

## Specialty Hearing Protectors

Employers must provide appropriate ear protection to all noise-exposed workers. Wearing conventional hearing protection, earplugs or earmuffs, can result in distorted speech, machinery, or warning signals. This causes difficulty understanding speech and safety issues around machinery. This is a problem for workers with hearing loss or any workers with high listening demands in their jobs, such as supervisors, trades people, instructors, and hospitality workers.

The following specialty hearing protectors have been developed to combat this problem. They are designed to enhance listening while providing effective noise reduction (attenuation).

### 1. Uniform Attenuation Earplugs—reduce all frequencies equally

Brand	Model	Manufacturer	CSA Class	Major Distributor
E.A.R.	Professional Musician E.A.R. Plugs	Aearo	C	Acklands-Grainger, Custom Protect Ear, Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
E.A.R.	UltraTech 16	Aearo	C	Acklands-Grainger, Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Etymotic Research	ER 9, 15, 25, a.k.a. "Sweet Tones"	Etymotic Research	C, C, BL	Custom Protect Ear (all products), Oto Hearing Products (ER products)
Etymotic Research	ER 20	Etymotic Research	C	Custom Protect Ear, Oto Hearing Products

### 2. Uniform Attenuation Earmuffs

Brand	Model	Manufacturer	CSA Class	Major Distributor
Bilsom	Clarity (C1, C2, C3)	Bacou-Dalloz	B, B, BL	Acklands-Grainger, Levitt
E.A.R.	9000	Aearo	B	Acklands-Grainger, Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Elvex	Flat-Liner	Elvex	A	Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt

### 3. Electronic Earmuffs—electronically amplify sound, but not above about 83 dBA.

Brand	Model	Manufacturer	CSA Class	Major Distributor
Bilsom	Impact	Bacou-Dalloz	B	Acklands-Grainger, Levitt
Elvex	Com "Active" 55	Elvex	A	Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Elvex	DeTune, Com-240R	Elvex	B	Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Hellberg	Active, React	Hellberg	A	Levitt
Peltor	Tactical 6-S	Aearo	B	Acklands-Grainger, Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Peltor	Tactical Pro	Aearo	A	Acklands-Grainger, Guillevin-Fleck, Levitt
Silenta	NaturalMil	Silenta	B	Levitt
Silenta	Natural	Silenta	B	Levitt
Sordin	BasicLine	Sordin	B	Acklands-Grainger
Sordin	ProLine	Sordin	B	Acklands-Grainger

**Distributor Contacts:**

<b>1. Acklands-Grainger</b>	<b>Peter Baker</b>	<b>604 571-6353</b>
	<b>Andre de Pape</b>	<b>604-571-6353</b>
<b>2. Custom Protect Ear</b>	<b>Bradley Raphael</b>	<b>604 635-3234</b>
<b>3. Guillevin-Fleck</b>	<b>George Atkins</b>	<b>604 606-3000</b>
<b>4. Levitt</b>	<b>Kelly Miller</b>	<b>604 278-3328</b>
<b>5. Oto Hearing Products</b>	<b>Kim Furber</b>	<b>604 590-1211</b>

Contact one of these major distributors, or call the occupational audiologist at WorkSafeBC, Hearing Loss Prevention Section, 604 276-3090 or Toll Free 1-888-621-7233, extension 3090

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See also the WorkSafeBC *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, Part 7 “Noise and Hearing Conservation”, as well as the Canadian Standards Association Standard Z94.2-02 “Hearing Protection”. Visit the WorkSafeBC.com website for the *Regulation* as well as more information about Hearing Protection and Hearing Loss Prevention (in the Health & Safety Centre).