



EAR-O-TEC Newsletter

Are you doing the best you can to prevent noise induced hearing loss in your workplace?

In noisy industry sectors, and particularly those with varying noise levels, it is becoming increasingly clear that baseline hearing tests and disposable hearing protection may not be the best way of preventing noise induced hearing loss in the workplace.

It was precisely to overcome some of the shortcomings of traditionally employed hearing protection methods that Ear-O-Tec decided to become the licensee for the locally manufactured Variphone hearing protector – a ground-breaking device designed for



Australian conditions and custom-made to suit each individual's needs.

So what's different about the Variphone? Most importantly, the Variphone incorporates a patented adjustable valve which allows the attenuation to be set to reduce the noise load to a safe level (within 1dB accuracy). This makes the device ideally suited to industries with varying noise levels.

Custom manufacture ensures the supply of a hearing protector that is light weight, comfortable and provides a good fit, eliminating the possibility of leaks.

At the outset, Ear-O-Tec will visit your business to conduct ear inspections and take



the ear impressions required to manufacture the customised Variphone hearing protectors.

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WA Safety Show – do you need more info?

Do you need more information on Variphone, Noise Clipper or any of the other products or services displayed on our website?

If so give Charmaine le Roux a call at: +61 8 9278 2498 (Mob: 0422 106 465) or email info@earotec.com.au



NEW!

The personal custom made Noise Clipper

The way to go if you want to give everyone an effective pre-determined degree of noise attenuation

The Noise Clipper is Ear-O-Tec's new solution for applications where the emphasis is on giving everyone a certain degree of attenuation.

Designed for Australian conditions, the durable, light weight Noise Clipper has the advantage of offering calibrated filtering options, with fixed attenuation filters ranging from 20 to 35dB.

The Noise Clipper attenuates all frequencies in the hearing spectrum and is more active in the high tones. This unique ability enables the user to have communication in a noisy environment while being protected against hearing damage

Ear-O-Tec gathers information from the Safety Officer on noise exposure levels, the duration of the exposure and the communication requirements of each job. For example, if a particular job requires the wearing of headgear, this has to be taken into account when manufacturing the individualised device.

Ear impressions, fitting, and training are all undertaken on site.

Maintenance of the durable, acrylic Noise Clipper is simple and the devices can be cleaned with normal household detergents such as dishwashing liquid. Annual checks and modifications can be done on site.

It is recommended by Ear-O-Tec that the devices are subjected to leak tight tests at least annually.

All users have their own serial numbers on Ear-O-Tec's database with relevant details on each device. If the user's exposure level changes, the necessary adjustments can be requested on the web-based database.

Noise Clipper hearing protectors comply with AS/ NZ 1270:2002 standards.



An annual check will keep your hearing protection program on track

To ensure that your personal, custom-made hearing protectors are providing maximum protection, we recommend having them checked at least once a year.

The Varipro hearing care program is a preventive hearing care policy which focuses on the assumption that the chance of noise induced hearing loss for an individual can be reduced to an absolute minimum. It is primarily an active hearing care policy with regular monitoring and service checks of all the factors that can influence the efficiency of personal hearing protection.

The annual check of Ear-O-Tec's hearing protectors encompasses everything from wearing comfort

to checks on leak tightness, attenuation and the frequency of wearing.

It's possible that hearing canals change in the long term (i.e. weight increase or loss, constant regeneration of cartilage). That's why it is important to test them regularly so that the optimal protection of the hearing protector can be guaranteed.

Our staff is equipped with digital measurement equipment which makes it possible to control the status of the hearing protector quickly and efficiently (leak tightness and attenuation). The measurements are done with an ACU (Attenuation Control Unit).

The results are saved in a central database and access is granted when you sign up for the Varipro hearing care program, free of charge.

Varicom delivers better 2-way radio communication and excellent hearing protection

Ear-O-Tec's Varicom is a custom made earpiece with a built-in high profile miniature microphone and speaker. All the electronic parts are imbedded in the earpiece and thereby insulated against environmental noise.

This leads to exceptional speech intelligibility in noisy environments. The Varicom is not only a good communication system but also an excellent hearing protector as it is manufactured from an ear impression and thus an excellent fit is guaranteed.

The Varicom connects via a PTT (push to talk) interface to most common 2-way radios. The beauty



of the system is that a boom microphone does not get in the wearer's way or pick up environmental noise and it can be worn comfortably with other protective headwear.

When talk-back is required, a push on the PTT switch will activate the microphone inside the earpiece, which picks up the vibrations from the voice in the ear canal, and sends it via the radio to the receiving destination. This way of communicating is called 'ear speech' and is an excellent means of communicating via two-way radio in high-noise areas.

Varicom is compatible with most licensed radios used in Australia and New Zealand.

Why Ear-O-Tec?

The increasing demand from industry for more effective ways of preventing noise induced hearing loss has over the past five years led to Ear-O-Tec actively marketing and pilot testing custom-made and test-capable hearing protection devices to various industry sectors.

As a natural outcome of this process, Ear-O-Tec broadened its reach, developing a hearing conservation strategy that distinguishes it from competitors. In line with this strategy it has added further custom made products to its range – products such as Variphone, Sensear, Noise Clipper and Insta-Molds.

The company also recognises the advantages of using trained implementers. That's why all technicians undergo specified training and are certified to implement the program and the products supplied by Ear-O-Tec. Services are provided on-site to guarantee minimum down time for employees.

All products are manufactured in Australia and Europe to international and national standards (AS/NZS1270:2002).



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The updated documentation you need for your next hearing protection audit

All relevant data concerning the Variphone and Noise Clipper hearing protectors and their individual users is gathered and stored in a central database.

In this way a historic overview is collected on the efficiency and effectiveness of the hearing protection provided by Ear-O-Tec.

This data is available to you when you sign up for the Varipro hearing care program. The data gives you a documented record of steps taken to protect the hearing of every individual exposed to noise in your business.

Information on the database is continually updated during the period of care, keeping you informed and in a sound position to audit the status of hearing protection in your workforce.

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A technician will make a second visit to fit and leak test the devices and provide training in accordance with standard quality controls. Attenuation is adjusted according to each individual's exposure levels and the device is verified in the wearer's ear.

Manufactured from a durable acrylic, the Variphone is made to last and need not be replaced after just a few years. No lubricant is required for insertion. Easy to maintain, it can easily be modified on site when required.

When it comes to the cost, the Variphone stacks up well compared to other options. For example, people using disposable ear plugs will often each use and dispose of many each day – compromising our environment, not to mention the associated costs.

The Variphone, which can interface with two-way radios, by means of the Varilink, is supported by Ear-O-Tec's full backup service which includes a database with relevant details on each device and user. All Variphone hearing protectors comply with AS/NZ 1270:2002 standards.

It is recommended by Ear-O-Tec that the devices are checked annually to monitor leak tightness in the ear.

The devices are delivered in a durable storage pouch together with a detailed instruction leaflet, cleaning cloth and earwax remover.

