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Interested committees:

Title: BS EN IEC 61252 Electroacoustics - Personal sound exposure meters

Please notify the secretary if you are aware of any keywords that might assist in classifying or identifying the standard or if the content of this standard

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- iii) requires additional national guidance or information

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Information on the co-operating organizations represented on the committees referenced above may be obtained from <http://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com>

## Introduction

This draft standard is based on national and international discussions. Your comments on this draft are invited and will assist in the preparation of the consequent standard.

For international standards, comments will be reviewed by the relevant UK national committee before sending the consensus UK vote and comments to the international committee, which will then decide appropriate action. If the international standard is approved, it is usual for the text to be published as a British Standard.

For national standards, comments will be reviewed by the relevant UK national committee and the resulting standards published as a British Standard.

## UK Vote

Please indicate whether you consider the UK should submit a negative (with supporting technical reasons) or positive vote on this draft. Please indicate if you are aware of any reason why this draft standard should not be published as a British Standard.

## Submission of Comments

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## Template for comments and secretariat observations

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Date: xx/xx/20xx | Document: ISO/DIS xxxx |
|------------------|------------------------|

| 1  | 2                                          | (3)                          | 4               | 5                                                                                                                                  | (6)                                                                      | 7                                                  |
|----|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| MB | Clause No./ Subclause No./Annex (e.g. 3.1) | Paragraph/Figure/ Table/Note | Type of comment | Commend (justification for change) by the MB                                                                                       | Proposed change by the MB                                                | Secretariat observations on each comment submitted |
|    | 3.1                                        | Definition 1                 | ed              | Definition is ambiguous and needs clarifying.                                                                                      | Amend to read '...so that the mains connector to which no connection...' |                                                    |
|    | 6.4                                        | Paragraph 2                  | te              | The use of the UV photometer as an alternative cannot be supported as serious problems have been encountered in its use in the UK. | Delete reference to UV photometer.                                       |                                                    |



# 29/1153/CD

COMMITTEE DRAFT (CD)

PROJECT NUMBER:

**IEC 61252 ED2**

DATE OF CIRCULATION:

**2023-06-02**

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS:

**2023-08-25**

SUPERSEDES DOCUMENTS:

**29/1123/CD, 29/1130A/CC**

IEC TC 29 : ELECTROACOUSTICS

SECRETARIAT:

Denmark

SECRETARY:

Ms Lise Aagesen

OF INTEREST TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

PROPOSED HORIZONTAL STANDARD:



Other TC/SCs are requested to indicate their interest, if any, in this CD to the secretary.

FUNCTIONS CONCERNED:

☐ EMC

☐ ENVIRONMENT

☐ QUALITY ASSURANCE

☐ SAFETY

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TITLE:

**Electroacoustics - Personal sound exposure meters**

NOTE FROM TC/SC OFFICERS:

At its meeting, 2022-10-31/11-04 in San Francisco, USA, TC 29 took the following Decision, doc. 29/1139/DL refers:

DECISION 1

TC 29 decides to proceed with CD 61252 with the new title "Electroacoustics – Personal sound exposure meters" as a second CD for a 12-week commenting period. TC 29 further decides to set the following new target dates to:

Second CD: 2023-10-31

CDV: 2024-08-31.

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## CONTENTS

|    |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1  |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 2  |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 3  |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 4  | FOREWORD .....                                                                                                                                     | 6  |
| 5  | INTRODUCTION .....                                                                                                                                 | 8  |
| 6  | 1 Scope .....                                                                                                                                      | 9  |
| 7  | 2 Normative references .....                                                                                                                       | 9  |
| 8  | 3 Terms and definitions .....                                                                                                                      | 10 |
| 9  | 4 Performance specifications .....                                                                                                                 | 13 |
| 10 | 4.1 General performance requirements .....                                                                                                         | 13 |
| 11 | 4.1.1 Components .....                                                                                                                             | 13 |
| 12 | 4.1.2 Display device .....                                                                                                                         | 14 |
| 13 | 4.1.3 Configuration .....                                                                                                                          | 15 |
| 14 | 4.1.4 Design features .....                                                                                                                        | 15 |
| 15 | 4.1.5 Adjustment at the calibration check frequency .....                                                                                          | 17 |
| 16 | 4.1.6 Determination of conformance .....                                                                                                           | 17 |
| 17 | 4.1.7 Reference environmental conditions .....                                                                                                     | 18 |
| 18 | 4.1.8 Classification for radio-frequency tests .....                                                                                               | 18 |
| 19 | 4.2 Marking .....                                                                                                                                  | 18 |
| 20 | 4.3 Static pressure .....                                                                                                                          | 18 |
| 21 | 4.4 Temperature .....                                                                                                                              | 18 |
| 22 | 4.5 Relative humidity .....                                                                                                                        | 19 |
| 23 | 4.6 Electrostatic discharge .....                                                                                                                  | 19 |
| 24 | 4.7 A.C.-power-frequency and radio-frequency fields .....                                                                                          | 19 |
| 25 | 4.8 Radio-frequency emissions and disturbances to a public power supply .....                                                                      | 19 |
| 26 | 4.9 Directional response .....                                                                                                                     | 19 |
| 27 | 4.10 Frequency weightings .....                                                                                                                    | 20 |
| 28 | 4.11 Corrections to indicated levels .....                                                                                                         | 20 |
| 29 | 4.11.1 General .....                                                                                                                               | 20 |
| 30 | 4.11.2 Windscreens .....                                                                                                                           | 21 |
| 31 | 4.11.3 Corrections for use during periodic testing .....                                                                                           | 21 |
| 32 | 4.12 Linearity of response to steady signals .....                                                                                                 | 21 |
| 33 | 4.13 Under-range indication .....                                                                                                                  | 22 |
| 34 | 4.14 Time-weightings F and S .....                                                                                                                 | 22 |
| 35 | 4.15 Response to short duration signals for indications of time-averaged sound levels, sound exposure levels, and time-weighted sound levels ..... | 22 |
| 36 |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 37 | 4.16 Response to short duration signals for indications of time-averaged non-equal-energy sound levels .....                                       | 22 |
| 38 |                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| 39 | 4.17 Overload indication .....                                                                                                                     | 23 |
| 40 | 4.18 C-weighted peak sound level .....                                                                                                             | 24 |
| 41 | 4.18.1 Deviation from reference differences .....                                                                                                  | 24 |
| 42 | 4.18.2 Repeatability .....                                                                                                                         | 24 |
| 43 | 4.19 Stability during continuous operation .....                                                                                                   | 24 |
| 44 | 4.20 High-level stability .....                                                                                                                    | 24 |

|    |        |                                                                                                                                               |    |
|----|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 45 | 4.21   | Reset facility .....                                                                                                                          | 24 |
| 46 | 4.22   | Analogue or digital output .....                                                                                                              | 24 |
| 47 | 4.23   | Timing facilities .....                                                                                                                       | 24 |
| 48 | 4.24   | Crosstalk .....                                                                                                                               | 24 |
| 49 | 4.25   | Power supply .....                                                                                                                            | 25 |
| 50 | 4.26   | Pause and resumption of time averaging and time integration .....                                                                             | 25 |
| 51 | 4.27   | Instruction Manual .....                                                                                                                      | 25 |
| 52 | 4.27.1 | General .....                                                                                                                                 | 25 |
| 53 | 4.27.2 | Specifications .....                                                                                                                          | 25 |
| 54 | 4.27.3 | Information for operation .....                                                                                                               | 27 |
| 55 | 4.27.4 | Information for use with auxiliary devices .....                                                                                              | 28 |
| 56 | 4.27.5 | Information for testing .....                                                                                                                 | 28 |
| 57 | 5      | Pattern-evaluation tests .....                                                                                                                | 29 |
| 58 | 5.1    | General requirements .....                                                                                                                    | 29 |
| 59 | 5.1.1  | Submission for testing .....                                                                                                                  | 29 |
| 60 | 5.1.2  | Display device .....                                                                                                                          | 30 |
| 61 | 5.1.3  | Configuration .....                                                                                                                           | 30 |
| 62 | 5.1.4  | Design features .....                                                                                                                         | 30 |
| 63 | 5.1.5  | Adjustment at the calibration check frequency .....                                                                                           | 31 |
| 64 | 5.1.6  | Determination of conformance .....                                                                                                            | 31 |
| 65 | 5.1.7  | Environmental conditions .....                                                                                                                | 32 |
| 66 | 5.1.8  | Laboratory equipment .....                                                                                                                    | 32 |
| 67 | 5.2    | Marking and information in the Instruction Manual .....                                                                                       | 32 |
| 68 | 5.3    | Static pressure .....                                                                                                                         | 32 |
| 69 | 5.4    | Temperature .....                                                                                                                             | 32 |
| 70 | 5.5    | Relative humidity .....                                                                                                                       | 33 |
| 71 | 5.6    | Electrostatic discharge .....                                                                                                                 | 33 |
| 72 | 5.7    | Influence of a.c.-power-frequency and radio-frequency fields .....                                                                            | 33 |
| 73 | 5.8    | Radio-frequency emissions and public power supply disturbances .....                                                                          | 33 |
| 74 | 5.9    | Directional response .....                                                                                                                    | 33 |
| 75 | 5.10   | Frequency weightings .....                                                                                                                    | 33 |
| 76 | 5.10.1 | Acoustical signal tests of frequency weightings .....                                                                                         | 33 |
| 77 | 5.10.2 | Electrical signal tests of frequency weightings .....                                                                                         | 33 |
| 78 | 5.11   | Corrections to indicated levels .....                                                                                                         | 33 |
| 79 | 5.12   | Linearity of response to steady signals .....                                                                                                 | 33 |
| 80 | 5.13   | Under-range indication .....                                                                                                                  | 33 |
| 81 | 5.14   | Decay time constants for time weightings F and S .....                                                                                        | 34 |
| 82 | 5.15   | Response to short-duration signals for indications of time-averaged sound levels, sound exposure levels, and time-weighted sound levels ..... | 34 |
| 84 | 5.16   | Response to short-duration signals for indications of time-averaged non-equal-energy sound levels .....                                       | 34 |
| 86 | 5.17   | Overload indication .....                                                                                                                     | 34 |
| 87 | 5.18   | C-weighted peak sound level .....                                                                                                             | 34 |
| 88 | 5.18.1 | Deviation from reference response .....                                                                                                       | 34 |
| 89 | 5.18.2 | Repeatability .....                                                                                                                           | 35 |
| 90 | 5.19   | Stability during continuous operation .....                                                                                                   | 35 |

|     |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                       |    |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 91  | 5.20                                                                                                                                               | High-level stability .....                                                                                                            | 35 |
| 92  | 5.21                                                                                                                                               | Reset facility .....                                                                                                                  | 35 |
| 93  | 5.22                                                                                                                                               | Outputs .....                                                                                                                         | 35 |
| 94  | 5.23                                                                                                                                               | Timing facilities .....                                                                                                               | 35 |
| 95  | 5.24                                                                                                                                               | Crosstalk in multi-channel personal sound exposure meters .....                                                                       | 36 |
| 96  | 5.25                                                                                                                                               | Power supply .....                                                                                                                    | 36 |
| 97  | 5.26                                                                                                                                               | Pause and resumption of time averaging and time integration .....                                                                     | 36 |
| 98  | 5.27                                                                                                                                               | Pattern evaluation report .....                                                                                                       | 36 |
| 99  | 6                                                                                                                                                  | Periodic tests .....                                                                                                                  | 36 |
| 100 | 6.1                                                                                                                                                | General requirements .....                                                                                                            | 36 |
| 101 | 6.1.1                                                                                                                                              | Submission for testing .....                                                                                                          | 36 |
| 102 | 6.1.2                                                                                                                                              | Preliminary inspection .....                                                                                                          | 37 |
| 103 | 6.1.3                                                                                                                                              | Configuration .....                                                                                                                   | 38 |
| 104 | 6.1.4                                                                                                                                              | Design features .....                                                                                                                 | 38 |
| 105 | 6.1.5                                                                                                                                              | Adjustment at the calibration check frequency .....                                                                                   | 38 |
| 106 | 6.1.6                                                                                                                                              | Determination of conformance .....                                                                                                    | 38 |
| 107 | 6.1.7                                                                                                                                              | Environmental conditions .....                                                                                                        | 39 |
| 108 | 6.1.8                                                                                                                                              | Laboratory equipment .....                                                                                                            | 39 |
| 109 | 6.1.9                                                                                                                                              | Power supply .....                                                                                                                    | 40 |
| 110 | 6.2                                                                                                                                                | Marking .....                                                                                                                         | 40 |
| 111 | 6.3                                                                                                                                                | Frequency weightings .....                                                                                                            | 40 |
| 112 | 6.3.1                                                                                                                                              | Acoustical signal tests of a frequency weighting .....                                                                                | 40 |
| 113 | 6.3.2                                                                                                                                              | Electrical signal tests of frequency weightings .....                                                                                 | 40 |
| 114 | 6.4                                                                                                                                                | Frequency and time weightings at 1 kHz .....                                                                                          | 40 |
| 115 | 6.5                                                                                                                                                | Linearity of response to steady signals .....                                                                                         | 40 |
| 116 | 6.6                                                                                                                                                | Overload indication .....                                                                                                             | 40 |
| 117 | 6.7                                                                                                                                                | C-weighted peak sound level .....                                                                                                     | 41 |
| 118 | 6.7.1                                                                                                                                              | Deviation from reference response .....                                                                                               | 41 |
| 119 | 6.7.2                                                                                                                                              | Repeatability .....                                                                                                                   | 41 |
| 120 | 6.8                                                                                                                                                | Documentation .....                                                                                                                   | 41 |
| 121 | Annex A (informative)                                                                                                                              | Sound exposures and corresponding normalized 8 h-average sound levels .....                                                           | 44 |
| 123 | Annex B (informative)                                                                                                                              | Relationship between tolerance interval, corresponding acceptance interval and the maximum-permitted uncertainty of measurement ..... | 45 |
| 125 | Annex C (normative)                                                                                                                                | Maximum-permitted uncertainties of measurement .....                                                                                  | 47 |
| 126 | Annex D (informative)                                                                                                                              | Example assessments of conformance to specifications of this document .....                                                           | 48 |
| 128 | D.1                                                                                                                                                | General .....                                                                                                                         | 48 |
| 129 | D.2                                                                                                                                                | Conformance criteria .....                                                                                                            | 48 |
| 130 | D.3                                                                                                                                                | Example test results .....                                                                                                            | 48 |
| 131 | Bibliography .....                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                       | 51 |
| 133 | Figure B.1 – Relationship between tolerance interval, corresponding acceptance interval and the maximum-permitted uncertainty of measurement ..... |                                                                                                                                       | 45 |
| 135 | Figure D.1 – Examples of assessment of conformance .....                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       | 50 |

|     |                                                                                                 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 136 |                                                                                                 |
| 137 | Table 1 – Acceptance limits for deviations of directional response from the design goal .....20 |
| 138 | Table 2 - Reference response to a sequence of repeated 4 kHz tonebursts for time-               |
| 139 | averaged non-equal-energy sound levels and acceptance limits .....23                            |
| 140 | Table A.1 - Sound exposures and corresponding normalized 8 h-average sound levels .....44       |
| 141 | Table C.1 – Maximum-permitted uncertainties of measurement for a coverage probability           |
| 142 | of 95 % .....47                                                                                 |
| 143 | Table D.1 – Examples of assessment of conformance .....49                                       |
| 144 |                                                                                                 |
| 145 |                                                                                                 |
| 146 |                                                                                                 |

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## ELECTROACOUSTICS –

## PERSONAL SOUND EXPOSURE METERS

## FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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IEC 61252 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 29, Electroacoustics. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1993, Amendment 1:2000, and Amendment 2:2017. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- personal sound exposure meters are required to provide indications of time-averaged sound level and peak sound level;
- sound exposure is an optional quantity for indication;

- specifications for physical quantities that do not follow the principle of equal-energy exchange rate have been added;
- specifications for directional response have been added;
- specifications for frequency weightings apply to the relative diffuse-field frequency response;
- determination of conformance to specifications takes account of uncertainties of measurement;
- detailed requirements for pattern-evaluation tests and periodic testing have been added.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| FDIS       | Report on voting |
|------------|------------------|
| 29/XX/FDIS | 29/XX/RVD        |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

## INTRODUCTION

The principal application for a personal sound exposure meter is the measurement of sound immission in the vicinity of a person's head, for example for assessment of occupational noise exposure in accordance with International Standards such as ISO 1999 and ISO 9612.

The microphone of a personal sound exposure meter is typically worn on the shoulder, collar, or other location close to the ear. In many practical situations the sound immission indicated by an instrument worn on a person is likely to be different from that which would be measured in the absence of a person. The influence of the person wearing a personal sound exposure meter should be considered when estimating the sound immission that would have been measured with the person absent.

The most common physical quantities for characterisation of sound immission are time-averaged sound levels and peak sound levels. For this reason, this document requires a personal sound exposure meter to provide indications of these sound levels.

It is also sometimes required to measure other quantities including sound exposure or sound exposure levels. Therefore this document optionally allows a personal sound exposure meter to indicate these quantities.

Sound exposure is a physical measure that accounts for both the sound pressure and its duration, at a given location, through the time integral of the square of the instantaneous frequency-weighted sound pressure. A doubling (or halving) of the integration time of a constant sound level yields a doubling (or halving) of sound exposure. Similarly, an increase (or decrease) of 3 dB in a constant input sound level for a constant integration time yields a doubling (or halving) of the sound exposure. The same operating principle ("equal-energy exchange rate") underlies the measurement of sound exposure level.

The term "dose" is sometimes used to refer to a percentage of a predetermined criterion for exposure to noise in terms of a specified upper limit (often a legal limit) of a specified physical quantity. The physical quantity and the value of the limit vary between jurisdictions, and some jurisdictions specify quantities that are not based on the principle of equal-energy exchange. Therefore this document allows a personal sound exposure meter to indicate these quantities and distinguishes between equal-energy-based and non-equal-energy-based quantities.

The title of this edition of the document has been changed because this edition includes requirements for pattern-evaluation tests and periodic testing in addition to performance specifications.

## ELECTROACOUSTICS –

### PERSONAL SOUND EXPOSURE METERS

#### 1 Scope

This document specifies

- performance specifications for personal sound exposure meters,
- details of the tests necessary to verify conformance to all mandatory specifications for the purpose of pattern evaluation, and
- procedures for periodic testing of a personal sound exposure meter.

Personal sound exposure meters conforming to the requirements of this standard have a specified frequency response for sound incident on the microphone from all directions.

This document is applicable to instruments that are designed to be worn on a person in a configuration specified by the manufacturer for the measurement of sound immission resulting from steady, intermittent, fluctuating, irregular, or impulsive sounds. For reproducibility of results, specifications and tests for the response to sound waves apply without an operator present in the sound field.

This document specifies performance requirements for personal sound exposure meters of one performance class. The specifications generally correspond to those for a class 2 integrating-averaging sound level meter as given in IEC 61672-1 for an A-weighted sound pressure level range from 70 dB to 137 dB and a nominal frequency range from 20 Hz to 8 kHz. The design goals and the acceptance limits for deviations from the design goals are representative of the performance of practical instruments. Personal sound exposure meters are unlikely to be suitable for measurement of sound levels outside these ranges.

Pattern evaluation tests and periodic tests described in this edition of this document apply to personal sound exposure meters for which the manufacturer claims conformance to the specifications given in this edition of this document.

The purpose of pattern evaluation is to determine whether a model of personal sound exposure meter conforms to all the performance specifications given in this document.

The purpose of periodic testing is to assure the user that the individual personal sound exposure meter conforms to the applicable performance specifications for a limited set of key tests and for the environmental conditions under which the tests are performed. The extent of the periodic tests is deliberately restricted to the minimum considered necessary. Because of the limited extent of the periodic tests, evidence of pattern approval is necessary to state that the individual personal sound exposure meter conforms to the complete set of specifications of this document.

The aim is to ensure that pattern evaluation and periodic testing are performed in a consistent manner by all laboratories.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement – Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

ISO/IEC Guide 99, *International vocabulary of metrology – Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

IEC 60942, *Electroacoustics – Sound calibrators*

IEC 61000-4-3:2010, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques – Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61094-6, *Electroacoustics – Measurement microphones – Part 6: Electrostatic actuators for determination of frequency response*

IEC 61183, *Electroacoustics – Random-incidence and diffuse-field calibration of sound level meters*

IEC 61672-1:2013, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61672-2:2013, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 2: Pattern evaluation tests*

IEC 61672-3:2013, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 3: Periodic tests*

IEC 62585:2012, *Electroacoustics – Methods to determine corrections to obtain the free-field response of a sound level meter*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, ISO/IEC Guide 98-4, ISO/IEC Guide 99, IEC 61000-4-3, IEC 61183, IEC 61672 (all parts), and IEC 62585 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

#### 3.1

##### sound exposure

time integral of the square of a frequency-weighted sound pressure signal over a stated time interval or event of stated duration

Note 1 to entry: Duration of integration is included implicitly in the time integral and is not always reported explicitly, although it is useful to state the nature of the event. For measurements of sound exposure over a specified time interval, duration of integration is usually reported and indicated by a suitable subscript to the letter symbol, for example as  $E_{A,1h}$ .

Note 2 to entry: In symbols and as an example, A-weighted sound exposure  $E_{A,T}$  is represented by

$$E_{A,T} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} p_A^2(t) dt \quad (1)$$

where  $p_A^2(t)$  is the square of the A-weighted sound-pressure signal during integration time  $T$  starting at  $t_1$  and ending at  $t_2$ .

Note 3 to entry: The unit of sound exposure is pascal-squared seconds (Pa<sup>2</sup>s) if sound pressure is in pascals and running time is in seconds.

Note 4 to entry: For applications such as measurement of exposure to noise in the workplace, sound exposure in pascal-squared hours is more convenient than pascal-squared seconds.

[SOURCE: IEC 61672-1:2013, 3.11]

**3.2****normalized 8 h-average sound level**

level of the time-mean-square, A-weighted sound pressure during a normalization time period  $T_n$  of 8 h such that the sound exposure therefrom is equal to that of a time-varying sound at a place where total sound exposure occurs within a time period not necessarily 8 h

Note 1 to entry: The unit of normalized 8 h-average sound level is decibels.

Note 2 to entry: In symbols, a normalized 8 h-average sound level (letter symbol  $L_{Aeq,8\text{ hn}}$ ), relative to the reference sound pressure  $p_0$  and the 8 h normalization time period  $T_n$ , is related to sound exposure  $E$  in pascal-squared hours by

$$L_{Aeq,8\text{ hn}} = 10 \lg \left[ E / (p_0^2 T_n) \right] \quad (2)$$

or, alternatively, by:

$$E = (p_0^2 T_n) \left[ 10^{(0,1 \times L_{Aeq,8\text{ hn}})} \right] \quad (3)$$

Note 3 to entry: For computations, a simpler form of Eq.(2) for normalized 8 h-average sound level is obtained, for sound exposure  $E$  in pascal-squared hours, after substituting the values of 20  $\mu\text{Pa}$  for  $p_0$  and 8 h for  $T_n$ , as

$$L_{Aeq,8\text{ hn}} = 10 \lg \left[ (E \times 10^9) / 3,2 \right] \quad (4)$$

Note 4 to entry: When a total sound exposure is described indirectly by an A-weighted time-averaged sound pressure level  $L_{Aeq,T}$ , for an averaging time  $T$  greater or less than the normalization time period of 8 h, normalized 8 h-average sound level may be determined from

$$L_{Aeq,8\text{ hn}} = L_{Aeq,T} + 10 \lg (T / T_n) \quad (5)$$

Note 5 to entry: Annex A provides a table of normalized 8 h-average sound levels and corresponding sound exposures. For example, a sound exposure of 1  $\text{Pa}^2\text{h}$  (irrespective of the period of time over which it is measured) corresponds to a normalized 8 h-average sound level of approximately 85 dB; a sound exposure of 3,20  $\text{Pa}^2\text{h}$  corresponds to a normalized 8 h-average sound level of 90 dB.

Note 6 to entry: Normalized 8 h-average sound level in Eq.(2) is identical to "daily personal noise exposure" ( $L_{EX,8h}$ ) defined in Article 2 of Directive 2003/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 February 2003 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (noise).

Note 7 to entry: Normalized 8 h-average sound level in Eq.(2) is also the same as "noise exposure level normalized to a nominal 8 h working day,  $L_{EX,8\text{ h}}$ " defined in ISO 1999.

**3.3****exchange rate**

change in sound level corresponding to a doubling or halving of the duration of a steady input sound pressure signal while a constant percentage non-equal-energy sound exposure is maintained

**3.4****non-equal-energy sound exposure**

time integral of a power function of the time-weighted square of a frequency-weighted sound pressure signal over a stated time interval or event of stated duration

Note 1 to entry: Duration of integration is included implicitly in the time integral and is not always reported explicitly, although it is useful to state the nature of the event. For measurements of non-equal-energy sound exposure over a specified time interval, duration of integration is usually reported and indicated by a suitable subscript to the letter symbol, for example as  $E_{neeqA,1\text{ h}}$ .

Note 2 to entry: In symbols and as an example, A-frequency weighted F-time weighted non-equal-energy sound exposure  $E_{neeqAF,T}$  is represented by

$$E_{\text{neeAF},T} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left( \left( \frac{1}{\tau_F} \right) \int_{-\infty}^t p_A^2(\xi) e^{-(t-\xi)/\tau_F} d\xi \right)^{10 \lg(2)/Q} dt \quad (6)$$

where:

- $\tau_F$  is the exponential time constant in seconds for the F time weighting;
- $\xi$  is a dummy variable of time integration from some time in the past, as indicated by  $-\infty$  for the lower limit of the integral, to the time of observation  $t$ ;
- $p_A(\xi)$  is the A-weighted instantaneous sound-pressure signal;
- $Q$  is the exchange rate in decibels;
- $T$  is the integration time beginning at  $t_1$  and ending at  $t_2$ .

Note 3 to entry: The unit of sound exposure is pascal-squared seconds ( $\text{Pa}^2\text{s}$ ) if sound pressure is in pascals and running time is in seconds.

Note 4 to entry: For applications such as measurement of exposure to noise in the workplace, sound exposure in pascal-squared hours is more convenient than pascal-squared seconds.

Note 5 to entry: If the exchange rate were 3 dB and there were no time weighting, non-equal-energy sound exposure would be equivalent to sound exposure.

### 3.5

#### critterion duration

specified duration of time integration

Note to entry: The criterion duration is typically chosen to be the maximum duration of exposure for the application, for example the duration of a working day.

### 3.6

#### critterion sound level

specified level of a sound

Note to entry: The criterion sound level is typically chosen to be a level of sound which, if maintained for longer than the criterion duration or if exceeded, could have adverse effects.

### 3.7

#### critterion sound exposure

product of the criterion duration and the mean-square sound pressure corresponding to the criterion sound level

Note to entry: The criterion sound exposure is typically chosen to be a legal limit. Such limits vary between jurisdictions and are subject to change.

### 3.8

#### critterion non-equal-energy sound exposure

product of the criterion duration and a power function of the mean-square sound pressure corresponding to the criterion sound level

Note to entry: The criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure is typically chosen to be a legal limit. Such limits vary between jurisdictions and are subject to change.

### 3.9

#### percentage critterion sound exposure

quotient of sound exposure to criterion sound exposure, multiplied by 100

Note 1 to entry: The unit of percentage criterion sound exposure is per cent.

Note 2 to entry: In symbols and as an example, the percentage criterion sound exposure using frequency weighting A can also be calculated from:

$$D_A = (100/T_{\text{cr}}) \int_{t_1}^{t_2} 10^{0.1(L_A - L_{\text{cr}})} dt \quad (7)$$

where:

- $T_{\text{cr}}$  is the criterion duration;

- 433 - the integration time begins at  $t_1$  and ends at  $t_2$ ;
- 434 -  $L_A$  is the A-frequency weighted sound level equivalent to the A-frequency-weighted input sound pressure;
- 435 -  $L_{cr}$  is the criterion sound level.

### 3.10

#### percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure

quotient of non-equal-energy sound exposure to criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure, multiplied by 100

Note 1 to entry: The unit of percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure is per cent.

Note 2 to entry: In symbols and as an example, the percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure using frequency weighting A and time weighting S can also be calculated from:

$$D_{ASQ} = (100/T_{cr}) \int_{t_1}^{t_2} 10^{[(L_{AS} - L_{cr})(\lg(2)/Q)]} dt \quad (8)$$

where:

- 446 -  $Q$  is the exchange rate in decibels;
- 447 -  $T_{cr}$  is the criterion duration;
- 448 - the integration time begins at  $t_1$  and ends at  $t_2$ ;
- 449 -  $L_{AS}$  is the S-time-weighted A-frequency-weighted sound level equivalent to the A-frequency-weighted input sound pressure;
- 451 -  $L_{cr}$  is the criterion sound level.

Note 3 to entry: If the exchange rate were 3 dB and there were no time weighting, percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure would be equivalent to percentage criterion sound exposure.

### 3.11

#### time-averaged non-equal-energy sound level

average sound level during the integration time over which a percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure is measured

Note 1 to entry: In symbols and as an example, the time-averaged non-equal-energy sound level using frequency weighting A and time-weighting S can be calculated from:

$$L_{neeAS,T} = L_{cr} + (Q/\lg(2)) \lg(D_{ASQ} T_{cr} / 100T) \quad (9)$$

where:

- 463 -  $Q$  is the exchange rate in decibels;
- 464 -  $D_{ASQ}$  is the percentage criterion non-equal-energy sound exposure;
- 465 -  $T_{cr}$  is the criterion duration;
- 466 -  $T$  is the integration time;
- 467 -  $L_{cr}$  is the criterion sound level.

Note 2 to entry: If the sound level is held constant during a test, time-averaged non-equal-energy sound level is that constant level.

Note 3 to entry: If the exchange rate were 3 dB and there were no time weighting, time-averaged non-equal-energy sound level is a close approximation of time-averaged sound level.

Note 4 to entry: Time-averaged non-equal-energy sound level is equivalent to average sound level as described in 4.7 of ANSI S1.25-1991.

## 4 Performance specifications

### 4.1 General performance requirements

#### 4.1.1 Components

Generally, a personal sound exposure meter is a combination of a microphone, a signal processor, and a display device. Performance specifications of this document apply to any design of microphone that is appropriate for a personal sound exposure meter.

NOTE 1 The signal processor typically includes the combined functions of an amplifier with a specified and controlled frequency response, a device to form the square of the frequency-weighted, time-varying sound-pressure signal, and a time integrator.

NOTE 2 Computer software is an integral part of some personal sound exposure meters.

All components that are necessary for conformance to the specifications are integral parts of a personal sound exposure meter.

The manufacturer shall provide a means to apply an electrical input signal in place of the signal from the microphone, for the purpose of performing tests on the complete instrument without the microphone.

NOTE A combination of limited acoustical signal tests with electrical input signal tests can be more practicable than acoustical signal tests of the entire personal sound exposure meter.

The manufacturer may provide an accessible input test point or recommend and provide a dummy microphone or equivalent input adaptor (electrical or non-electrical) for performing electrical tests on the instrument. The point of access for electrical input signals should be before any signal processing such that electrical input signals for testing can be applied to as much of the personal sound exposure meter as possible.

EXAMPLE Some personal sound exposure meters allow the microphone to be removed to allow electrical signals to be applied to the remainder of the personal sound exposure meter.

An optional extension device or cable may be provided by the manufacturer of the personal sound exposure meter for installation between the components. If such device or cable is provided, details shall be given in the Instruction Manual for any corrections to be applied to the results of measurements made in this manner (see 4.27.4).

EXAMPLE Some personal sound exposure meters allow for an extension cable for installation between the microphone or a microphone preamplifier and the other components.

Accessories including windscreens or rain protection devices may be specified for installation around the microphone (see 4.11.2).

It is recommended that the manufacturer provide an accessible output test point (see 4.22).

NOTE An output test point such as an a.c. analogue signal port or digital output port enables easier determination of conformance to specifications.

#### 4.1.2 Display device

The display device shall provide a physical and visible display, or storage, of measurement results. Any stored measurement result shall be available for display by means of a manufacturer-specified device. An analogue or digital output connection alone is not a display device.

EXAMPLE Some personal sound exposure meters use a computer with associated software to provide the display.

The display device may be built into, or be separate from, the wearable part of the personal sound exposure meter.

The acoustical quantity that is being measured shall be clearly indicated on the display or marked near the display. The indication may be by means of a suitable letter symbol or an abbreviation. Examples of appropriate letter symbols are given with the definitions, equations, and tables in this document.

A personal sound exposure meter may have more than one display device. Each alternative device for displaying the signal level, stated in the Instruction Manual as conforming to the specifications of this document, is an integral part of the personal sound exposure meter. Each such alternative device shall be included as part of the components required for demonstration of conformance to the performance specifications in this clause.

The display range for sound levels shall be at least 70 dB. The resolution of displayed sound levels shall not exceed 0,1 dB.