

North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

Board Guidelines Regarding Use of the Audiometric Response Simulator

Revised Effective August 2007

(This information is in addition to the Simulator Instructions for the Licensing Examination)

- All programmed simulator audiograms involve measurement of thresholds using supra-aural earphones and a 40 dB value as the "minimal interaural attenuation," rather than insert earphones that are cited in the Sandlin text as having a 70 dB minimal interaural attenuation.
- Since the following details are not mentioned in the Board's rules regarding audiogram symbols, the Board (1) does not specify that air or bone conduction symbols should be connected by lines, and (2) the arrow indicating no response at the maximum output of the audiometer for masked bone conduction may originate at the lower end of the square bracket close to the vertical axis of the audiogram or at the lower corner of the bracket. Even though colors are not mentioned in the Board's rules, the Board shall require that the red and blue colors as cited in the Sandlin text be used for recording pure tone air and bone conduction symbols for the Simulator portion of the licensing examination.
- Each time a tone is introduced, it should be presented for 1-2 seconds as stated in the Board's required reading (Sandlin p. 102).
- Unmasked air and bone conduction thresholds should be obtained for both the right and left, air and bone output settings on the simulator. **When you test for unmasked bone conduction with the output control on the simulator set for either "right bone" or "left bone," the results should be the same for both settings since the simulator utilizes a 0 dB interaural difference between cochleae for the patient's two ears.** However, do not apply the results from one ear/bone setting to the other ear/bone output setting, because an error for the first setting would also be recorded as an error for the second output setting **on the Simulator portion of the licensing examination.**
- The "Inconsistency" control on the simulator shall be set to 5%. When 5% inconsistency is selected, the threshold responses will vary from the programmed threshold in a random pattern and you will get false positives 5% of the time. The registered applicants will have to make a threshold decision within a range of response simulating normal inconsistency or pathological conditions without recruitment.
- An automatic failure shall occur on the Simulator portion of the licensing examination when the applicant:
 1. is observed by the proctor to be cheating:
 - a) attempting to obtain programming information from the simulator;
 - b) carrying notes and then reading from them;
 - c) copy from someone else's paper/screen remember – not everyone will be doing the same program.