
Sound power levels of noise sources

Part 5. Precision methods for determination of sound power levels for sources in anechoic and semi-anechoic rooms

[ISO title : Acoustics—Determination of sound power levels of noise sources—
Precision methods for anechoic and semi-anechoic rooms]

Niveaux de puissance acoustique émis par les sources de bruit
Partie 5. Méthodes laboratoire pour la détermination des niveaux de puissance
acoustique des sources en salles anéchoïques et semi-anéchoïques

Schalleistungspegel von Schallquellen
Teil 5. Präzisionsverfahren zur Bestimmung der Schalleistungspegel
von Quellen in schalltoten und halbschalltoten

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National foreword

This Part of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Environment and Pollution Standards Committee and is identical with ISO 3745 'Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Precision methods for anechoic and semi-anechoic rooms', prepared by sub-committee 1, Noise, of ISO technical committee 43, Acoustics, and published in 1977 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

This Part of this standard, together with the other Parts listed below, supersedes BS 4196 : 1967, which is therefore now withdrawn.

Terminology and conventions. The text of the international standard has been approved as suitable for publication, without deviation, as a British Standard. Some terminology and certain conventions are not identical with those used in British Standards; attention is especially drawn to the following.

The comma has been used throughout as a decimal marker. In British Standards it is current practice to use a full point on the baseline as the decimal marker.

Wherever the words 'International Standard' appear, referring to this standard, they should be read as 'British Standard'.

Cross-references

International Standard	Corresponding British Standard
ISO 266-1975	BS 3593 : 1963 Recommendation on preferred frequencies for acoustical measurements (Technically equivalent)
ISO/R 354-1963	BS 3638 : 1963 Method for the measurement of sound absorption coefficients (ISO) in a reverberation room (Technically equivalent)
ISO 3740-1980	BS 4196 Sound power levels of noise sources Part 0 : 1981 Guide for the use of basic standards and for the preparation of noise test codes (Identical)
ISO 3741-1975	Part 1 : 1981 Precision methods for determination of sound power levels for broad-band sources in reverberation rooms (Identical)
ISO 3742-1975	Part 2 : 1981 Precision methods for determination of sound power levels for discrete-frequency and narrow-band sources in reverberation rooms (Identical)
ISO 3743-1976	Part 3 : 1981 Engineering methods for determination of sound power levels for sources in special reverberation rooms (Identical)
ISO 3744-1981*	Part 4 : 1981* Engineering methods for determination of sound power levels for sources in free-field conditions over a reflecting plane (Identical)
ISO 3746-1979*	Part 6 : 1981* Survey method of determination of sound power levels of noise sources (Identical)

The technical committee has reviewed the provisions of ISO 2204-1973†, to which reference is made in 1.2.1, clause 2 and annex I, IEC 50(08) : 1960, to which reference is made in clause 2, IEC 179 : 1973‡, to which reference is made in clause 2, 5.1 and annex H, and IEC 225 : 1966, to which reference is made in clause 2 and 5.4, and has decided that they are acceptable for use in conjunction with this standard. The related British Standards for IEC 50(08), IEC 179 and IEC 225 are BS 661 : 1969 'Glossary of acoustical terms', BS 4197 : 1967 'A precision sound level meter', and BS 2475 : 1964 'Octave and one third octave band-pass filters' respectively.

The references to IEC 179A, which appear in clause 2, 5.1 and annex I, are essentially of an advisory nature and not mandatory requirements and the lack of an equivalent British Standard does not affect the validity of this standard. There is no intention to implement this Publication in the United Kingdom, as it is not considered suitable for the measurement of impulsive noise components.

Additional information. In clause 2, the footnote indicators against ISO 3740 and ISO 3746 are no longer required, as these standards have been published.

*In course of preparation.

†ISO 2204-1973 has been superseded by ISO 2204-1979.

‡IEC 179 has been superseded by IEC 651 : 1979.

British Standard

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0.1 RELATED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

This International Standard is one of a series specifying various methods for determining the sound power levels of machines and equipment. These basic documents specify only the acoustical requirements for measurements appropriate for different test environments as shown in table 1.

When applying these basic documents, it is necessary to decide which one is most appropriate for the conditions and

purposes of the test. The operating and mounting conditions of the machine or equipment to be tested must be in accordance with the general principles stated in the basic documents.

Guidelines for making these decisions are provided in ISO 3740. If no sound test code is specified for a particular machine, the mounting and operating conditions shall be fully described in the test report.

TABLE 1 – International Standards specifying various methods for determining the sound power levels of machines and equipment

International Standard No.*	Classification of method	Test environment	Volume of source	Character of noise	Sound power levels obtainable	Optional information available
3741	Precision	Reverberation room meeting specified requirements	Preferably less than 1 % of test room volume	Steady, broad-band	In one-third octave or octave bands	A-weighted sound power level
3742				Steady, discrete-frequency or narrow-band		
3743	Engineering	Special reverberant test room		Steady, broad-band narrow-band, discrete-frequency	A-weighted and in octave bands	Other weighted sound power levels
3744	Engineering	Outdoors or in large room	Largest dimension less than 15,0 m	Any	A-weighted and in one-third octave or octave bands	Directivity information and sound pressure levels as a function of time; other weighted sound power levels
3745	Precision	Anechoic or semi-anechoic room	Preferably less than 0,5 % of test room volume	Any		
3746	Survey	No special test environment	No restrictions : limited only by available test environment	Steady, broad-band, narrow-band, discrete-frequency	A-weighted	Sound pressure levels as a function of time; other weighted sound power levels

* See clause 2.

0.2 SYNOPSIS OF ISO 3745

Applicability

Test environment

Free field (anechoic room) or free field over a reflecting plane (semi-anechoic room).

Type of source

Device, machine, component, subassembly.

Size of noise source

Volume of the source preferably less than 0,5 % of test room volume.

Character of noise radiated by the source

All types.

Accuracy

Precision (standard deviation for determining sound power levels for 1 kHz octave band is less than or equal to 0,5 dB for anechoic rooms and less than or equal to 1,0 dB for semi-anechoic rooms).

Quantities to be measured

Sound pressure levels (weighted and in frequency bands) over a prescribed surface.

Quantities to be calculated

Weighted sound power level (A is required; other weightings are optional).

Sound power levels in frequency bands.

Directivity characteristics of the source (optional).

0.3 INTRODUCTION

This International Standard specifies in detail two laboratory methods for determining the sound power radiated by a device, machine, component or subassembly using a laboratory anechoic room having prescribed acoustical characteristics. While other methods could be used to measure the noise emitted by machinery and equipment, the methods specified in this International Standard are particularly useful for rating the sound output of sources which produce steady noise and for which directivity information on the source may be desired.

The methods specified in this International Standard yield physical data that may be used for the following purposes :

- 1) rating apparatus according to its sound power output;
- 2) establishing sound control measures;
- 3) predicting the sound pressure levels produced by a device in a given enclosure or environment.

Techniques for utilizing the physical data for these special purposes are not included in this International Standard.

The determination of the sound power radiated by a sound source in a completely free field or in a free field above a reflecting plane is based on the premise that the reverberant field produced by the source is negligible and that the total radiated power is obtained from the mean-square sound pressure averaged in time and in space over a hypothetical sphere or hemisphere surrounding the source. The radius of the sphere or hemisphere is chosen so that its surface is in the far radiation field of the source.

This International Standard, together with the others in this series (see table 1), supersedes ISO/R 495.

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

1.1 General

This International Standard specifies two laboratory methods for determining the sound power level of a source. It gives requirements for the test room, as well as the source location, operating conditions and instrumentation. Techniques are specified for obtaining an estimate of the surface sound pressure level from which the weighted sound power level of the source as well as the sound power level in octave or one-third octave bands may be calculated. It is intended to prescribe techniques for acoustical measurements that may be used in test codes for particular types of equipment.

1.2 Field of application

1.2.1 Types of noise

This International Standard applies to sources which produce sound that is uniformly distributed in frequency over the frequency range of interest and is relatively steady for at least 30 s. The spectrum of the sound may also include prominent discrete-frequency components or narrow bands of noise. The procedures specified in this International Standard may also be applied to sources that emit non-steady noise as defined in ISO 2204, with the exception of an isolated burst of sound energy, or a burst train with a repetition rate less than 10 per second. (See annex I for guidelines on the detection of impulsive noise.)

1.2.2 Size of source

This International Standard applies primarily to small sound sources, i.e. sources whose volumes are preferably less than 0,5 % of the volume of the test room used for the measurements. This restriction is necessary to ensure that the hypothetical sphere or hemisphere surrounding the sources lies in the far radiation field of the source.

1.3 Measurement uncertainty

Measurements made in conformity with this International Standard tend to result in standard deviations which are equal to or less than those given in tables 2 and 3. The standard deviations of tables 2 and 3 reflect the cumulative effects of all causes of measurement uncertainty, excluding variations in the sound power of the source from test to test.

The major cause of uncertainty in determining sound power in an anechoic room is the spatial irregularity of the sound field due to the directivity of the source. In a semi-anechoic room, the spatial irregularity may be increased due to the superposition of the sound field of the actual source and that of the image source. The directivity pattern of a source located above a reflecting plane is generally more complicated than that of the same source in a free field. Moreover, the near field extends to greater distance, and the radius of the test hemispheres is usually larger than the radius of the test sphere that would be required in a free field. The smallest uncertainty in determining sound power levels occurs when measurements are made in a free field. For this reason, if no other constraints are present, the free-field environment is preferred for laboratory measurements. However, it is difficult to make measurements on some classes of equipment under truly free-field conditions. Some sound sources are too large to fit into existing anechoic rooms, some are too heavy to be suspended in the centre of these rooms and others are normally supported by or associated with a hard, reflecting surface. For these reasons, the free field above a reflecting plane is a laboratory environment that is useful for measurements on many different types of equipment.

An anechoic room provides the preferred environment for measurements with the smallest uncertainty. However, reasonable accuracy can be obtained in a semi-anechoic room provided the precautions specified in this International Standard are observed.

TABLE 2 — Uncertainty in determining sound power levels of sound sources in anechoic rooms

Octave band centre frequencies	One-third octave band centre frequencies	Standard deviation of mean value
Hz	Hz	dB
125 to 500	100 to 630	1,0
1 000 to 4 000	800 to 5 000	0,5
8 000	6 300 to 10 000	1,0

TABLE 3 — Uncertainty in determining sound power levels of sound sources in semi-anechoic rooms

Octave band centre frequencies	One-third octave band centre frequencies	Standard deviation of mean value
Hz	Hz	dB
125 to 500	100 to 630	1,5
1 000 to 4 000	800 to 5 000	1,0
8 000	6 300 to 10 000	1,5

2 REFERENCES

ISO 266, *Acoustics — Preferred frequencies for measurement*.

ISO/R 354, *Measurement of absorption coefficients in a reverberation room*.

ISO 2204, *Acoustics — Guide to the measurement of airborne acoustical noise and evaluation of its effects on man*.

ISO 3740, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Guidelines for the use of basic International Standards and for the preparation of noise test codes*.¹⁾

ISO 3741, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Precision methods for broad-band sources in reverberation rooms*.

ISO 3742, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Precision methods for discrete-frequency and narrow-band sources in reverberation rooms*.

ISO 3743, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Engineering methods for special reverberation test rooms*.

ISO 3744, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Engineering methods for free-field conditions over a reflecting plane*.¹⁾

ISO 3746, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Survey method*.¹⁾

IEC Publication 50(08), *International electrotechnical vocabulary — Electro-acoustics*.

IEC Publication 179, *Precision sound level meters*.

IEC Publication 179A, *First supplement to Publication 179, Additional characteristics for the measurement of impulsive sounds*.

IEC Publication 225, *Octave, half-octave and third-octave band filters intended for the analysis of sound and vibrations*.

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply :

3.1 free sound field : A field in a homogeneous, isotropic medium free of boundaries.

1) At present at the stage of draft

3.2 free field over a reflecting plane : A field in a homogeneous, isotropic medium in the half-space above an infinite, rigid plane surface.

3.3 anechoic room : A test room whose surfaces absorb essentially all of the incident sound energy over the frequency range of interest, thereby affording free-field conditions over the measurement surface.

3.4 semi-anechoic room : A test room with a hard, reflecting floor whose other surfaces absorb essentially all the incident sound energy over the frequency range of interest, thereby affording free-field conditions above a reflecting plane.

3.5 surface sound pressure : The sound pressure averaged in time on a mean-square basis and also averaged over the measurement surface using the averaging procedures specified in clause 7.

3.6 surface sound pressure level, $\overline{L_p}$, in decibels : Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the square of the surface sound pressure to the square of the reference sound pressure. The weighting network or the width of the frequency band used shall be indicated; for example, A-weighted sound pressure level, octave band sound pressure level, one-third octave band sound pressure level, etc. The reference sound pressure is 20 μ Pa.

3.7 sound power level, L_W , in decibels : Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of a given sound power to the reference sound power. The weighting network or the width of the frequency band used shall be indicated; for example, A-weighted sound power level, octave band power level, one-third octave band power level, etc. The reference sound power is 1 pW ($= 10^{-12}$ W).

NOTE — The mean sound pressure level at some reference radius is numerically different from the sound power level and its use in lieu of the sound power level is not recommended.

3.8 frequency range of interest : For general purposes, the frequency range of interest includes the octave bands with centre frequencies between 125 and 8 000 Hz and the one-third octave bands with centre frequencies between 100 and 10 000 Hz. Any band may be excluded in which the level is more than 40 dB below the highest band pressure level. For special purposes, the frequency range of interest may be extended at either end, provided the test environment and instrument accuracy are satisfactory for use over the extended frequency range. For sources which radiate predominantly high (or low) frequency sound, the frequency range of interest may be limited in order to optimize the test facility and procedures.

3.9 measurement surface : A hypothetical surface of area S enveloping the source on which the measuring points are located. For the purposes of this International Standard, the measurement surface is usually a sphere or hemisphere of radius r .

3.10 far field : That portion of the radiation field of a noise source in which the sound pressure level decreases by 3 dB for each doubling of the area of the measurement surface. This is equivalent to a decrease of 6 dB for each doubling of the distance from a point source.

In the far field, the mean-square pressure is proportional to the total acoustic power radiated by the source.

NOTE — For most practical sources, the far field begins at a distance from the source which may be significantly less than $2a$, where a is the largest dimension of the source.

3.11 near field : That portion of the radiation field of a noise source which lies between the source and the far field.

3.12 volume of source under test : The volume of the whole object under test.

4 TEST ROOM REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General

The test room shall be large enough and shall have a sufficiently high value of the total sound absorption to provide an adequate free field for all frequency bands within the frequency range of interest and for each measurement surface selected. For guidance on the design of anechoic rooms, refer to annex G.

4.1.1 Criterion for room adequacy

The adequacy of the test room for measurements according to this International Standard shall be established using the procedures of annex A.

4.1.2 Criterion for background noise

At the microphone positions, the background sound pressure level including any noise due to the motion of the microphone shall be at least 6 dB and preferably more than 12 dB below the sound pressure level to be measured in each frequency band within the frequency range of interest.

4.2 Room volume

In order to make measurements in the far radiation field of the source, it is recommended that the volume of the test room be at least 200 times greater than the volume of the source whose sound power level is to be determined.

4.3 Criteria for temperature and humidity

The air absorption in the test room varies with temperature and humidity, particularly at frequencies above 1 000 Hz. For measurements according to this International Standard the temperature and the relative humidity shall be controlled during the sound pressure level measurements and held to as nearly constant values as practicable.

4.4 Criteria for the reflecting plane

The reflecting plane on which the source is located shall extend at least to the measurement surface. The sound absorption coefficient of the reflecting plane shall not exceed 0,06.

5 INSTRUMENTATION

5.1 General

The instrumentation shall be designed to measure the level of the mean-square sound pressure with A-weighting or in octave or one-third octave bands, averaged over time and over the measurement surface. Surface averaging is usually carried out by measuring the time-averaged sound pressure levels with a prescribed time constant for a fixed number of microphone positions (see 7.3) and computing the average value according to 7.7.

NOTE — For establishing the presence of impulsive noise, the “impulse” meter characteristics according to IEC Publication 179A shall be used in addition.

The instrumentation used can perform the required time averaging in two different ways :

- a) By continuous averaging of the squared signal using RC-smoothing with a time constant τ_A . Such continuous averaging provides only an approximation of the true time average, and it places restrictions on the “settling” time and observation time.

NOTE — An example of an instrument employing such averaging is a sound level meter that meets the requirements of IEC Publication 179 with a “slow” meter characteristic.

- b) By integrating the squared signal over a fixed time interval τ_D . This integration may be performed by either digital or analogue means.

Examples of suitable instrumentation systems are given in annexes H and I.

5.2 The microphone and its associated cable

A condenser microphone, or the equivalent in accuracy, stability and frequency response, shall be used. The microphone shall have a flat frequency response, over the frequency range of interest, for the angle of incidence specified by the manufacturer. A 13 mm (1/2 in) microphone is recommended.

The microphone and its associated cable shall be chosen so that their sensitivity does not change over the temperature range encountered in the measurement. If the microphone is moved, care shall be exercised to avoid introducing acoustical noise (for example, wind noise) or electrical noise (for example, from gears, flexing cables, or sliding contacts) that could interfere with the measurements.

5.3 Frequency response of the instrumentation system

The frequency response of the instrumentation system, for the angle of incidence specified by the manufacturer, shall be flat over the frequency range of interest within the tolerances given in table 4.

TABLE 4 — Relative tolerances for the instrumentation system

Frequency	Tolerance limits
Hz	dB
80	$\pm 1,5$
100 to 4 000	$\pm 1,0$
5 000 to 8 000	$\pm 1,5$
10 000	$\pm 2,0$
12 500	$\pm 3,0$

5.4 Weighting network, frequency analyser

An A-weighting network meeting the tolerances of IEC Publication 179 and an octave band or one-third octave band filter set meeting the requirements of IEC Publication 225 shall be used. The centre frequencies of the frequency bands shall correspond to those of ISO 266.

NOTE — If other weighting networks are used in addition to A-weighting, the characteristics of such networks shall be reported.

5.5 Calibration

Before each series of measurements, an acoustical calibrator with an accuracy of $\pm 0,2$ dB shall be applied to the microphone for calibration of the entire measuring system at one or more frequencies over the frequency range of interest. The calibrator shall be checked annually to verify that its output has not changed. In addition, an electrical calibration of the instrumentation system over the entire frequency range of interest shall be performed periodically, at least at intervals of 2 years.

6 INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SOURCE

6.1 General

In many cases, the sound power emitted by a source depends upon its support or mounting conditions as well as the manner in which the source is operated. This clause gives general recommendations concerning the installation and operation of sources. Reference should be made to specific test codes for more detailed information concerning installation and operation of specific types of sources (for example, rotating electrical machines).

6.2 Installation of source

Whenever a typical condition of mounting exists for the source, that condition shall be used or simulated, if practicable. Sources which are normally supported by or associated with a hard surface shall be installed in a semi-anechoic room (free field above a reflecting plane).