LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF CIRCUMAURAL EARPHONES

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basis for this calibration. For this reason, the committee urges research on circumaural earphones, particularly on their construction, use, and calibration.

To summarize, it is the author's opinion that there are not sufficient data available at the present time to enable one to use circumaural earphones whenever sound-pressure levels of pure tones at the eardrum must be accurately defined, without thoroughly investigating first the calibration of the system consisting of the particular earphones and ears (both real and artificial) under consideration and second the reliability of this calibration. At this time the routine use of circumaural earphones in clinical and industrial audiology cannot be justified, but should be restricted to laboratory practices where investigation of calibration procedures in relation to the specific earphones can be carried out.


### LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF CIRCUMAURAL EARPHONES

A literature survey and interpretation by a panel of experts of the NAS-NRC Committee on Hearing, Bioacoustics and Biomechanics shows that the now commonly-used large earmuffs, designed to protect hearing, cannot indiscriminately replace the small earphone cushion currently the standard for audiometry. If they are so used, hearing losses at 3000-8000 cycles/second should be rechecked with the standard cushion.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY WORDS</th>
<th>LINK A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protective equipment (for hearing in noise)</td>
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<td>Audiometer Equipment</td>
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<td>Earphone Calibration</td>
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<td>Circumaural Earphone Cushion</td>
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