

What is a Hearing Conservation Program?

An effective Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) strives to prevent initial occupational hearing loss as well as preserve and protect remaining hearing. HCPs will also, equip employees with knowledge so that they may protect themselves from environmental and recreational causes of hearing loss. CAOHC offers a wide range of services and programs designed to promote and support quality hearing conservation programs.

Value of Certification

CAOHC certification enhances the contribution of the entire occupational hearing conservation team and provides the credential holder with:

- nationally recognized credentials
- standards
- up-to-date information about the field
- comprehensive training
- on-going access to program resources
- timely updates and valuable references

The Mark of Professionalism

The need for qualified occupational hearing conservation (OHC) professionals has never been greater. As concerns about workplace and community health and safety grow, the demand for qualified professionals to develop and maintain occupational hearing programs increases as well. The work of the OHC becomes even more important as the legal ramifications surrounding occupational hearing loss continue to increase.

By including a CAOHC-certified OHC on your hearing conservation team, your organization will benefit from the value, quality and excellence that only CAOHC certification can provide.

What is CAOHC?

Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC)

CAOHC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the conservation of hearing by enhancing the quality of occupational hearing programs. CAOHC has been recognized as a leader in the establishment of high-quality standards and the credentialing of occupational hearing conservation professionals since its inception in 1973. The Council is comprised of representatives from the following component professional organizations (CPO):

- American Academy of Audiology (AAA)
- American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
- American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
- American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Institute of Noise Control Engineering of the United States of America (INCE/USA)
- Military Audiology Association (MAA)



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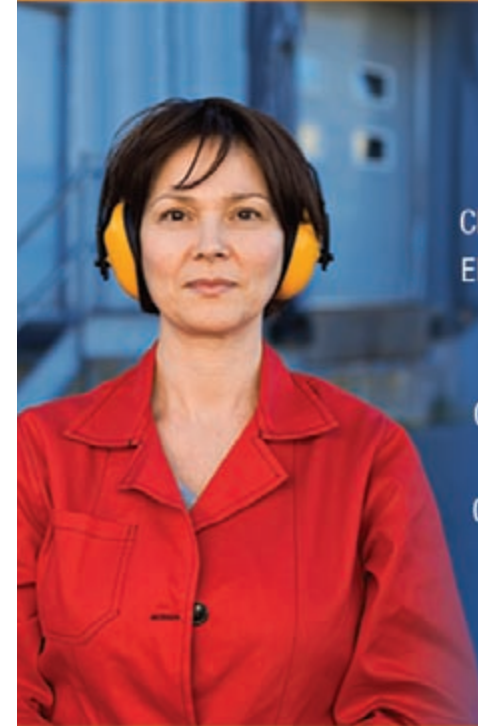
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Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation

Quality, Value & Professionalism



PROVIDING
CREDENTIALING,
EDUCATION AND
INFORMATION
RELATED TO
OCCUPATIONAL
HEARING
CONSERVATION
PROGRAMS.

There is no equal!

What does CAOHC do?

The Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) provides education, information and guidance regarding the successful implementation of occupational hearing conservation programs to the hearing conservation industry and those serving the industry. In addition, CAOHC provides credentialing opportunities for Course Directors (CD) and Professional Supervisors (PS) to train and supervise Occupational Hearing Conservationists (OHCs) to implement and maintain successful hearing conservation programs.

Training/Credentialing

■ Course Directors (CD)

The CD is responsible for:

- planning and conducting training courses for OHCs
- ensuring that specific CAOHC guidelines are followed when presenting OHC workshop materials
- assessing the eligibility of the OHCs for certification through an exam and practicum
- assuring the competence and qualifications of additional OHC workshop faculty members

CAOHC offers several courses each year to train and certify new course directors and recertify existing course directors. *CD certification lasts five years.*

■ Certified Professional Supervisors (CPS/A)

The Professional Supervisor is responsible for:

- establishing policies for the audiometric testing program
- supervising the OHC's audiometric testing activities
- ensuring that audiograms for monitoring noise-exposed workers are being correctly performed and interpreted
- determining work-relatedness of an employee's hearing loss

A Professional Supervisor of the audiometric component of the hearing conservation program must be an audiologist, otolaryngologist, or other physician.

CAOHC offers several courses per year to train Professional Supervisors; this training can also lead to certification if so desired.

■ Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist (COHC)

A COHC is directed by the Professional Supervisor and may be responsible for:

- conducting employee audiometric testing, including baseline, annual testing and retesting
- educating, training and counseling employees in prevention of noise induced hearing loss
- selecting, fitting, and supervising the effective use of hearing protection devices
- facilitating noise surveys

CAOHC Course Directors offer several workshops annually to prepare occupational hearing conservationists for certification and re-certification. Course listings can be found on the CAOHC website at www.caohc.org. *OHC certification lasts five years.*

What resources does CAOHC provide?

■ Hearing Conservation Manual, 4th edition

The Hearing Conservation Manual is one of CAOHC's most important contributions to the hearing conservation industry. Written by Alice H. Suter, PhD and edited by Elliot Berger, MS; two widely respected leaders in the field of occupational hearing conservation, the manual is designed to be a teaching tool for Course Directors and a reference guide for Occupational Health Conservationists. The 4th edition covers the following topics:

- Role of the OHC
- Effects of noise and the conservation of hearing
- Anatomy and physiology of the human ear
- Hearing disorders
- Introduction to sound
- Standards and regulations
- Audiometric testing
- Noise measurement & control
- Training & motivation
- Record keeping and program evaluation

■ OHC Curriculum Power Point® Slide Sets

Power point slide sets are available for CAOHC Certified Course Directors as a tool to directly support a portion of an OHC certification workshop. Slide sets contain a ready-to-use presentation along with speaker notes. The following slide sets are available for purchase:

- Noise Exposure Evaluation and Noise Control
- Physics of Sound
- Regulations and Compensation
- Introduction to Hearing Conservation
- Role of the OHC
- Training, Education and Motivation of Noise-Exposed Personnel

■ Anatomy & Physiology and Diseases of the Ear

This presentation is designed to supplement the Anatomy & Physiology portion of the OHC workshop. The curriculum packet includes the video and teaching resources which provide an overview of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the ear. *(available in DVD and VHS formats)*

■ UPDATE Newsletter

The UPDATE newsletter, CAOHC's print publication, is published three times per year. UPDATE provides timely articles on occupational hearing conservation related topics i.e. regulations, research and workplace challenges. Although UPDATE is offered for no charge to CAOHC credential holders, non-credentialed personnel can subscribe for a nominal fee. See www.caohc.org for further details.

■ Website

The CAOHC website offers an array of resources including but not limited to; archived issues of UPDATE, information on current regulations, teaching tools for Course Directors, and links to related associations and their position papers. For more of what CAOHC has to offer go to www.caohc.org.



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