

**WAC 296-817-50025 Make sure third-party hearing loss prevention programs meet the following requirements.**

**Important:**

Third-party hearing loss prevention programs are intended:

(1) For short-term employees hired or assigned to duties having noise exposures **for less than one year**; and

(2) **For seasonal employees.**

However, other employees may be included as long as you meet all requirements for hearing loss follow-ups and recordkeeping.

(1) You must make sure that the third-party program is:

(a) Equivalent to an employer program as required by this chapter; and

(b) Uses audiometric testing to evaluate hearing loss.

(2) You must make sure a licensed or certified audiologist, otolaryngologist, or other qualified physician administers the third-party program.

(3) You must make sure the third-party program has written procedures for:

(a) Communicating with participating employers of program requirements;

(b) Follow-up procedures for detected hearing loss;

(c) Annual review of participating employer programs.

(4) You must make sure the following program elements are corrected by you or the third-party program when deficiencies are found:

(a) Noise exposures;

(b) Hearing protection;

(c) Employee training;

(d) Noise controls.

(5) You must obtain a review of your hearing loss prevention program at least once per year, conducted by the third-party program administrator or their representative, in order to:

(a) Identify any tasks needing a revised selection of hearing protection; and

(b) Provide an overall assessment of the employers' hearing loss prevention activities.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050. WSR 15-23-086, § 296-817-50025, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/18/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 03-11-060, § 296-817-50025, filed 5/19/03, effective 8/1/03.]