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Risk Reduction Program Reviews

Each fiscal year, your district's risk reduction programs are reviewed for compliance and best-practice standards. We recently revised our questions and point values for our annual program reviews to explain better why we developed these reviews for our Trust members. These programs were developed as a risk-reduction platform that helps member districts reduce risk exposure, reduce on-the-job injuries, and meet compliance requirements. These areas include safety committees, hearing protection audiograms, physical ability evaluation, return-to-work, indoor air quality, and science lab safety.

Each program has an annual or biennial (every other year) program review to inform our district partners how well they are doing and what we can do together to improve their results and reduce overall risk. We believe it is important to let our districts know when they are and are not meeting compliance standards and best practices for these programs because they're in everyone's best interest. Many programs are fully funded and managed by the Trust to reduce costs and barriers to implementation.

The following program questions briefly explain their importance and the questions/point values for each question. We have also outlined the compliance standards and best practices for each question to inform our members better. We appreciate your continued participation and partnership. Trust programs and associated programs are part of a risk management platform focused on areas where our district members can reduce risk exposure, decrease on-the-job injuries, and contain related costs. The primary focus areas include Safety Committees, Onsite Audiograms, Physical Ability Evaluations, Science Laboratory Safety, Indoor Air Quality, and Return-to-Work.

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HEARING CONSERVATION (AUDIOGRAMS) PROGRAM REVIEW

A key component of your Hearing Conservation Program is audiometric testing. Regularly scheduled audiometric testing identifies employees who are at risk of significant hearing loss by detecting changes to their hearing threshold over time. Audiometric testing and training are required annually for employees who are included in your hearing conservation program. To ensure compliance and to assist our districts in developing an effective audiogram program, we conduct an annual Hearing Conservation Program. The purpose of this program review is to guide our member districts to maintain a safe environment for their employees and to reduce injuries related to hearing loss.

Onsite audiograms are a value-added benefit of membership with the Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust and are provided at **no cost** to the district.

Below are the current Hearing Conservation (Audiograms) Program Review questions:

Hearing Conservation (Audiograms) Program Questions	Points
1. Does the District participate in the onsite audiogram program annually? (WAC 296-817-40015)	20
2. Do your employees receive annual hearing conservation training? (WAC 296-817-20020)	20
3. Are all job classifications which are considered to have a considerable risk of noise exposure included in the annual audiograms? (All-Trade Maintenance, Automotive/Metal/Wood/Welding, Shop Teacher (CTE), Bus Mechanics (Transportation), Grounds Maintenance, Music/Band/Choir/Orchestra)	50
4. Do new hires in positions with elevated noise levels receive audiograms within one year of their hire date? (WAC 296-817-40010) *Note: Employers who utilize mobile test units are allowed up to one year to obtain a valid baseline audiogram for each exposed employee. The employees must still be given training and hearing protection as required by this chapter.*	10
5. Number of Employees Tested	None

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