

# Ear Impression Requirements

**Disclaimer:** The following is not intended to provide instructions for properly and safely obtaining ear canal impressions. It is intended to be a reference for the properly trained practitioner to obtain the correct impression materials and to define the characteristics of an acceptable ear impression. These characteristics are critical for the proper production of Aegisound hearing protection products.

The following guidelines are in no way a substitute for proper training and applicable regulatory licensure.

The impression taking process should only be undertaken by an audiologist or other properly trained personnel.

<b>Impression Material</b>	Otoform® A SoftX or SiliClone® low viscosity impression material. Low viscosity material is critical to prevent expansion of the ear canal during the impression process.
<b>Jaw Position</b>	Closed and relaxed, no jaw movement or talking during the impression material cure period (7-10 minutes typical for SiliClone®)
<b>Impression Depth</b>	The impression material must extend at least 1mm past the completed 2nd bend. 3mm past the bend is preferred. The impression must indicate the size and direction of the canal after the 2nd bend.
<b>Material Fill</b>	The impression material should fill the entire canal as well as the helix and concha areas of the outer ear

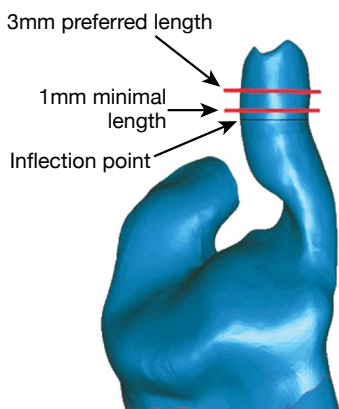
### Conditions to watch for:

**Cerumen in ear canal:** All cerumen that would interfere with obtaining a full impression of the unobstructed ear canal should be removed prior to taking the impression.

**Cerumen embedded in impression:** Small amounts of cerumen on the surface of the impression is normal and acceptable. However, large particles that could fall off during transportation resulting in a void must be avoided.

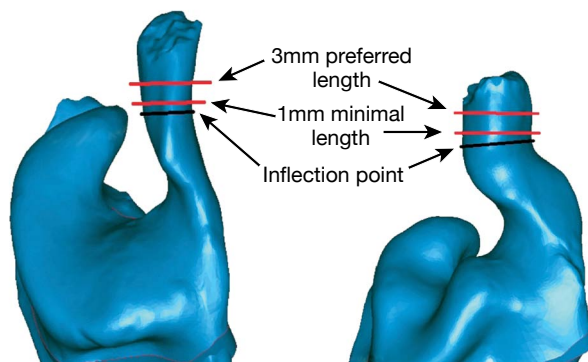
**Ear Dam/Oto-block vent tube:** If using a vent tube, the tube may be imbedded on the surface of the impression as long as the impression material fills around the tube and the surface is well defined.

## Canal Length

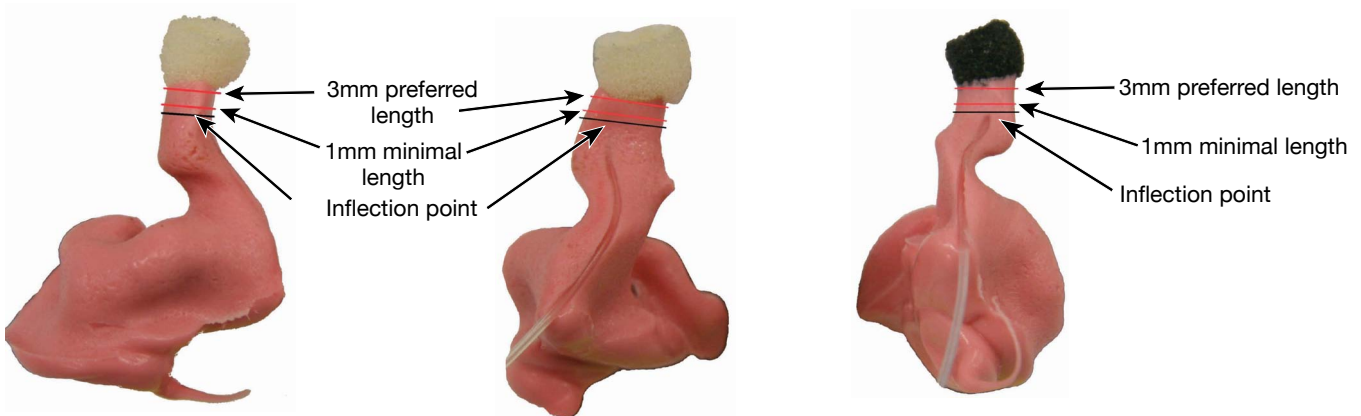


- Inflection points must be identified before assessing acceptable canal length
- Inflection point: When the curvature of the 2nd bend ends and the canal becomes relatively straight, a clear direction that the canal is heading in can be determined; the earliest point on the impression in which this can be determined is the inflection point
- Once inflection points are identified, 1mm beyond the points is the minimal length needed for production of final product, 3mm beyond is desired
- Requirements apply to **ALL** other perspective views (only 1 shown for example)

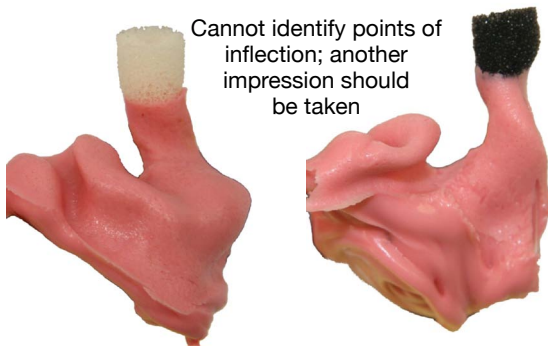
## Ear Impression Examples



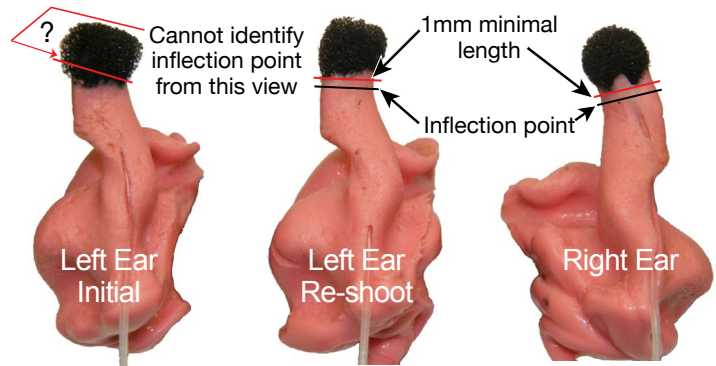
## Acceptable Impressions



## Unacceptable Impressions



## Borderline Impressions



The initial left impression shows the start of the 2nd bend, but not the completion of the 2nd bend. The left ear impression re-shoot shows the completion of the bend at the inflection point.

## Outer Ear Fill Area

