The debate continues regarding the appropriateness of this proposed guideline. While the powers that be continue to slug this one out, the 25dB Recordable Shift (all Federal states) and the 10dB STS Recordable Shift (WA, CA, MI, TN, NC, SC) remain the current recordable criteria. Call our office if you have further questions.



## OUR LATEST FLEET SHOT!

Do you have any other locations or sister companies that need a Hearing Conservation Program?  
 Please pass this newsletter along to any colleagues who may benefit from our services.  
 Thank you all for your kind referrals!

*Please forward to Hearing Conservation Program Administrator*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**INDUSTRIAL HEARING TESTING**  
 A Division of IJHA, Inc.  
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 Worcester, MA 01609

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