

# Building acoustics — Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements —

## Part 4: Transmission of indoor sound to the outside

The European Standard EN 12354-4:2000 has the status of a  
British Standard

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# National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee B/209, General building codes, to Subcommittee B/209/18, Sound insulation, which has the responsibility to:

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- present to the responsible European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
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## Summary of pages

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English version

Building acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of  
buildings from the performance of elements – Part 4:  
Transmission of indoor sound to the outside

Acoustique du bâtiment - Calcul de la performance  
acoustique des bâtiments à partir de la performance des  
éléments - Partie 4: Transmission du bruit intérieur à  
l'extérieur

Bauakustik - Berechnung der akustischen Eigenschaften  
von Gebäuden aus den Bauteileigenschaften - Teil 4:  
Schallübertragung von Räumen ins Freie

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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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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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## Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 126, Acoustic properties of building products and of buildings, the Secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2001, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2001.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

This document is the first version of a standard which forms a part of a series of standards specifying calculation models in building acoustics:

Part 1: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 1: Airborne sound insulation between rooms.*

Part 2: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 2: Impact sound insulation between rooms.*

Part 3: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 3: Airborne sound insulation against outdoor sound.*

Part 4: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 4: Transmission of indoor sound to the outside.*

Part 5: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 5: Noise from technical installations and equipment.*

Part 6: *Building Acoustics – Estimation of acoustic performance of buildings from the performance of elements – Part 6: Sound absorption in enclosed spaces.*

The accuracy of this standard alone is difficult to specify since it forms just one link in the chain of inside sound level, sound radiation and sound propagation outdoors, the first and last items of which are not covered by this standard. The accuracy can only be specified after widespread comparisons with field data in combination with other prediction standards, i.e. those for outdoor sound propagation. It is the responsibility of the user (i.e. a person, an organization, the authorities) to address the consequences of the accuracy, inherent for all measurement and prediction methods, by specifying requirements for the input data and/or applying a safety margin to the results or applying some other correction.

Annex A forms an integral part of this part of EN 12354, Annexes B, C, D, E, F, G and H are for information only.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard describes a calculation model for the sound power level radiated by the envelope of a building due to airborne sound inside that building, primarily by means of measured sound pressure levels inside the building and measured data which characterize the sound transmission by the relevant elements and openings in the building envelope. These sound power levels, together with those of other sound sources in or in front of the building envelope, form the basis for the calculation of the sound pressure level at a chosen distance from a building as a measure for the acoustic performance of buildings.

The prediction of the inside sound pressure level from knowledge of the indoor sound sources is outside the scope of this European Standard.

The prediction of the outdoor sound propagation is outside the scope of this European Standard.

NOTE For simple propagation conditions an approach is given for the estimation of the sound pressure level in informative Annex E.

This European Standard describes the principles of the calculation model, lists the relevant quantities and defines its applications and restrictions. It is intended for acoustical experts and provides the framework for the development of application documents and tools for other users in the field of building construction, taking into account local circumstances.

## 2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

EN ISO 140-3, *Acoustics – Measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements – Part 3: Laboratory measurements of airborne sound insulation of building elements (ISO 140-3:1995).*

EN ISO 140-5, *Acoustics – Measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements – Part 5: Field measurements of airborne sound insulation of façade elements and façades (ISO 140-5:1998).*

EN 20140-10, *Acoustics – Measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements – Part 10: Laboratory measurement of airborne sound insulation of small building elements (ISO 140-10:1991).*

EN ISO 7235, *Acoustics – Measurement procedures for ducted silencers - Insertion loss, flow noise and total pressure loss (ISO 7235:1991).*

## 3 Relevant quantities

The symbols used for the purposes of this European Standard are given in Annex A.

### 3.1 Quantities to express building performance

#### 3.1.1 Sound power level $L_w$

The sound power level of a substitute point sound source.

#### 3.1.2 Directivity correction $D_c$

The deviation in decibels of the sound pressure level of a point sound source in a specified direction from the level of an omni-directional point source producing the same sound power level.

## 3.2 Quantities to express element performance

### 3.2.1 Sound reduction index $R$

The sound reduction index of an element for direct sound transmission as defined and determined according to EN ISO 140-3 or EN ISO 140-5.

### 3.2.2 Element normalized level difference $D_{n,e}$

The normalized level difference of a small building element as defined and determined according to EN 20140-10.

### 3.2.3 Insertion loss $D$ (of an element)

The reduction in sound power level at a given location behind the element due to the insertion of the element into the duct in place of a hard-walled duct section as defined and determined according to EN ISO 7235.

NOTE For elements where this standard does not apply equivalent methods should be used.

### 3.2.4 Other relevant data

For the calculations additional information on constructions could be necessary, e.g.:

- the shape of the building envelope;
- areas.

## 3.3 Other terms and quantities

### 3.3.1 Sound pressure level $L_p$

The sound pressure level at a specified reception point outside a building, due to the sound produced inside the building and by sources associated with the building as normally determined by measurements according to local requirements (specifying relevant positions, integration period and source conditions).

The sound pressure level is normally A-weighted.

### 3.3.2 Total attenuation due to propagation $A_{tot}$

The level difference between the radiated sound power and the sound pressure at a position at distance  $d$  from the building envelope, due to the total of all propagation effects, such as geometrical divergence, air absorption, ground effect, screening, etc.

### 3.3.3 Diffusivity term $C_d$

The level difference between the sound pressure level at 1 m to 2 m from the inside face of the relevant building element and the intensity level of the incident sound perpendicular to that element.

NOTE For a diffuse field and reflecting walls the diffusivity term is  $C_d = -6$  dB; for other situations it can have a value between 0 dB and  $-6$  dB.

### 3.3.4 Inside sound pressure level $L_{p,in}$

The sound pressure level inside the building, 1 m to 2 m from the considered element or segment of the building envelope.

NOTE In the case of a diffuse sound field this corresponds to the average sound pressure level in the diffuse sound field.

### 3.3.5 Substitute point source

A point source for which the radiated sound is the same as that of a segment of the building envelope.

NOTE The segment may be composed of one or more building elements or of one or more openings.

## 4 Calculation model

### 4.1 General principles

The total sound pressure level at a reception point that is a chosen distance from a building is determined by the following contributions:

- the sound radiated by the elements of the building envelope due to the sound pressure level inside;
- the sound radiated by individual sound sources, fixed in or onto the outside of the building;
- the outdoor sound propagation (effects of distance, air absorption, ground effect, screening, reflections etc.).

The sound radiation by the building envelope may be represented by the radiation of one or more substitute point sources. Each point source can represent the contribution of a segment of the building envelope or a group of individual sound sources. The number of point sources required to adequately represent a building depends upon the distance of each reception point from the building and the variation in propagation effects. Normally, the building envelope is represented by at least one point source for each side, i.e. walls and the roof, but often several point sources are required for each side.

The sound pressure level at a reception point outside the building is determined from the contributions of each substitute point source according to:

$$L_p = L_W + D_c - A_{\text{tot}} \quad (1)$$

where

- |                  |                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $L_p$            | is the sound pressure level at a reception point outside the building due to the sound radiation of a substitute point source, in decibels; |
| $L_W$            | is the sound power level of the substitute point source, in decibels;                                                                       |
| $D_c$            | is the directivity correction for the substitute point sources in the direction of the reception point, in decibels;                        |
| $A_{\text{tot}}$ | is the total attenuation that occurs during sound propagation from the substitute point source to the reception point, in decibels.         |

The calculation model described in this standard is restricted to the calculation of the sound power level of the substitute point sources for the building elements and openings in the building envelope from data on:

- the inside sound pressure level;
- the elements which form the building envelope.

The model will also give indications of the directivity correction that can be expected for various types of elements. The inside sound pressure level will normally be the equivalent sound pressure level over a specified period according to the relevant requirements. However, other types of levels can also be used, for instance the maximum level. The calculation of the inside sound pressure level is outside the scope of this European Standard.

The calculation of the contribution of individual sound sources is outside the scope of this European Standard.

The total attenuation  $A_{\text{tot}}$  due to propagation effects, necessary for the prediction of the sound pressure level at the reception point, can be estimated according to available methods for outdoor propagation, based on a point source approach. The calculation of these propagation effects is outside the scope of this European Standard.

NOTE One such method is given in ISO 9613-2, where the total attenuation is indicated as A. The total attenuation follows from the addition of the attenuation due to various propagation effects, such as geometrical divergence, air absorption, ground effect, screening etc.

However, for simple propagation conditions an approach is given for the estimation of the sound pressure level in Annex E.

## 4.2 Determination of substitute point sound sources

The elements contributing to the sound radiation are divided into two groups:

- plane radiators, such as structural elements of the building envelope, i.e. walls, roof, windows, doors, including small building elements with an area of typically less than 1 m<sup>2</sup>, such as grids and openings;
- larger openings, area typically 1 m<sup>2</sup> or more, i.e. large ventilation openings, open doors, open windows.

To calculate the sound propagation outside the building each element can be represented by a substitute point sound source. However, the building may also be divided into larger segments which are each represented by a substitute point sound source. For the segmentation the following rules apply:

- the sound propagation to the nearest reception points of interest ( $A_{\text{tot}}$ ) is the same for all elements of a segment;
- the distance to the nearest reception point of interest is larger than twice the largest dimension of the segment;
- for the elements in a segment the same inside sound pressure level is applicable;
- for the elements in a segment the same directivity is applicable.

If one or more of these conditions is not fulfilled, choose different segments for instance smaller segments, until these conditions are met.

Unless otherwise specified in the propagation model, the point source representing a vertical segment is positioned at half the width of the segment and 2/3 the height of the segment; for all other segments the position is at the centroid of the segment.

## 4.3 Determination of the sound power level for a substitute point source

For each segment the sound power level is determined from the following input data:

- sound pressure level inside:  $L_{\text{p, in}}$ ;
- sound reduction index of large building element  $i$  of the building envelope:  $R_i$ ;
- element normalized level difference of small element  $i$ :  $D_{\text{n, e, i}}$ ;
- insertion loss of silencing element for opening  $i$ :  $D_i$ ;
- area of building element or opening  $i$ :  $S_i$ .