The Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS), or "ORS," is a new survey designed by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide information about specific work-related requirements found in jobs in the United States. The BLS conducts this survey under an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The goal of ORS is to collect and publish occupational information that will be used by SSA to help make decisions for their disability programs. SSA will use this information to help applicants determine if their past work-related requirements can be performed, and potentially identify other occupations that they can still perform. In addition, ORS information will be publicly available for all interested users or groups.

It is important to note that the ORS is designed to capture requirements based on the typical tasks related to critical job functions, and is not focused on the specific skills or experience of the worker. The BLS will collect information on the general use of personal protective equipment to lessen environmental exposure.

### Environmental Exposure

- Extreme cold
- Extreme heat
- Hazardous contaminants
- Heavy vibration
- High, exposed places
- Humidity
- Noise intensity level
- Proximity to moving mechanical parts
- Working outdoors
- Weight

Environmental exposure is measured by the types of conditions encountered at work during the course of a job. Environmental elements include:

#### Physical Demands

- Keyboarding
- Climbing
- Reading
- Sitting
- Communicating verbally
- Foot and leg controls
- Hearing and vision
- Pushing and pulling
- Lifting and carrying
- Sanding and walking
- Reaching
- Climbing
- Working outdoors
- Proximity to moving mechanical parts
- Heavy vibration
- Humidity
- Noise intensity level
- Weight
- Working outdoors
- High, exposed places
- Hazardous contaminants
- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold

Physical demands refer to the tasks such as crawling, kneeling, crouching and stooping are considered. Tasks of this nature are required for occupations that have specific physical demands.
Education and Training

The ORS gathers information about the typical educational background, training, and work experience required by an occupation. It specifically includes:

- Minimum formal education or literacy requirements
- Pre-employment training
- Prior work experience
- Post-employment training

Mental Requirements

Intellectual and mental requirements for an occupation involve:

- Decision-making
- Work review
- Pace of work performed
- Type and frequency of contacts
- Adaptability

Survey Participation

The information employers provide will help to better define jobs that exist in our national economy and the types of work someone may be able to do. Respondent participation will help the BLS deliver accurate survey results.

Finding the Data

The first ORS data were made available December 2016 on the BLS website and will continue to be updated on an annual basis. Current ORS information can be accessed via the public database and through occupational profiles for major occupational groups. For the latest information on ORS, please visit www.bls.gov/ors.

Contact Information

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Figure 1. Hearing requirements, all workers, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-on-one</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sounds</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing a hearing test</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>