

Honeywell Safety Products USA, Inc.

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Cool II Pads and Optisorb Covers

The use of Cool II pads or Optisorb covers can provide a softer, cooler surface to the earmuff cushion for all-day wear. While the use of these products may reduce the estimated attenuation of the earmuffs with which they're used, as with other objects that interfere with the seal of the cushion to the head (e.g., eyewear frames, thick hair, etc.), their use to increase comfort is preferred over removal of the earmuffs in noise.

Use of these products is ideal for humid and moist environments, for users who perspire heavily, or for settings where the same earmuffs may be shared among multiple users:

- Cool II pads come with an adhesive backing that attaches directly to the earmuff cushion. As an option, the oval center of the Cool II pad may also be placed inside the ear cup to protect the foam lining of the earmuff.
- Optisorb covers are crafted from an elastic fabric that stretches over the ear cup and cushion to wick moisture away from the side of the head.

Cool II pads and Optisorb covers may decrease mean attenuation at different frequencies. When applied to the published attenuation rating, the addition of the Cool II pad may decrease the rating of the earmuffs, on average, by about 1.5 dB, and the Optisorb cover may change the average rating, by about 3.5 dB.

Relative Risk: Removing a hearing protector for even brief periods of time compromises its effective attenuation. For example, a hearing protector with an attenuation rating of 30 dB, if removed for only five minutes during an eight-hour shift, renders its effective attenuation rating to only 19 dB for the duration of that shift. This 11-dB reduction in the effective attenuation is significantly greater than the average impact of Cool II pads (1.5 dB) or Optisorb covers (3.5 dB), and is the reason their use is preferred over removal of the earmuffs for long-term comfort.