



Audiologist Review: Test Rejections

A frequent question posed to T K Group's audiological staff is "Why did the reviewing audiologist "reject" the baseline test for John Doe?"

Pursuant to our customary and professional review of all data processed, the reviewing audiologist will reject a baseline in cases where it is apparent that a (baseline) test collected by a previous vendor was invalid or in cases where proof of a poor test is evident as demonstrated by later tests.

Invalid Test Rejection

Occasionally, T K Group receives historical data collected by previous vendors whereby one or multiple test frequencies necessary for OSHA related analysis was omitted (not tested). The most frequent test frequency omission is the 3000 Hz test frequency. Most often, the 3000 Hz omission occurs when employees are tested by personnel at clinics who are not aware of OSHA testing protocols.

"Poor" Test Rejection

More often, tests are rejected when a "poor" (baseline) test is apparent. Reasons for poor baseline tests include: poor vendor testing technique, excessive noise, acute ear related pathology at time of testing, inadequate test instructions, or examinee variables (test variability inherent with audiometric testing, waning attention span and/or interest).

Make no mistake about it. Audiologists at T K Group have two primary objectives:

1. To protect employees against sustaining noise-induced hearing loss (occupationally related or not).

If "poor" baselines similar to that demonstrated above are allowed to remain in annual test comparisons, early identification of noise induced hearing loss may be significantly delayed. Hence, this type of baseline rejection must occur.

2. To identify hearing loss patterns consistent with potential underlying ear related pathology and make the appropriate medical referral.

Failure to reject "poor" baselines may delay identification of acute, chronic, and/or emergent ear related pathologies.



When tests are rejected, the rejected test remains in the database; however, the test is no longer used in annual test comparisons.

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