



HEARING TESTING: 5 Tips to Select the Right Equipment

What to look for when choosing an audiometer for occupational hearing testing

Choosing the right audiometer can transform the way occupational hearing testing programs are managed. Tablet-based audiometers optimized for boothless testing allow businesses to bring testing in-house and eliminate the complications caused by outsourcing. The right solution will enable your business to run a hearing testing program more conveniently and reduce disruptions to regular business operations. Tablet-based audiometers have also been known to help improve OSHA compliance through greater employee participation.

Here are five considerations to help guide you through what to consider when looking for a tablet-based solution.

1. OSHA & ANSI Compliance

The tablet-based audiometer you choose needs to meet the OSHA requirements of an ANSI-compliant audiometer. While OSHA compliance remains the responsibility of the business, the most trusted solution providers will be forthcoming about how their products meet the relevant sections of OSHA's Occupational Safety and Health Standards. They should be able to demonstrate how they report on standard threshold shifts, what tests they perform, what ANSI specifications they meet, how the equipment is calibrated, and how ambient sound levels are monitored.

2. Continuous Noise Monitoring

OSHA requirements stipulate that a single ambient noise check is required at the beginning of the testing day to ensure your boothless testing is compliant; however, conditions can change throughout the day. Continuous noise monitoring ensures the accuracy of your test results, reducing retests and unnecessary referrals. The solution you choose should not only monitor the ambient noise but also notify the test administrator and pause testing when the environment is too loud so you can be confident in your testing results.

3. Easy to Use and Employee Friendly

Look for an audiometer that combines automated testing with user-focused design. Employee-friendly features, such as self-administration or assisted testing modes, can result in a more pleasant experience for employees. And any time you can keep them out of the tight confines of a sound booth will be well received. These usability and design features help improve employee buy-in, leading to higher participation rates and supporting your overall compliance.

4. Clear and Secure Data Management

If you come across a tablet-based audiometer that doesn't come with a data management portal, consider looking elsewhere. You will want to look for a solution where employee and test data are stored, analyzed, and reported in a secure and user-friendly portal.

A web-based data management portal makes it possible to securely manage program data. Audiometric results should be encrypted and then automatically uploaded to the data management portal whenever devices are connected to a secure network. The portal must be HIPAA-compliant, and it is strongly recommended to choose a solution developed with an ISO 27001 framework, the global standard for maintaining an Information Security Management System.

Lastly, the portal should enable you to make data-driven decisions with automated reporting and at-a-glance compliance and testing metrics. If it does not, the risk of tests or retests being missed increases, creating compliance obstacles.



5. Choosing The Right Partner

Selecting a tablet-based audiometric solution is about more than just the technology itself. A solution's full potential is only realized when combined with a reliable partner who will work with you to build a successful and compliant testing program.

When choosing an audiometric solution, look for a partner who has experience supplying tablet-based audiometry solutions to companies of all sizes and who can offer a host of additional services — from onboarding to training, proactive calibration services and even mobile device management — as needed.

Concluding Thoughts

Transitioning to a tablet-based audiometer for your occupational hearing testing program is a strategic move to streamline your processes, enhance compliance, alleviate stress for your team, and even reduce costs. Choosing the right partner to support your journey is just as crucial as selecting the right device. Together, these elements empower your business to prioritize hearing health in a way that is efficient, effective, and tailored to your unique needs.

Learn more about how you can transform your occupational hearing testing program with SHOEBOX's award-winning, tablet-based, boothless audiometer.

Visit www.shoebox.md or email us at salesoccupationalhealth@shoebox.md to take the first step.

