

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

by

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Three sections of the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia are engaged in acoustical activities. These three are the Hearing Branch and two sections of Prevention Services, the Noise Control Section and the Engineering and Research Section.

The Hearing Branch provides comprehensive audiological and vestibular diagnostic services on claims for occupational noise-induced hearing losses and rehabilitation facilities including custom earmold manufacturing and hearing aid fitting. They conduct audiological and vestibular assessment in cases of head injury. They operate an audiometric surveillance system on a Province wide basis by technicians trained to standards set by the Board. They have research capabilities for data collected in both industrial audiometric and clinical fields and provide control and research services concerning hearing protection from excessive noise.

The Noise Control Section inspects workplaces for compliance with Industrial Hygiene and Safety Noise Regulations and writes orders as required. The section reviews compliance plans, provides consultation on the application of proven noise control techniques and presents seminars on noise control. In liaison with the Engineering and Research Section, the Noise Control Section is developing and will maintain a solution bank of successful noise control methods and applications for distribution to industry and a reference information system on acoustics covering all related literature on noise and vibration topics.

The Engineering and Research Section conducts and co-ordinates surveys to recommend priorities for noise control, develops technical procedures for use in noise measurements, participates in development of WCB, national and international standards relating to noise, conducts projects to develop and test new noise control techniques, examines instruments available on the market and makes recommendations with respect to purchases for Prevention Services staff. The Section is establishing a reference information system on acoustics in liaison with the Noise Control Section and will assist them to operate it and the noise control solutions bank.

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\* This article was kindly prepared by Mr. Clark at the Editor's request to provide an overall perspective of the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia. A detailed paper on the activities of the Noise Control Section follows on page 9.