



The Use of Portable Electric Generators During Mobile Hearing Testing

Precision Hearing has been providing mobile hearing testing, through the services of sub-contractors, for the past 10 years. However, in August 2007, we designed and purchased a mobile hearing testing vehicle and hired and extensively trained our own CAOHC certified technician. A decision was made at that time not to utilize a portable electric generator as a power source for the following reasons:

1. Noise Level:

- a. Most importantly the use of mobile generators results in frequent complaints from those being tested. It leaves the patient with the impression that the test is inaccurate and negatively impacts the credibility of the examiner. Therefore, the employee is less likely to do as recommended.
- b. Generator noise negatively affects 500 Hz which is one of the primary frequencies utilized in the computation of workers' compensation claims.
- c. A decrease in hearing sensitivity at 500 Hz will appear to the audiologist or physician interpreting the examination as a possible conductive type of hearing loss. This will typically result in an unnecessary and costly medical referrals to an ENT physician.

2. Stable Electric Current:

- a. Four microprocessor (computers) audiometers are utilized to administer the hearing test. It is essential that a constant, stable source of electrical power be available. This is not always possible with a portable generator.

3. Air Conditioning:

- a. In response to our client's input, an upgraded 15,000 btu air conditioner was installed. However, this large of a unit requires a 220 Volt power source to operate efficiently.

4. Insurance:

- a. Due to the possible risk of transporting and operating a large, gas-powered, portable generator the cost of insurance is relatively high. This expense would unnecessarily increase the cost of our service.

5. Storage:

- a. When not in service, many vehicle storage facilities prohibit the storage of gas-powered equipment.

6. Weight & Travel Restrictions:

- a. The generator would have to be transported by being placed on a carrier attached to the rear of the vehicle. This results in travel safety restrictions, a problem with proper fuel storage and an increase in unnecessary weight.

7. Client Restrictions:

- a. Many companies are no longer allowing this type of equipment to be brought onto their premises.

(800) 357-5759