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Michelle Sahlin, Director of Marketing

612-827-2222 Ext. 16 | MSahlin@bensonmedical.com

New Fit Testing System Verifies Earplug Effectiveness

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (February 20, 2017) A new hearing protection fit testing system is now available to occupational health professionals who want to verify the effectiveness of their hearing conservation program. The Benson Medical Instruments CCF-200 Fit Tester helps ensure that employees are getting optimal on-the-job hearing protection from earplugs. The CCF-200 will be featured in April at the American Occupational Health Conference in Denver and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Conference in New Orleans.

Fit testing verifies the amount of noise protection that each worker is receiving from his or her earplugs, and regular screening reinforces the safety culture of the workplace. Issues of poor fitting technique, incorrect insertion, or improper choice of earplug will result in an unacceptable Personal Attenuation Rating (PAR), indicating the need for follow-up. Testing workers ensures that the right amount of noise protection is being delivered for the work environment.

In 2008 the OSHA-NHCA-NIOSH Alliance recommended fit testing as a best practice (*Best Practice Bulletin: Hearing Protection - Emerging Trends: Individual Fit Testing*). In a subsequent field study, NIOSH stated: "When relying on hearing protection devices to reduce exposure, individual fit-testing is the only way to confirm that workers are sufficiently protected."

The CCF-200 Fit Tester operates with the CCA-200*mini* or CCA-100*mini* Audiometer and BAS-200*s/m* Simulator/Sound Level Meter. It allows for integrating fit testing into the hearing testing process. The CCF-200 can be installed into multiple sound booths to accurately test multiple subjects simultaneously in just a few minutes using a single computer.

Features such as real-time PAR results during test, graphical display of occluded and unoccluded measurements, automatic retests, keep-busy mode, and full-page reports streamline the fit testing process.

A specially designed headset provides comfort during the test, and does not come in contact with the ear or the earplug, ensuring a valid PAR. Moreover, the CCF-200 is usable with all manufacturers' earplugs.

"One of the benefits of fit testing is that it engages the worker with their personal use of earplugs and that can lead to greater awareness of the need to protect hearing," states Jim Teter, Sales Manager of Benson Medical Instruments. "The CCF-200 Fit Tester also helps occupational hearing professionals institute OSHA Alliance best practices into their hearing conservation programs."

Benson Medical Instruments Co. designs and manufactures audiometers, spirometers, and software to manage hearing conservation and occupational spirometry programs for companies. For more information: Jim Teter, Sales Manager, Benson Medical Instruments Co., 310 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 5000, Minneapolis, MN 55415 USA (Office) +1 612-827-2222 (Email) sales@bensonmedical.com (Website) www.bensonmedical.com

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