

August 8, 2000

Mike Fairchild, MS, JD, CCCA-Audiology
Michael Fairchild & Associates Hearing Conservation
21785 Tualatin Valley Hwy, Suite Q
Aloha, OR 97006-1253

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Thank you for your letter of July 7, 2000 discussing the use of presbycusis charts for employees who sustain an OSHA recordable hearing loss.

We have decided that it is **acceptable to use the presbycusis charts (age correction charts) when determining what cases should be recorded on the OSHA 200 log.**

Therefore, the new criteria for recording hearing loss is that work related shifts in hearing with an average of 25dB or more at 2000, 3000 and 4000 Hz, from the original baseline in either ear must be recorded. The age correction charts may be used to calculate the average. Hearing loss is recorded as an illness unless it occurs from an instantaneous exposure such as an explosion in which case it is an injury. The age correction charts can be found in the federal noise exposure rule at CFR 1910.95. You may access their website at www.osha.gov.

This change in policy applies only to recordability. The criteria for defining a standard threshold shift remains unchanged.

Attached is a copy of the memorandum which clarifies the requirements for recording occupational hearing loss.

I appreciate your time and suggestions. If you have any questions please call Sharon Dey at (503) 378-3272.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster
Manager of Standards and Technical Resources
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division