



## **INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

### **Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

August 4, 2000  
(Revised February 23, 2005)

**TO:** All OR-OSHA  
**FROM:** Marilyn K. Schuster, Standards and Technical Resources Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Hearing Loss and OSHA 300 log

**Presbycusis charts can not be used to determine if a standard threshold shift has occurred as defined by the rule, §1910.95 Occupation Noise Exposure.**

[http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division\\_2/1910.95.pdf](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division_2/1910.95.pdf)

In the early 1990's OR-OSHA adopted the Federal Noise standard with a few exceptions. One exception was not allowing the use of presbycusis charts (age correction charts) when evaluating an employee's yearly hearing test to determine if a standard threshold shift (SRS) occurred.

OR-OSHA took this conservative approach for protecting employees from hearing loss. If an audiogram is age corrected, the time required for a significant threshold shift to be noted will be prolonged and the identification of a worker with a significant threshold shift delayed. The practice of not using the charts is supported by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

**Presbycusis charts can be used when determining if a case is recordable on the OSHA 300 log as defined by 437-001-0700, Recordkeeping and Reporting.**

[http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division\\_1/div1-0700-recordandreport.pdf](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/rules/division_1/div1-0700-recordandreport.pdf)

The two main criteria used to determine recordability is a standard threshold shift **and** 25 decibels (dB) above audiometric zero (averaged at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz). See Appendix A for age correction charts and calculation examples. Record the hearing loss in the separate hearing loss column on the OSHA 300 log beginning in the 2004 calendar year.

The rationale for using presbycusis charts for logging hearing loss is that the level of employee protection is not affected; hearing conservation rule requirements are still in place.