1. **Objective:**
Identify gaps and best practices in the Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) that relate to the effective use of hearing protective devices (HPD)

**Study Question:** See Attachment I

2. **Methods**

2.1. **Study approach/method**
Interview/survey from various types of respondents. Potential respondents for specific questions will vary by site, and in some cases, more than one type of respondent will be queried.

2.2. **Data sources**
To be gathered from written HCP, HCP training materials, EAS noise reports, audiometric test procedures and associated questionnaires, and interviewee responses.

2.3. **Study population/sample**
For a specific site, HCP program owner, HCP trainers, medical personnel administering audiometric testing program, and selected HPD employee users (need to specify approximate number of employees to be interviewed, how chosen)

2.4. **Analysis methods**
- Professional judgement (based on criteria wherever possible) of study team regarding gaps / best practices in existing HCP
- Calculate and report percent responses for any "picklist" types of questions

2.5. **Strengths**
- Site by site template to evaluate HCP
- Identifies key elements of program that can evaluate HCP
- Variety of contacts/data sources
- Fast / simple method to collect information

2.6. **Limitations/caveats to interpretation**
- Difficult to develop objective criteria so must rely on expert judgement to identify gaps and best practices
- No guaranteed link between identified gaps and lack of HCP efficacy
2.7. Criteria for interpreting findings

- Based mainly on professional judgement rather than objective metrics/criteria
- For some of the 34 items (e.g., picklists) will be able to define criteria for interpretation - see attached

3. Cost
Estimate 5 person days required to collect data and 2 days to interpret

4. Human subjects
Employees will be informed of work place survey activity prior to initiation. All survey responses will be anonymous, worker identities will not be collected or reported.

5. Communication of results
Survey information and conclusions will be incorporated into the summary report of study findings and communicated to site management and employees.