Other Services include

- Respirator fitment testing .
- Training in PPE product usage & maintenance.
- Conduct Safety Failure Modes & Effects Analysis reports for Task related Risks.
- Develop JHA's & SOP's for work tasks.
- Auditing of safety & environmental systems for internal compliance.
- Injury reduction evaluations including process improvements.
- Environmental waste reduction reviews & improvements strategies.
- Waste measuring system to achieve corporate & community leadership to fulfil environmental responsibilities.

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NEWTON SAFETY & CONSULTING SERVICES

Specialist in the 3M EARFit Validation system for Ear Plug fitment using the latest technology available to produce a test that will educate & ensure appropriate compliance in the wearing of PPE & reduce industrial hearing loss claims within the Manufacturing, Food Processing & Building sectors.

NEWTON SAFETY & CONSULTING SERVICES

Hearing Protection Validation Testing & Training.

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Fit Testing

Individual fit testing of Hearing Protection Devices (HPD's) serves many purposes in a hearing conservation program but, first and foremost, it is a tool to train and motivate employees to wear their hearing protectors. A common shortcoming in hearing conservation programs (HCPs) is lack of training; even when training is attempted, lack of ability to demonstrate that the training has accomplished its goals presents a problem. With a quick and accurate fit-testing system like E-A-RFit, validation system the hearing conservationist has a valuable tool to select the proper hearing protector in terms of fit, and then to work with the employee to make sure he or she has the knowledge and skill to repeatedly insert the product correctly. In turn, this helps motivate the employee, since they come to believe in the efficacy of their own behaviour, ie, it is worth the effort to fit the product properly.

Training & Fitment

Beyond correct fitting, the hearing conservationist may wish to assign HPDs based on noise exposure levels and/or the need to communicate clearly. Without individual fit test data, this matching of HPD to noise exposure/communication scenario is a folly. With the reliable octave-band attenuation and PAR, such HPD matching is now feasible and reasonable.

When employees experience a significant threshold shift (STS), one of the follow-up actions is to refit and retrain employees in the use of their HPDs and to provide more protective devices if needed. Now this can be done with a degree of reliability to determine if in fact employees need this retraining, to assess the protection they can obtain and whether more is needed.

Companies are also often concerned if they're meeting regulatory requirements for adequate protection. The noise regulations direct them to meet certain noise exposure criteria - fit testing means they can demonstrate that a product and an individual are achieving sufficient attenuation to meet the requirements of the regulations.

Documentation

A final application of fit testing is for documentation for legal purposes. The concept of documenting training and validating that an employee was able to demonstrate correct and adequate use of a hearing protector would likely be valuable evidence in workers compensation proceedings.

For over a quarter century since the advent of modern hearing conservation regulations, we have been saddled with the knowledge that many hearing conservation programs are ineffective. Too often this is due to the simple fact that the key component of those programs, the object between the employee and a hazardous noise exposure, namely the hearing protector, is not doing its job. Worn correctly and consistently, HPDs can prevent noise-induced hearing loss in virtually all cases. A giant step in the resolution of this problem is individual fit testing, which represents the next step forward in hearing conservation. It is not a panacea but, applied judiciously and consistently in one's overall hearing conservation efforts, the utility of such a tool is undeniable. As its use becomes more widespread, it is quite possible that such testing may become the standard for judging effective hearing conservation programs.