

22. HearSāf 2000 and NoiseScan—Two Methods for Cataloging Noise Exposures and Predicting Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

John R. Franks¹ and Jukka Starck²

¹National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, United States

²Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland

At the 1995 FIOH/NIOSH Scientific Symposium a new program for analyzing noise and predicting noise-induced hearing loss developed jointly by NIOSH and FIOH (Signalator) was presented. Since then, NIOSH and FIOH have developed somewhat separately information management systems for noise exposure data. FIOH has developed NoiseScan, A System for Predicting Hearing Loss. NIOSH, in collaboration with private sector management/labor partnerships, has developed HearSāf 2000, a portion of which focuses on relating noise exposures to hearing loss outcomes. Both systems have origins that trace back to collaborations between FIOH and NIOSH when Dr. Jussi Pekkarinen of FIOH was a visiting scientist at NIOSH. Each system will be reviewed to highlight similarities and differences and the long-term goals of each project will be discussed.

HearSāf 2000 is intended to provide an overarching data management function that incorporates noise exposures, protective equipment use, audiometry, medical information, and work histories to create a “data when you need it where you need it” environment. Data for HearSāf 2000 will be resident on local computers, networked computers, on the worldwide web, and on optical cards carried by each worker. Included in HearSāf 2000 are the abilities to evaluate the predictions against observed hearing losses to such noises for workers contained in the databases.

NoiseScan is intended to provide a basis to evaluate noises in terms of their predicted hearing loss outcomes, thus providing a basis for noise control strategization, determining which operations to apply noise control first.

To be of optimal use in the United States and Europe, both systems need to share a common database definition for recording noise specifications and use common tools for noise analysis and for predicting noise-induced hearing loss.

7th

Joint Science Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health

26-29 October 1998
Hidden Valley, PA
USA



TTL-FIOH

NIOSH



Arbetslivsinstitutet

7th Joint Science Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health

26–29 October 1998
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania
United States

Arranged by

National Institute for Working Life
SE-171 84 Solna, Sweden

Institute of Occupational Health
Topeliuksenkatu 41 a A
SF-00250 Helsinki, Finland

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226-1998
United States