

Press Release

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Arco Launches New Hearing Check Kiosk

Hearing damage caused by exposure to noise at work is irreversible and can have a devastating impact on how you live your life. Hearing loss may mean that you can no longer enjoy listening to your favourite song or speaking to friends on the telephone. It could mean that you become socially withdrawn and have difficulty in communicating with others. It would even mean that you have fewer job opportunities, as severely deaf people are four times more likely to be unemployed than the general population.¹

Hearing damage caused by exposure to noise at work is more common than you may think. Research estimates that over 2 million people are exposed to noise levels at work that may be harmful², with industries such as manufacturing, construction, energy and water supply claiming the largest number of Noise Induced Hearing Loss disablement benefits. Industrial hearing loss also remains the occupational disease with the highest number of civil reports, accounting for about 75% of all occupational disease claims³.

In order to help businesses identify and prevent employee hearing loss, Arco, the UK's leading safety company, has developed, in conjunction with CluisTROM Ltd, its own Hearing Check Kiosk. Comprising of a stand, software, touch screen tablet and headset, the entire hearing surveillance package allows for comprehensive hearing tests to be undertaken by employees on site.

Lasting between 10-15 minutes, Arco's Hearing Check Screening quickly and effectively monitors for tonal hearing loss by playing sounds at different frequencies to each ear. Frequencies tested range from 250, 500, 1000, 4000 and 6000 Hz. The results are immediate and are illustrated by an in-depth audiogram that identifies an employees hearing thresholds. The full results are then securely stored on file and can be sent direct to two separate email addresses. If hearing loss is detected, a referral can also be made for the employee to have full screening by CluisTROM audiologists.

Without the need to organise third party suppliers, Arco's Hearing Check Kiosk is undoubtedly a convenient and cost effective option for businesses requiring regular hearing surveillance. The easy to use device

¹ <http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/your-hearing/about-deafness-and-hearing-loss/statistics/~media/56697A2C7BE349618D336B41A12B85E3.ashx>

² <http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/roadshow/al7.pdf>

³ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/food/noise.htm>

requires little maintenance; with software updates only required once a year. Additional training and support can also be provided by CluisTROM or Arco's Hearing Technical Specialist.

Noise induced hearing loss is permanent, disabling and wholly preventable. Through carrying out regular hearing surveillance monitoring, employees will be given the best possible chance of living their life to the full.

For further information on the Hearing Check Kiosk and for details on Arco's full hearing protection offering, please email technicalhearing@arco.co.uk.

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Notes

About Arco

Arco is the UK's leading safety company. It distributes quality products and training and provides expert advice, helping to shape the safety world and make work a safer place. Founded in 1884 and with a heritage spanning four generations, Arco integrates traditional family values with pioneering innovation to offer a world-class range of over 170,000 quality assured, branded and own brand products, including personal protective equipment, clothing, footwear, gloves, workplace safety and hygiene products. Headquartered in Hull, Arco reaches its customers through its extensive product catalogue, interactive website and 48 strong trade counter network. The company has sales of over £268m and employs approximately 1600 people. Arco has been accredited a 'One to Watch' status in the Best Companies Times Top 100 Survey.

Arco is dedicated to its Corporate Social Responsibility policy and continually demonstrates its support of local business communities and charitable organisations, donating in excess of 1% of pre tax profits annually. In 2007, Arco became a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and in 2010 a member of Sedex, the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange. Going forward, Arco further demonstrates its position as the UK's leading safety company as the exclusive supplier of PPE, footwear and workwear to the BLOODHOUND project's support team involved with the design, build and race of a car to raise the world land speed record to 800 mph in 2015, and 1,000mph in 2016. For more information, visit www.arco.co.uk.