

## NEW TIMELINE:

With this edition of THE UPDATE newsletter, we have transitioned to the new timeline; A shorter version, but more frequent publications. Last month we introduced easy-to-use links that help navigate through articles and let you click on highlighted product links making reading more interactive. Large summary statements now highlight important points to keep readers engaged; and as always, topics from experienced professionals help readers implement best practices in Hearing Conservation. With this edition, we have moved to a shorter version in order to publish more frequently and keep readers informed with the most current updates possible.

## NEW VIDEO COMING SOON

Stay tuned as final edits and approvals are made for the new **Workplace Noise: Measurement and Controls** video. This video is the work of subject matter experts. It will provide Course Directors a low cost, easy-to-use option for their faculty requirement in teaching noise measurement and physics of sound. It will also provide safety professionals with an easy way to educate their workforce, managers and new safety professionals. This video resource has a variety of other applications and hearing conservation professionals are excited about the upcoming availability. Watch for updates as we roll out this latest tool in upcoming months.

A special thanks to Brent Charlton and CAOHC Noise Committee members for all their hard work in making this video come to fruition.

## Helping Make Progress in Hearing Conservation

DESK REFERENCE:

STUDY GUIDE:

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS:

ONLINE TRAINING:

VIDEOS:

- **(Coming soon!)** Workplace Noise: Measurement and Controls



## The future of Hearing Conservation

*Submitted by: Robert Dietz*

During the 1980's, audiometer manufacturers began embracing microprocessor technology. Since then, technological innovation has introduced smart phones, tablets, and the mobile internet which has led to commercially available tablet audiometers. They are advertised as "easy-to-use audiometer(s) designed for non-Audiologists to conduct automated diagnostic hearing testing outside of a "sound booth." Manufacturers of these devices claim that they are clinically validated, ANSI and ISO compliant, NOAH Certified, HIPAA compliant and cost effective. So, how do these tablets and apps compare with conventional hearing conservation testing systems using microprocessor audiometers, electro-acoustic simulators and noise attenuating sound booths? Are they ready to be embraced by hearing conservation professionals?

**Tablet [audiometers] are inexpensive, lightweight, portable and widely-available devices.**

### Tablet Audiometers

Tablet audiometers pair tablets such as the Apple iPad with a proprietary audiometer application(app). Tablets are inexpensive, lightweight, portable and widely-available devices. Their simplicity of

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**COMING SOON!**

## WORKPLACE NOISE:

MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL

Training Video

**Cont'd. from previous page —The future of Hearing Conservation..**

initial setup, low cost, widespread availability and popularity suggests that they offer a viable alternative to microprocessor audiometers and hearing booths currently found in hearing conservation testing environments.

**Traditional Audiometers**

Traditional audiometers meet the criteria of a medical diagnostic device. With an 8-10-15 year lifecycle, audiometers are stable, can be reset to factory specifications, can be enhanced with firmware updates and can interface with many occupational health management programs. The audiometer, handswitch and headset are checked daily - most often by using an electro-acoustic simulator. OSHA annual and exhaustive calibrations are performed using more sophisticated calibration instruments.

The Food and Drug Administration defines an audiometer as an “electroacoustic device that produces controlled levels of test tones and signals intended for use in conducting diagnostic hearing evaluations

**Are tablets designed to be operated as medical devices?**

and assisting in the diagnosis of possible otologic disorders” and it is classified as a Class II device. Are tablets designed to be operated as medical devices?

[Click here](#) for full article, biography and references.

*Opinions expressed in the UPDATE newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official CAOHC policy.*

## Leadership

**The CAOHC leadership otherwise known as the Council consists of two representatives from each of the following Component Professional Organizations (CPOs).**

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Bryan Topp, RN MSN/MPH COHN-S COHC
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