3M Science. Applied to Life.™

Why it's time for fit testing.

Evidence suggests that hearing protection fit testing can improve the outcomes of hearing conservation programs. Since 2008, the US OSHA/NIOSH/NHCA Alliance has recognized fit testing as a best practice. Now, the first ever fit-test standard sets the bar for fit-test systems. 3M's award-winning E-A-Rfit™ Dual Ear Validation system complies with this standard. With EARfit, you can fit test with confidence.

Over 22 million US workers are exposed to hazardous noise exceeding 85 dBA[1]

Over 27 million Americans live with noise-induced hearing loss[1]

Fit testing contributed to a **decline** in hearing shift rates from **5.5% to 1.3%** in one Australian aluminum industry study[2]

Fit testing can show **improvement in personal attenuation ratings (PAR),** now and over time[3]

What ANSI/ASA S12.71-2018 means for you.

The new ANSI/ASA S12.71-2018 standard provides performance criteria for fit-test systems. It specifies key information that manufacturers must tell customers, making it easier to compare systems.

Fit testing hearing protection can help you:

Identify employees who are unable to properly fit their hearing protection

Verify that your hearing protection devices yield adequate protection

Educate employees about protecting themselves from noise-induced hearing loss[4]

01 Calibration/ Verification Procedure

02 Maximum Allowable Ambient Sound

03 Maximum Sound Exposure Caused by the Test Signal

04 Results Comparable to Established "REAT" Lab Test Method

05 Range of Valid Attenuation Measurements

06 PAR Uncertainty

ANSI/ASA S12.71-2018 Performance Criteria for Fit-Test Systems

Want to Know 10 Questions to Ask Before You Buy a Fit-Test System?

DOWNLOAD our Hearing Protection Fit-Testing eBook to find out.

1 *Hearing Protector Attenuation and Noise Exposure Among Metal Manufacturing Workers, Ear and Hearing: May/June 2019 - Volume 40 - Issue 3 - p 680–689.*
2 *A. M. Donoghue, N. Frisch, C. Dixon-Ernst, B. J. Chesson, M. R. Cullen, Hearing conservation in the primary aluminium industry, Occupational Medicine, Volume 66, Issue 3, April 2016, Pages 208–214, https://doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqv168.*
3 *Wei Gong, Xin Liu, Yufei Liu & Ling Li (2019). Evaluating the effect of training along with fit testing on foam earplug users in four factories in China, International Journal of Audiology, 58:5, 269-277, DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2018.1563307.*
4 *Murphy, W.J. Comparing personal attenuation ratings for hearing protector fit-test systems. CAOHC Update. 2013;25(3):6–8.*