

UBC CHEM - Earbuds, Earphones and Headphones Policy in Lab and Shop Areas.

The use of earbuds, headphones and/or similar devices¹ is prohibited in lab and shop areas.

The use of earbuds, earphones, headphones and and/or other similar devices in lab and shop areas pose many safety risks. This includes office spaces located within lab and shop areas. Excessive sound output from these devices may drown out environmental sounds that students and workers need to hear for their safety and for the safety of others. Even at low volumes, the sound may restrict one's ability to hear ambient noises in the work environment. Also, the use of earbuds and/or other similar devices can pose distractions, which could result in a decline in one's safety awareness.

This policy does not apply to or restrict the use of hearing protection required to be worn when working in high noise environments. In addition, noise cancelling headphones, earbuds, and or other similar devices cannot be used to replace hearing protection or be worn over and/or under hearing protection. Please click [here](#) to learn more about hearing protection at WorkSafe BC. If you need assistance on choosing the appropriate hearing protection, please contact safety@chem.ubc.ca.

Footnote:

1. 'Similar devices' include, but are not limited to, all personal audio devices, such as Bluetooth-enabled earpieces, wired headphones/earbuds/earphones, wireless headphones/earbuds/earphones, bone conduction headphones, etc.