

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

The **WCIMA23** provides greater flexibility for regulations to set out matters relating to noise induced hearing loss testing and oversight. The maximum amount payable for noise induced hearing loss compensation, along with the thresholds for accessing entitlements, will not change.

Key Points

Act ref: Part 2 Division 8

- Compensation will continue to be available for workers who suffer noise induced hearing loss as a result of their employment.
- The testing and assessment of noise induced hearing loss is highly technical. As such, the **WCIMA23** provides for key aspects of the regime to be set out in regulations:
 - any compulsory testing and monitoring for hearing loss in workers
 - the persons authorised to test and assess hearing loss and make noise induced hearing loss assessments
 - the methods and equipment authorised and required to be used for testing and assessing hearing loss
 - the claims process
 - the methodology for apportionment
 - the making and keeping of records and access to and communicating results of hearing tests and assessments.
- Industry will be consulted on these matters as part of the development of regulations.

Questions & Answers

Q. What are the thresholds for accessing compensation for noise induced hearing loss?

A. The thresholds will not change: initial noise induced hearing loss of at least 10% and further noise induced hearing loss of at least 5%.

Q. Why is so much of the noise induced hearing loss regime to be prescribed by regulations?

A. Noise induced hearing loss is a highly technical area, and the regime found in the 1981 Act is contained in a complex mix of the Act, regulations and approved procedures. As a result, the current regime can be confusing. The **WCIMA23** sets out the fundamental entitlement and basic structure of the new noise induced hearing loss regime in legislation and leaves the technical and procedural matters to the regulations where they are more appropriately dealt with.

