
British Standard

Noise emitted by computer and business equipment

Part 1. Method of measurement of airborne noise

Bruit émis par les matériels informatiques et bureautiques
Partie 1. Méthode de mesurage du bruit aérien

Geräuschemission von Geräten der Büro- und Informationstechnik
Teil 1. Messung der Luftschallemission

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National foreword

This Part of BS 7135 has been prepared under the direction of the Environment and Pollution Standards Policy Committee and is identical with ISO 7779:1988 'Acoustics — Measurement of airborne noise emitted by computer and business equipment', published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ISO 7779 was prepared by Subcommittee 1, Noise, of ISO Technical Committee 43, Acoustics, with the active participation and approval of the UK.

BS 7135 at present comprises the following Parts.

- Part 1 Method of measurement of airborne noise
- Part 2 Method of measurement of high-frequency noise
- Part 3 Method for determining and verifying declared noise emission values

Cross-references

International standard	Corresponding British Standard
ISO 266:1975	BS 3593 : 1963 Recommendation on preferred frequencies for acoustical measurements (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)

Amendment No. 1
published and effective from 1 April 1992
to BS 7135 : Part 1 : 1989

Noise emitted by computer and business
equipment
Part 1. Method of measurement of
airborne noise

Additional text

AMD 6977
April 1992

Front and back covers

In the top right-hand corner of the front cover and twice on the back cover, immediately above 'ISO 7779 : 1988' insert 'EN 27779 : 1991'.

AMD 6977
April 1992

National foreword

At the end of paragraph 1, insert the following new paragraph.

'In 1991 the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) accepted ISO 7779 : 1988 as European Standard EN 27779 : 1991.'

MD 6977
April 1992

New EN title page and foreword page

Insert the attached new EN title page and foreword page immediately before page 2 of BS 7135 : Part 1.

UDC 534.6:534.835.46:651.2:681.3

Descriptors: Acoustics, acoustic tests, acoustic measurements, airborne sound, engine noise, office machines, data processing equipment, sound pressure, sound power

English version

Acoustics – Measurement of airborne noise emitted by computer and business equipment

(Identical to ISO 7779 : 1988)

Acoustique – Mesurage du bruit aérien
émis par les équipements informatiques
et de bureau
(Identique à l'ISO 7779 : 1988)

Akustik – Geräuschmessung an Maschinen –
Luftschallemission, Hüllflächen- und
Hallraumverfahren Geräte der Büro- und
Informationstechnik
(Identisch mit ISO 7779 : 1988)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 7th October 1991 and is identical to the ISO standard as referred to.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

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CEN

European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

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Ref. No. EN 27779 : 1991 E

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Foreword

This European Standard has been taken over by CEN/TC 211 'Acoustics' from the work of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

This document has been submitted to the formal vote and has been approved.

National Standards identical to this European Standard shall be published at the latest by 92-04-09 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest 92-04-09.

In accordance with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard ISO 7779 : 1988 has been approved by CEN as a European Standard without any modification.

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 test rooms (Identical)
ISO 3744 : 1975	Part 4 : 1981 Engineering methods for determination of sound power levels for sources in free-field conditions over a reflecting plane (Identical)
ISO 3745 : 1977	Part 5 : 1981 Precision methods for determination of sound power levels for sources in anechoic and semi-anechoic rooms (Identical)
ISO 9295 : 1988	BS 7135 Noise emitted by computer and business equipment Part 2 : 1989 Method of measurement of high-frequency noise (Identical)
ISO 9296 : 1988	Part 3 : 1989 Method for determining and verifying declared noise emission values (Identical)
IEC 225 : 1966	BS 2475 : 1964 Specification for octave and one-third octave band-pass filters (Technically equivalent)
IEC 651 : 1979	BS 5969 : 1981 Specification for sound level meters (Identical)
IEC 804 : 1985	BS 6698 : 1986 Specification for integrating-averaging sound level meters (Identical)

The Technical Committee has reviewed the provisions of the draft of ISO 6926 to which reference is made in **4.15**, **5.4.4** and **5.8** and has decided that they are acceptable for use in conjunction with this standard.

ISO 6081 : 1986 is referred to in clause **0** for information only. A related British Standard to ISO 6081 is BS 7025 : 1988 'Method for preparation of test codes of engineering grade for measurement at the operator's or bystander's position of noise emitted by machinery'.

Textual errors. When adopting the text of the international standard, the following textual errors were discovered. They have been marked in the text and have been reported to ISO in a proposal to amend the text of the international standard.

In **5.4.1**, in the final line (in parentheses) 'see note to 5.7.2' should be read as 'see 5.7.2'.

In **5.5.1**, paragraph 1, line 3, 'conditions for' should be read as 'conditions as for'.

In the note to **5.5.3**, in the final line, 'Standards' should be read as 'Standard'.

In **5.6.2**, paragraph 1, line 6, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

In **5.7.1**, in the final paragraph, line 7, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

In **6.3.2**, paragraph 1, line 1, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

In **6.5.1**, paragraph 1, line 3, 'conditions for' should be read as 'conditions as for'.

In sections a) and b) of **6.7.1** and **7.7.1**, 'the A-weighted sound pressure levels and band sound pressure levels, if required', should be read as 'the A-weighted sound pressure levels and, if required, band sound pressure levels'.

In **7.6.2**, paragraph 2, final line, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

In **B.4**, paragraph 3, line 1, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

In **C.2.2.2**, line 3, 'weight' should be read as 'grammage'.

In **C.3.2.2**, line 4, 'weight' should be read as 'grammage'.

In **C.6.4.2**, section h), line 2, 'should' should be read as 'shall'.

Additional information. It should be noted that ISO 266, quoted in **4.6**, specifies the range and frequencies of one-third octave-bands in addition to those of octave-bands. Also, the procedure given in **7.7.1** enables the band sound pressure levels at the operator and bystander positions to be recorded and reported if required.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Acoustics — Measurement of airborne noise emitted by computer and business equipment

0 Introduction

This International Standard specifies methods for the measurement of airborne noise emitted by computer and business equipment. Hitherto, a wide variety of methods has been applied by individual manufacturers and users to satisfy particular equipment or application needs. These diverse practices have, in many cases, made comparison of noise emission difficult. This International Standard simplifies such comparisons and is the basis for declaration of the noise emission level of computer and business equipment.

In order to ensure accuracy, validity and acceptability, this International Standard is based on the basic International Standards for determining the sound power level (ISO 3741, ISO 3742, ISO 3744 and ISO 3745) and the sound pressure level at the operator position(s) (ISO 6081). Furthermore, implementation is simplified by conformance to these International Standards.

In many cases, free-field conditions over a reflecting plane are obtained by semi-anechoic rooms. These rooms may be particularly useful during product design to locate and to improve individual contributing noise sources. Reverberation rooms may be more economical for production control and for obtaining sound power levels for declaration purposes.

The method for measuring the sound pressure level at the operator or bystander positions (see ISO 6081) is specified in a separate clause, as this level is not considered to be primary declaration information. The measurements can, however, be carried out at the same time as those for sound power determination in a free field over a reflecting plane.

For comparison of similar equipment it is essential that the installation conditions and mode of operation be the same. In annex C these parameters are standardized for many categories of equipment. It is intended to extend annex C to other categories in a future revision.

1 Scope and field of application

1.1 Scope

This International Standard specifies procedures for measuring and reporting the noise emitted by computer and business equipment. It is based on the measurement procedures specified in ISO 3740, ISO 3741, ISO 3742, ISO 3744 and ISO 3745. The basic emission quantity is the A-weighted sound

power level which may be used for comparing equipment of the same type, but from different manufacturers, or for comparing different equipment.

The A-weighted sound power level is supplemented by the A-weighted sound pressure level measured at the operator position(s) or the bystander positions. This sound pressure level is not a measurement of total occupational noise exposure of workers (noise immission).

Two methods for determining the sound power levels are specified in this International Standard in order to avoid undue restriction on existing facilities and experience. The first method is based on reverberant room measurements (see ISO 3741 and ISO 3742); the second is based on measurements in an essentially free field over a reflecting plane (see ISO 3744 and ISO 3745). Either method may be used in accordance with this International Standard. They are comparable in accuracy and yield the same A-weighted sound power level within the tolerance range of the methods specified in this International Standard.

1.2 Field of application

This International Standard is suitable for type tests and provides methods for manufacturers and testing laboratories to obtain comparable results.

The method specified in clause 5 provides a comparison procedure for determining sound power levels in a reverberation room. The method specified in clause 6 provides a direct procedure for determining sound power levels using essentially free-field conditions over a reflecting plane. The method specified in clause 7 provides a procedure for measuring noise at the operator or bystander positions. The procedures in this International Standard may be applied to equipment which radiates broad-band noise, narrow-band noise, noise which contains discrete-frequency components or impulsive noise.

The methods specified in this International Standard allow the determination of noise emission levels for a unit tested individually.

The sound power levels and sound pressure levels are used for noise emission declaration and comparison purposes. They are not to be considered as installation noise levels; however they may be used for installation planning.

If sound power levels obtained are determined for several units of the same production series, the result can be used to determine a statistical value for that production series.

2 Conformance

Measurements are in conformance with this International Standard if they meet the following requirements:

- a) The measurement procedure, the installation and the operating conditions specified by this International Standard are fully taken into account.
- b) For the determination of sound power levels, the method specified in clause 5 or the method specified in clause 6 is used.
- c) For the measurement of sound pressure level at the operator or bystander positions, the method specified in clause 7 is used.

3 References

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

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

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.*

ISO 3745, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Precision methods for anechoic and semi-anechoic rooms.*

ISO 6081, *Acoustics — Noise emitted by machinery and equipment — Guidelines for the preparation of test codes of engineering grade requiring noise measurements at the operator's or bystander's position.*

ISO 6926, *Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels of noise sources — Characterization and calibration of reference sound sources.¹⁾*

ISO 9295, *Acoustics — Measurement of high-frequency noise emitted by computer and business equipment.*

ISO 9296, *Acoustics — Declared noise emission values of computer and business equipment.*

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

IEC Publication 651, *Sound level meters.*

IEC Publication 804, *Integrating-averaging sound level meters.*

¹⁾ At present at the stage of draft.

4 Definitions

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

4.1 level of background noise: The sound pressure level at specified locations when the equipment being tested is neither operating nor idling.

4.2 bystander: An individual who is not the operator of the equipment, but whose position lies within the sound field produced by the equipment, either occasionally or continuously.

4.3 bystander position: A measurement position at a typical location occupied by a bystander.

4.4 computer and business equipment: Equipment and components thereof which are primarily used in offices or office-like environments and in computer installations.

4.5 floor-standing equipment: A functional unit that has its own stand and is intended to be installed on the floor.

4.6 frequency range of interest: This range normally extends from the 100 Hz one-third octave band to the 10 000 Hz one-third octave band. The 16 kHz octave band shall be included if a preliminary investigation indicates that it may affect the A-weighted sound pressure or sound power levels. The range and centre frequencies of the octave bands are specified in ISO 266.

NOTES

1 If the 16 kHz octave band is included in the measurements, the procedures of this International Standard may yield measurement uncertainties greater than those stated.

2 For equipment which emits sound only in the 16 kHz octave band, the procedures specified in ISO 9295 should be used.

4.7 functional unit: An entity of physical equipment, which has been allocated an identification number, capable of accomplishing a specified task. A functional unit may be supported by a frame or frames and may be self-enclosed or designed to be attached to another device.

4.8 idling mode: A condition in which the equipment being tested, after any necessary warm-up period, is energized but is not operating.

4.9 measurement surface: A hypothetical surface of area *S* enveloping the equipment being tested on which the measuring points are located.

4.10 operating mode: A condition in which the equipment being tested is performing its intended function(s).

4.11 operator: An individual who operates a piece of equipment from a position in the immediate vicinity of the equipment.

4.12 operator position: Measurement position at the assigned work-station of the operator.

4.13 rack-mounted equipment: One or more sub-assemblies installed in an end-use enclosure.

4.14 reference box: A hypothetical reference surface which is the smallest rectangular parallelepiped that just encloses the equipment being tested and terminates on the reflecting plane.

4.15 reference sound source: A device which is intended for use as a stable source of sound which has a known, calibrated broad-band sound power spectrum over the frequency range of interest and which conforms to ISO 6926.

4.16 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 (A-weighting) or the width of the frequency band used shall be indicated. The reference sound power is 1 pW.

NOTE — For the purposes of this International Standard, the sound power is the time-average value of the sound power during the measurement duration.

4.17 sound pressure level, L_p , in decibels: Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the time-mean-square sound pressure to the square of the reference sound pressure. The weighting network (A-weighting) or the width of the frequency band used shall be indicated. The reference sound pressure is 20 μ Pa.

NOTE — For the purposes of this International Standard, the sound pressure is the square root of the time average of the squared sound pressure during the measurement duration.

4.18 standard test table: A rigid table having a top surface of at least 0,5 m² (length of the top plane > 700 mm). A suitable design for the standard test table is shown in annex A.

4.19 sub-assembly: A functional unit intended to be installed in another unit or assembled with other units in a single enclosure. The unit may or may not have its own enclosure and identification number.

4.20 surface-average sound pressure level, $\overline{L_{pf}}$, in decibels: Space/time-average sound pressure level averaged over a measurement surface, corrected for the environment.

4.21 table-top equipment: A functional unit that has a complete enclosure and is intended to be installed or used on a table, desk or separate stand.

4.22 time-average sound pressure level, L_{pT} , in decibels; **equivalent continuous sound pressure level during time T ,** in decibels: Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of a time-mean-square value of instantaneous band-limited sound pressure, during a stated time interval, to the square of the standard reference sound pressure.

4.23 wall-mounted equipment: A functional unit which is normally mounted against or in a wall and does not have a stand of its own.

5 Method for determining sound power levels of equipment in reverberation rooms

5.1 General

The method specified in this clause provides a comparison procedure for determining the sound power levels produced by computer and business equipment using a reverberation room. It applies to equipment which radiates broad-band noise, narrow-band noise, or noise which contains discrete-frequency components or impulsive noise.

The measurements shall be carried out in a qualified reverberation room. The volume of the equipment being tested should preferably be not greater than 1 % of the volume of the reverberation room.

NOTE — Measurements on equipment which has a volume of less than 1 m³ and emits broad-band noise may be carried out in a special reverberation test room (see ISO 3743).

5.2 Measurement uncertainty

Measurements carried out in accordance with this method yield standard deviations which are equal to, or less than, those given in table 1.

Table 1 — Uncertainty in determining sound power levels in a reverberation room

Octave-band centre frequency Hz	One-third octave-band centre frequency Hz	Standard deviation dB
125	100 to 160	3
250	200 to 315	2
500 to 4 000	400 to 5 000	1,5
8 000	6 300 to 10 000	3

NOTES

1 For most computer and business equipment, the A-weighted sound power level is determined by the sound power levels in the 250 to 4 000 Hz octave bands. The A-weighted sound power level is determined with a standard deviation of approximately 1,5 dB. A larger standard deviation may result when the sound power levels in other bands determine the A-weighted level.

2 The standard deviations given in table 1 reflect the cumulative effects of all causes of measurement uncertainty, including variations from laboratory to laboratory, but excluding variations in the sound power level from equipment to equipment or from test to test which may be caused, for example, by changes in the installation or operating conditions of the equipment. The reproducibility and repeatability of the test results for the same piece of equipment and the same measurement conditions may be considerably better (i.e. smaller standard deviations) than the uncertainties given in table 1 would indicate.

3 If the method specified in this clause is used to compare the sound power levels of similar equipment that are omnidirectional and radiate broad-band noise, the uncertainty in this comparison yields a standard deviation which is less than that given in table 1, provided that the measurements are carried out in the same environment.

5.3 Test environment

5.3.1 General

Guidelines specified in ISO 3741 and ISO 3742 for the design of the reverberation room shall be used. Criteria for room absorption and the procedure for room qualifications given in these same International Standards shall be used.

5.3.2 Test room volume

The minimum test room volume shall be as stated in table 2. If frequencies above 3 000 Hz are included in the frequency range of interest, the volume of the test room shall not exceed 300 m³. The ratio of the maximum dimension of the test room to its minimum dimension shall not exceed 3:1.

Table 2 — Minimum room volume as a function of the lowest frequency band of interest

Lowest frequency band of interest Hz	Minimum room volume m ³
125 (octave) or 100 (one-third octave)	200
125 (one-third octave)	150
160 (one-third octave)	100
250 (octave) or 200 (one-third octave) or higher	70

5.3.3 Level of background noise

The level of the background noise, including any noise due to motion of the microphone and/or rotating diffusers, shall be at least 6 dB, and preferably more than 10 dB, below the sound pressure level to be measured in each frequency band within the frequency range of interest.

5.3.4 Temperature and relative humidity

The air absorption in the reverberation room varies with temperature and humidity, particularly at frequencies above 1 000 Hz. The temperature θ , in degrees Celsius, and the relative humidity (r.h.), expressed as a percentage, shall be controlled during the sound pressure level measurements. The product

$$\text{r.h.} \times (\theta + 5)$$

shall not vary by more than ± 10 % during the measurements specified in 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8. For equipment the sound pressure level of which varies with temperature, the test temperature shall be 23 ± 2 °C.

The following conditions are recommended:

- barometric pressure: 86 to 106 kPa
- temperature: 15 to 30 °C
- relative humidity: 40 % to 70 %

5.4 Instrumentation

5.4.1 General

The instrumentation shall be designed to measure the space/time-average sound pressure level in octave and/or one-third octave bands; the space/time-average sound pressure level is the level of the squared sound pressure averaged over time and space. Alternatively, the space/time-average may be calculated in accordance with 5.9.

The instruments used may perform the required averaging in one of two different ways:

- a) By integrating the square of the signal over a fixed time interval and dividing by the time interval. This integration may be performed by either digital or analogue means; digital integration is the preferred method (see IEC Publication 804).
- b) By continuous averaging of the square of the signal using RC-smoothing with a time constant of at least 1 s ("slow" meter characteristic). Such continuous averaging provides only an approximation of the true average and it places restrictions on the settling time and observation time (see note to 5.7.2).

5.4.2 Microphone and its associated cable

The microphone used shall comply with the requirements regarding accuracy, stability and frequency response for a type 1 instrument specified either in IEC Publication 651 or in IEC Publication 804 and shall have been calibrated for its random incidence response.

The microphone and its associated cable shall be chosen so that their sensitivity does not change by more than 0,2 dB over the temperature range encountered during measurement. If the microphone is moved, care shall be exercised to avoid introducing acoustical or electrical noise (e.g. from gears, flexing cables or sliding contacts) that could interfere with the measurements.

5.4.3 Frequency response of the instrumentation system

The frequency response of the entire instrumentation system shall be flat over the frequency range of interest within the tolerances given either in IEC Publication 651 or, preferably, in IEC Publication 804, for type 1 instruments.

5.4.4 Reference sound source

The reference sound source shall meet the requirements specified in ISO 6926 over the frequency range of interest.

5.4.5 Filter characteristics

An octave-band or one-third octave-band filter set complying with the requirements specified in IEC Publication 225 shall be used. The centre frequencies of the bands shall correspond to those specified in ISO 266.

5.4.6 Calibration

During each series of measurements, an acoustical calibrator with an accuracy of $\pm 0,5$ dB shall be applied to the microphone to check the calibration of the entire measuring system at one or more frequencies over the frequency range of interest. The calibrator shall be checked at least once a year to verify that its output has not changed. In addition, an acoustical and an electrical calibration of the instrumentation system over the entire frequency range shall be carried out at least every two years. The reference sound source shall be checked annually to verify that its output sound level has not changed.

* See national foreword for details of textual errors.

5.5 Installation and operation of equipment — General requirements

5.5.1 Equipment installation

The equipment shall be installed according to its intended use. If the normal installation is unknown or if several possibilities exist, the same conditions for a group of similar machines shall be chosen and reported. Installation conditions for many different categories of equipment are specified in annex C; these shall be followed when labelling information is to be obtained.

a) Floor-standing equipment shall be located at least 1,5 m from any wall of the room and no major surfaces shall be parallel to a wall of the reverberation room.

If the equipment being tested consists of several frames bolted together in an installation and is too large for testing purposes, the frames may be measured separately. In such circumstances, additional covers may be required for the frames during the acoustical evaluation. These additional covers shall be acoustically comparable with the other covers on the equipment. If a unit is mechanically or acoustically coupled to another unit so that the noise levels of one are significantly influenced by the other, the equipment being tested shall, where practicable, include all units coupled together in this way.

b) Floor-standing equipment which is to be installed in front of a wall shall be placed on a hard floor in front of a hard wall (see note 2 in 6.3.1). The distance from the wall shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or as specified in annex C. If such information is not available, the distance shall be 0,1 m.

c) Table-top equipment shall be placed on the floor at least 1,5 m from any wall of the room unless a table or stand is required for operation according to annex C, e.g. printers which take paper from or stack paper on the floor. Such equipment shall be placed in the centre of the top plane of the standard test table (see annex A).

d) Wall-mounted equipment shall be mounted on a wall of the reverberation room at least 1,5 m from any other reflecting surface, unless otherwise specified. Alternatively, if operation permits, the equipment may be laid on its side and installed with its mounting surface attached to the floor at least 1,5 m from any wall of the room.

e) Rack-mounted equipment shall be placed in an enclosure which complies with the installation specifications for the equipment. The location of all units within the enclosure shall be described. The enclosure shall be tested as floor-standing or table-top equipment. Rack-mounted equipment which does not include, but requires the use of, air-moving equipment (i.e. cooling-fan assemblies) when in operation shall be tested with such equipment, as supplied or recommended by the manufacturer.

f) If the equipment is usually installed by being recessed into a wall or other structure, a representative structure shall be used for mounting during the measurements.

g) Hand-held equipment shall be supported 0,1 m above the reflecting plane by vibration-isolating elements. The supports shall not interfere with the propagation of airborne sound.

h) A sub-assembly shall be supported 0,25 m above the reflecting plane by vibration-isolating elements. The supports shall not interfere with the propagation of airborne sound.

NOTE — If the equipment is mounted near one or more reflecting planes, the sound power radiated by the equipment may depend strongly upon its position and orientation. It may be of interest to determine the radiated sound power either for one particular equipment position and orientation or from the average value for several positions and orientations.

Care shall be taken to ensure that any electrical conduits, piping, air ducts or other auxiliary equipment connected to the equipment being tested do not radiate significant amounts of sound energy into the test room. If practicable, all auxiliary equipment necessary for the operation of the equipment shall be located outside the test room and the test room shall be cleared of all objects which may interfere with the measurements.

5.5.2 Input voltage and frequency

The equipment shall be operated within 5 % of either

- a) the rated voltage (if any is stated), or
- b) the average voltage of a stated voltage range (i.e. operating at 120 V for a stated range from 110 to 130 V), at the rated power line frequency.

Phase-to-phase voltage variations shall not exceed 5 %.

5.5.3 Equipment operation

During the acoustical measurements the equipment shall be operated in a manner typical of normal use. Annex C specifies such conditions for many different categories of equipment.

The noise shall be measured with the equipment in both the idling and the operating modes. If several operating modes exist, e.g. reading and punching, the noise of each individual mode shall be determined and recorded. For equipment which, in normal functional operation, has several operating modes, the mode producing the highest A-weighted sound power level shall be determined, unless otherwise specified in annex C.

In the case of rack-mounted equipment in which the operation of several functional units is possible, the unit producing the highest A-weighted sound power level shall be operated together with those other units required for its operation. All other units shall be in the idling mode.

Some equipment does not operate continuously because of its mechanical design or its mode of operation under program control. Long periods may occur during which the equipment is idling. The operating mode measurements shall not include these idling periods. If it is not possible to operate the equipment continuously during the acoustical evaluation, the time interval during which measurements have to be made shall be described in the test plan, equipment specifications or other documentation.

Some equipment has operational cycles that are too short to allow reliable determination of the noise emissions. In such cases, a typical cycle shall be repeated several times.

If the equipment being tested produces attention signals, such as tones or bells, such intermittent sound shall not be included in an operating mode. During the acoustical evaluation in the operating mode(s), such attention signals should be inoperative.

NOTE — For certain applications, e.g. in ergonomics, such signals as well as the maximum response of feedback signals of keyboards may be of interest. In such cases, special measurements may be made which are not part of this International Standards.

The equipment shall be operated for a sufficient period of time before proceeding with the acoustical test to allow the temperature to stabilize. If this time is unknown, the equipment shall be operated at least 30 min before the acoustical test.

5.6 Microphone and source positions

The major cause of uncertainty in determining sound power level in a reverberation room is the spatial irregularity of the sound field. The extent of this irregularity and, hence, the effort required to determine the average sound pressure level accurately is greater for discrete-frequency sound than for broad-band sound.

The procedure specified in 5.6.1 shall be followed to ascertain whether any significant discrete-frequency components or narrow bands of noise are present in the sound emitted by the source. It is strongly recommended that the room be qualified in accordance with ISO 3742 because the number of microphone and equipment positions calculated in accordance with the following procedure is usually large.

5.6.1 Identification of discrete-frequency components and narrow bands of noise

The presence of a significant discrete-frequency component can often be detected by a simple listening test. If such a component is audible, omit the measurements described in this clause. In this case, either the provisions of the bottom line in table 3 shall be applied or, alternatively, the reverberation room shall be qualified as described in ISO 3742, annex A.

For the purpose of this International Standard, the character of the noise of the equipment being tested is defined by an estimate of the standard deviation of the sound pressure level variations in the reverberation room. The procedure given in 5.6.1.1 to 5.6.1.3 shall be used.

5.6.1.1 Select an array of six fixed microphones (or six microphone positions) spaced at least $\lambda/2$ apart, where λ is the wavelength of the sound corresponding to the centre frequency of the lowest frequency band of interest. Locate the equipment at a single position in the test room.

5.6.1.2 Obtain the time-average sound pressure level at each microphone position in accordance with the techniques described in 5.7. Instead of a fixed array, a single microphone may be sequentially moved to six positions equally spaced along a path the length, l , of which is calculated from equation (2) with $N_m = 6$.

5.6.1.3 For each one-third octave or octave band within the frequency range of interest, calculate the standard deviation, s , from the following equation:

$$s = (n - 1)^{-1/2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n (L_i - L_m)^2 \right]^{1/2} \quad \dots (1)$$

where

L_i is the time-average sound pressure level at the i th microphone position, in decibels;

L_m is the arithmetic mean value of the sound pressure levels L_1 to L_6 , in decibels;

$n = 6$.

The value of s calculated according to equation (1) is used with tables 3 and 4 to determine the number of microphone positions and the number of source locations.

5.6.2 Number of microphone positions

For broad-band noise, the minimum number of microphone positions is $N_m = 3$ (see table 3, first line). For narrow-band noise and discrete-frequency noise, the number of microphone positions is determined from table 4. If a continuous microphone traverse is used, the length of the traverse, l , should be at least

$$l = N_m \frac{\lambda}{2} \quad \dots (2)$$

where N_m is the number of microphone positions.

Table 3 — Procedures to be followed for measuring discrete-frequency components or narrow bands of noise

Standard deviation, s dB	Procedure	Number of microphone positions, N_m (or microphone path length, l)	Number of equipment locations, N_s
$s < 1,5$	Broad-band procedure adequate	$N_m = 3$ or l computed from equation (2) for a continuous path	$N_s = 1$
$1,5 < s < 3$	Assume that a narrow band of noise is present	N_m determined from table 4 or l computed from equation (2) for a continuous path	Use half the number of equipment locations computed from equation (4)
$s > 3$	Assume that a discrete tone is present	N_m determined from table 4 or l computed from equation (2) for a continuous path	Compute N_s from equation (4)

* See national foreword for details of textual errors.

Table 4 — Number of microphone positions required and constant k for determining the number of equipment locations

Octave-band (and one-third octave-band) centre frequency	Number of microphone positions (N_m), if $1,5 < s < 3$ dB	Number of microphone positions (N_m), if $s > 3$ dB	Constant k for determining the number of equipment locations
125 (100, 125, 160)	3	6	5
250 (200, 250, 315)	6	12	10
500 (400, 500, 630)	12	24	20
1 000 (800, 1 000, 1 250) and above	15	30	25

5.6.3 Microphone arrangement

The microphone traverse or array shall not lie in any plane within 10° of a major room surface. No position on the traverse or array shall be closer than $\lambda/2$ or 1 m, whichever is smaller, to any major room surface. No point on the traverse or array shall be closer than $\lambda/4$ or 0,5 m, whichever is smaller, to the path of a moving diffuser.

The minimum distance, d , in metres, between the nearest microphone position and the equipment being tested shall be

$$d > 0,8 \times 10^{0,05(L_{Wr} - L_{pr})} \quad \dots (3)$$

where

L_{Wr} is the calibrated sound power level, in decibels, of the reference source;

L_{pr} is the space/time-average sound pressure level, in decibels, produced in the room by the reference sound source.

NOTES

1 It is highly desirable that, whenever possible, all microphone positions be more than the minimum distance, d , from the equipment so as to minimize contributions from the direct sound field.

2 The microphone traverse or array should avoid areas of air discharge (if any) or sound beaming from the equipment being tested.

The repetition rate of the microphone traverse (or the scanning rate for an array of fixed microphones) shall satisfy the following requirements:

- there shall be a whole number of microphone traverses or array scans during the observation period (see 5.7.2);
- if integration over a fixed time interval is used, there shall be a whole number of complete microphone traverses or array scans during the integrating time of the indicating device;
- if continuous averaging is used, the traverse or scanning period shall be less than twice the time constant of the indicating device.

5.6.4 Number of equipment locations

The required number of locations at which the equipment being tested shall be placed successively depends on the room absorption and on the frequency. If discrete-frequency tones are present, the required number of equipment locations, N_s , shall be computed from the following formula:

$$N_s > k \left[0,032 \times 10^{0,1(L_{pr} - L_{Wr})} \times \left(\frac{1000}{f} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{N_m} \right] \quad \dots (4)$$

where

L_{pr} is the space/time-average sound pressure level, in decibels, produced in the room by the reference sound source;

L_{Wr} is the calibrated sound power level, in decibels, of the reference source;

f is the frequency, in hertz, of the discrete tone or the centre frequency of the band in which a discrete-frequency or narrow-band noise component is found;

k is a constant given in table 4;

N_m is the number of microphone positions for the narrow-band or discrete-frequency tone (see table 4).

The value of N_s shall be rounded to the nearest higher integer.

The minimum distance between any two equipment locations shall be $r_{\min} = \lambda/2$. The source positions should not be symmetrical with respect to the axes of the test room.

5.7 Measurement of sound pressure levels

5.7.1 General

Measurements of the sound pressure level along the microphone path (or at the individual microphone positions) shall be carried out for each frequency band within the frequency range of interest. The following data shall be obtained:

- the band sound pressure levels for the specified modes of operation of the equipment;