

# CONTROLLING BACKGROUND NOISES FOR HEARING SCREENING

I. Determine the source(s) of noise.

II. Eliminate noise, if at all possible.

Examples: Establish a "silent zone" outside the screening area. Re-route traffic to other hallways. Turn off noisy fans and air conditioners. Determine a time when noisy conditions are not present and use that time to test. Move screening area to a quieter location; avoid rooms with windows.

III. Isolate the screening area from noise source(s) by using solid reflective materials on the exterior of the room and soft absorbent materials outside.

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- A. WINDOWS--Avoid rooms with windows. Add storm windows. Install heavy draw-drapes. Install a removable, press-fit insulation panel inside the window frame when screening is conducted.
- B. DOORS--Use solid wood doors, or add 3/4" plywood to the exterior of the door. If the door has vents, cover with a gasketed, hinged 3/4" plywood cover which could be latched open for ventilation or closed for noise reduction. Install a threshold plate (with a rubber-insert gasket) to reduce sound leakage at the base of the door. If possible, also add a door sweep. Install a soft, rubber compression gasket around the entire door. Carpet the inside of the door or install heavy pull-drapes across the doorway.
- C. WALLS--Cover with carpet or acoustical tile. Add heavy draperies on all walls. Take the electrical outlet plate off and caulk around the outlet box with flexible caulk; replace plate cover. Seal electrical outlets and switches.
- D. FLOOR--Carpet the floor inside the screening room.
- E. CEILING--Add acoustical ceiling tile. Add insulation above the ceiling.
- F. LIGHTS--Use incandescent lights instead of fluorescent lights, which make a humming sound. Turn off fluorescent light when screening.
- G. INTERCOM, LOUDSPEAKERS OR BELLS--Install a switch to turn off these interfering sounds while screening.
- H. AIR CONDITIONING--Modify or remove air diffusers. Turn off the air conditioning during screening.
- I. HALLWAY (OUTSIDE THE SCREENING ROOM)--Carpet the floors and wall. Use acoustical tile on the ceiling.

AUDIOMETRIC LABORATORY  
VISION, HEARING AND SPEECH SERVICES  
BUREAU OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
1100 WEST 49TH STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78756