

BOARD POLICIES

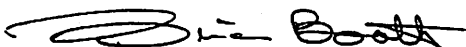
CLAIMS

At the Workers' Compensation Board meeting held October 23, 1986, the following policy was agreed upon and adopted.

No. 94 Noise Induced Hearing Loss Claims

1. A claim shall be opened upon receipt of initial application and the following information shall be obtained prior to adjudication.
 - (a) Work history to include periods of employment in and out of the Yukon, names and addresses of all employers.
 - (b) Personal history - does worker belong to gun club, noisy sporting activities, ever served in the armed forces etc.?
 - (c) Nature of occupation over the years and whether noise factors were prevalent with the various employers. (Did the worker feel that the employment was noisy?)
 - (d) Types of machinery, equipment, truck and tractor units, etc. being operated, length of exposure to such noise factors and, if possible noise level readings in these areas.
 - (e) Was the worker wearing specific ear protectors where necessary and, if so, for how long.
 - (f) The worker should be questioned as to when hearing loss started; when medical attention was first sought and from whom; the names of attending physicians; where and on what dates audiograms were taken. Copies of all audiograms and medical reports shall be obtained.
 - (g) Confirmation of employment periods must be obtained from each employer, and any opinions as to the level of noise the worker may have been exposed to while in the employment. This information is to be obtained only if the noise exposure is significant.
 - (h) Where a current audiogram is not available, the worker shall have an audiogram at the Board's expense.
2. After the above information is obtained, the Medical Consultant will review all documents and give an opinion on the following:
 - (a) Whether the worker has a noise induced hearing loss;
 - (b) Whether the hearing loss is attributable to industrial noise exposure;
 - (c) Degree and effective date of permanent hearing loss impairment.

3. If in the opinion of the Board's Medical Consultant the findings confirm an industrial noise induced hearing loss of measurable degree, the worker shall be referred to a hearing specialist and a detailed examination report will be secured. Upon receipt of this report the file will be referred to the Medical Consultant for an opinion of the degree of impairment based on 4 frequencies, i.e. 500, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 Hertz, as applied to the partial hearing loss table used by the Board.
4. Where there is no industrial hearing loss or if the hearing loss is attributable to non-industrial causes, the worker is to be so advised and also informed of the right to appeal.
5. In the event that an industrial hearing loss is established but is not of a measurable degree, the worker is to be advised and further audiogram shall be done annually. If the impairment increases, a further review shall be done by the Medical Consultant.
6. Where there is confirmed exposure in other Provinces the other parties to the Hearing Loss Agreement are to be notified of the claim.
7. A hearing aid is to be provided where recommended, subject to approval by the Board's Medical Consultant.
8. Where there is significant exposure to noise in industry in the Yukon and a measurable degree of noise induced hearing loss, the worker shall receive an award based on the total hearing loss present regardless of previous industrial noise exposure outside of the Yukon.
9. If there has been very little industrial noise exposure in the Yukon, the worker should be advised to submit a claim to the Province which has the most exposure.
10. The commencement date of disability is the date of first audiogram showing measurable hearing impairment as per the Physical Impairment Rating Schedule. If such hearing loss was present prior to January 1, 1983, the claim shall be referred to the Board for determination. If the hearing loss was evident only on or after January 1, 1983, the claim shall be adjudicated by the Claims Officer.
11. All costs incurred, whether or not a claim is accepted, shall be charged to the Reserve for Industrial Disease.



B. Booth
Chairman