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## **BIAP Recommendation n° 02/1 bis**

### **AUDIOMETRIC CLASSIFICATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENTS**

In most cases, hearing impairments are due to the loss of sound perception and, particularly, of speech perception.

Speech is made up of both acute and low-pitched sounds of highly-varied acoustic power. It cannot be measured by means of a single average acoustic level.

After a clinical examination has been realized, an audiometric measuring can be done in satisfactory acoustic conditions. It shows a loss in dB, compared with normal hearing level (dB H.L.), with reference to ISO standards. An average tone loss is calculated, taking as a starting point the loss in dB at various frequencies: 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz and 4000 Hz. A frequency which is not perceived is considered as a loss of 120 dB. The total amount is calculated, divided by 4 and rounded up to the nearest unit. In the event of an asymmetric hearing loss, the average loss level, expressed in dB, is multiplied by 7 for the " good " ear and by 3 for the " bad " ear. The total is then divided by 10.

#### **I. Normal or subnormal hearing**

The average tone loss is below 20 dB. Mild tone disorder with no social consequences.

#### **II. Mild hearing loss (lehké/mírné sluchové postižení ztráty sluchu)**

Average tone loss between 21 and 40 dB. Speech is perceived if the voice is normal, difficulties arise if the voice is low-pitched or distant from the subject. Most of the daily life noises are perceived.

#### **III. Moderate hearing loss (střední sluchové postižení – ztráty sluchu) – rozděleno na 2 stupně**

- 1st degree: average tone loss between 41 and 55 dB.

- 2nd degree: average tone loss between 56 and 70 dB. Speech is perceived if the voice is loud. The subject understands better what is being said if he can see his/her interlocutor. Some daily life noises are still perceived.

#### IV. Severe hearing loss (těžké sluchové postižení – ztráty sluchu) – rozděleno na 2 stupně

- 1st degree: average tone loss between 71 and 80 dB.
- 2nd degree: average tone loss between 81 and 90 dB. Speech is perceived if the voice is loud and close to the ear. Loud noises are perceived.

#### V. Very severe hearing loss (velmi těžké sluchové postižení – ztráty sluchu) – rozděleno na 3 stupně

- 1st degree: average tone loss between 91 and 100 dB.
- 2nd degree: average tone loss between 101 and 110 dB.
- 3rd degree: average tone loss between 111 and 119 dB. Speech is not perceived. Only very loud noises are perceived.

#### VI. Total hearing loss – Cophosis (totální hluchota – při ztrátě sluchu více než 120dB)

Average tone loss over 120 dB. Nothing is perceived.

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Informace o organizaci BIAP <http://www.biap.org/biapanglais.htm>