



BSI Standards Publication

Hearing protectors — Testing

Part 1: Physical test methods

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 13819-1:2020+A1:2024. It supersedes BS EN 13819-1:2020, which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to CEN text carry the number of the CEN amendment. For example, text altered by CEN amendment A1 is indicated by A1 A1.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/7, Hearing protectors.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2024

ISBN 978 0 539 26018 2
ICS 13.340.20

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 November 2020.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
30 June 2024	Implementation of CEN amendment A1:2024

English Version

Hearing protectors - Testing - Part 1: Physical test methods

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Essais - Partie
1 : Méthodes d'essai physiques

Gehörschützer - Prüfung - Teil 1: Physikalische
Prüfverfahren

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 24 February 2020 and includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 5 May 2024.

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European foreword

This document (EN 13819-1:2020+A1:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 159 “Hearing protectors”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2024.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes A1 EN 13819-1:2020 A1.

This document includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 5 May 2024.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags A1 A1.

In comparison with the previous edition, the following technical modifications have been made:

- all figures revised and clarified where necessary;
- flowcharts for test procedures revised and additional ones added for single tests;
- new definition 3.6 external vertical distance added;
- 4 limitation to industrial helmets eliminated, so that the test method can be applied to any carrier;
- test headforms in 4.2.2.2 updated to EN 960:2006;
- 4.2.2.3 pinna simulators: allow for 3D printing;
- Figure 5 and 13 error corrected: 5° instead of 15°;
- Table 3 specifications on adjustability of mounted earmuffs changed;
- 4.13 and 5.6 changes and relaxations on the requirements for the equipment for ignitability testing: form of steel rod and temperature measuring device;
- 5.1.3 clarification on testing schemes added in order to specify the tests to be carried out with the number of samples;
- 5.2.3 clarification for flanged earplugs added;
- Tables 6 and 7 error in title corrected;
- Figure 9 of EN 13819-1:2002 deleted;
- Annex ZA of EN 13819-1:2002 deleted.

NOTE The technical changes referred to include the significant technical changes from the EN revised but is not an exhaustive list of all modifications from the previous edition.

A1 The content of the changes added with Amendment A1 to EN 13819-1:2020 refers only to banded earplugs.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website. **A1**

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

This document specifies procedures for the testing of personal hearing protection devices in relation to Regulation (EU) 2016/425 - Personal Protective Equipment.

A series of standards EN 352 describes product requirements of hearing protectors:

- EN 352-1, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 1: Earmuffs*
- EN 352-2, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 2: Earplugs*
- EN 352-3, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 3: Earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices*
- EN 352-4, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 4: Level-dependent earmuffs*
- EN 352-5, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 5: Active noise reduction earmuffs*
- EN 352-6, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input*
- EN 352-7, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 7: Level-dependent earplugs*
- EN 352-8, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 8: Entertainment audio earmuffs*
- EN 352-9, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 9: Earplugs with safety-related audio input*
- EN 352-10, *Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 10: Entertainment audio earplugs*

Test methods for these requirements are described in the series of standards EN 13819:

- EN 13819-1, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 1: Physical test methods*
- EN 13819-2, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 2: Acoustic test methods*
- EN 13819-3, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 3: Supplementary acoustic test methods*

An associated standard EN 458 covers selection, use, care and maintenance of hearing protectors.

EN 13819-1 is intended as a supplement to the specific product standards for hearing protectors.

The performance requirements are given in the hearing protector product standard.

1 Scope

This document EN 13819-1 specifies physical test methods for hearing protectors. The purpose of these tests is to enable assessment of the performance of the hearing protector as specified in the appropriate product standard.

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.

EN 352-1:2020, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 1: Earmuffs*

EN 352-2:2020+A1:2024, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 2: Earplugs*

EN 352-3:2020, *Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 3: Earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices*

EN 960:2006, *Headforms for use in the testing of protective helmets*

EN 13819-2:2020, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 2: Acoustic test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 352-1, EN 352-2, EN 352-3 and the following apply.

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

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

3.1

headband earmuffs

earmuffs satisfying the requirements of EN 352-1

3.2

mounted earmuffs

earmuffs fitted to a carrier (head or face protection device) by means of cup supporting arms such that the combination satisfies the requirements of EN 352-3

3.3

test height

vertical distance between the axis through the centres of the mounting holes of the pinna simulators in the mounting fixture or test headform shown in Figures 5 or 6 respectively, and the top of the headband support pad or headform

Note 1 to entry: The dimensions given in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 correspond with the definitions given in 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 (as appropriate).

3.4**test width**

horizontal distance between the vertical axes through the centres of the mounting holes for the pinna simulators in the mounting fixture or test headform shown in Figure 5 or 6 respectively

Note 1 to entry: The dimensions given in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 correspond with the definitions given in 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 (as appropriate).

3.5**test depth**

vertical distance between the axis through the centres of the mounting holes of the pinna simulators and the top of the headband support, with the pinna simulators attached with their shorter axes vertical shown in Figure 8

Note 1 to entry: The dimensions given in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 correspond with the definitions given in 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 (as appropriate).

3.6**external vertical distance**

vertical distance between the top of the test headform on which the carrier is mounted and the highest point on the outside surface of the carrier shell

4 Earmuffs**4.1 Specimens, conditioning and scheme of testing****4.1.1 Specimens**

Headband earmuffs and mounted earmuffs shall be submitted for testing in the condition in which they are offered for sale.

For headband earmuffs, 10 specimens shall be submitted and they shall be numbered 1 to 10.

For mounted earmuffs, 10 basic combination specimens (earmuffs and carriers (e.g. helmets)) shall be submitted and they shall be numbered 1 to 10 (basic).

If the same model of mounted earmuffs is to be tested with another model or size of carrier, 6 further supplementary combination specimens (earmuffs and carriers) for each model or size of carrier shall be submitted. These shall be numbered (in sets) 1 to 6 (supplementary).

4.1.2 Conditioning and testing atmosphere

All specimens shall be conditioned and tested in an atmosphere having a temperature of $(22 \pm 5) ^\circ\text{C}$ and a relative humidity (r.h.) of not more than 85 %, unless required otherwise by the test procedure.

4.1.3 Scheme of testing

4.1.3.1 The 10 headband earmuffs shall be conditioned and tested in accordance with 4.1.3.2 to 4.1.3.10 and Figure 1 (and if applicable Figure 4).

For mounted earmuffs, except as specified in the following paragraph, the scheme of testing for the 10 basic combination specimens and, if applicable, the sets of 6 supplementary combination specimens, shall be as given in 4.1.3.2 to 4.1.3.10 and Figure 2 and 3 (and if applicable Figure 4).

In the case of carriers supplied in more than one size, one selected size shall be used for testing in a basic combination (except for sound attenuation testing). All other carrier sizes shall be tested in a supplementary combination (except for sound attenuation testing). Sound attenuation testing shall be performed using the complete range of available carrier sizes (see EN 13819-2). If the mounted earmuff incorporates a means to adjust the headband force, the force shall be adjusted to its minimum setting for all stages of conditioning and testing, unless otherwise specified.

Testing may be discontinued in the event of a specimen failing to satisfy the respective requirement.

4.1.3.2 Unpack all earmuffs completely. For products fitted with batteries, the testing is to be performed with batteries (except for water immersion and ignitability).

4.1.3.3 For headband earmuffs, each specimen shall be weighed and the mean mass of the 10 specimens shall be reported to the nearest gram.

4.1.3.4 For mounted earmuffs, each specimen (left and right earmuff without the carrier) shall be weighed and the mean mass of the 10 specimens shall be reported to the nearest gram.

4.1.3.5 In the case of mounted earmuffs, the earmuffs shall be attached to the carriers in accordance with the earmuffs manufacturer's instructions. The cups/cup supporting arms shall be set to the position with the least amount of stress (in-use, stand-by, parking etc.) as defined by the manufacturer.

4.1.3.6 All specimens shall be conditioned for a minimum of 4 h in the atmosphere specified in 4.1.2.

4.1.3.7 The scheme of testing for specimens 1 to 6 (headband earmuffs and mounted earmuffs, basic and supplementary sets) shall be as follows:

- a) test each specimen in accordance with 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5;
- b) test each specimen in accordance with 4.6, unless (optional) 4.7 is to be performed;
- c) optionally, test each specimen in accordance with 4.7;
- d) test each specimen in accordance with 4.8 or, if the specimens are mounted earmuffs which incorporate a stand-by position, test in accordance with 4.9 (includes cup supporting arm flexing);
- e) for earmuffs which rely on plastic parts to provide the headband force, test each specimen in accordance with 4.10 or 4.11;
- f) if 4.10 or 4.11 were performed, remove each specimen from the water bath noting the time of removal and re-fit the cups (if removed). Remove excess water. If the liners were removed, re-fit them;
- g) condition each specimen for (24 ± 1) h, measured from the time of removal from the water bath in f) or in case of earmuffs which do not rely on plastic parts to provide the headband force condition each specimen for a minimum of 4 h, measured from the end of the headband flexing in d), under the conditions specified in 4.1.2, and then measure the headband force in accordance with 4.4;

NOTE For multiple size range models, use only the setting of width and height which gave the highest headband force in 4.4;

- h) for mounted earmuffs set the cups/cup supporting arms to the mid-point of the range of their adjustment, set in the position with the least amount of stress (in-use, stand-by, parking etc.).

4.1.3.8 The scheme of testing for all 10 headband earmuffs specimens or, in the case of mounted earmuffs, all 10 basic specimens, shall be continued as follows:

- a) measure the insertion loss of each cup of each specimen in accordance with EN 13819-2:2020, 4.1;
- b) calculate the standard deviation of insertion loss for all 20 cups, using (N-1) weighting for the sample data.

4.1.3.9 The scheme of testing for specimens 5 and 6, or, in the case of mounted earmuffs, both basic and supplementary specimens 5 and 6, shall be continued as follows:

- a) if appropriate, test both specimens or, in the case of mounted earmuffs, both basic (only) specimens, in accordance with 4.12;
- b) assess both specimens, or, in the case of mounted earmuffs, both basic and supplementary specimens, for compliance with EN 352-1:2020, 4.2 or EN 352-3:2020, 4.2, as appropriate;
- c) test both specimens in accordance with 4.13. If for supplementary combinations new materials are introduced each combination shall also be tested in accordance with 4.13.

4.1.3.10 The scheme of testing for specimens 1 to 4, or, in the case of mounted earmuffs, both the basic and, if required by EN 352-3:2020, 4.3.4, the supplementary specimens 1 to 4, shall be continued as follows:

Measure the sound attenuation of the specimens in accordance with EN 13819-2:2020, 4.2.

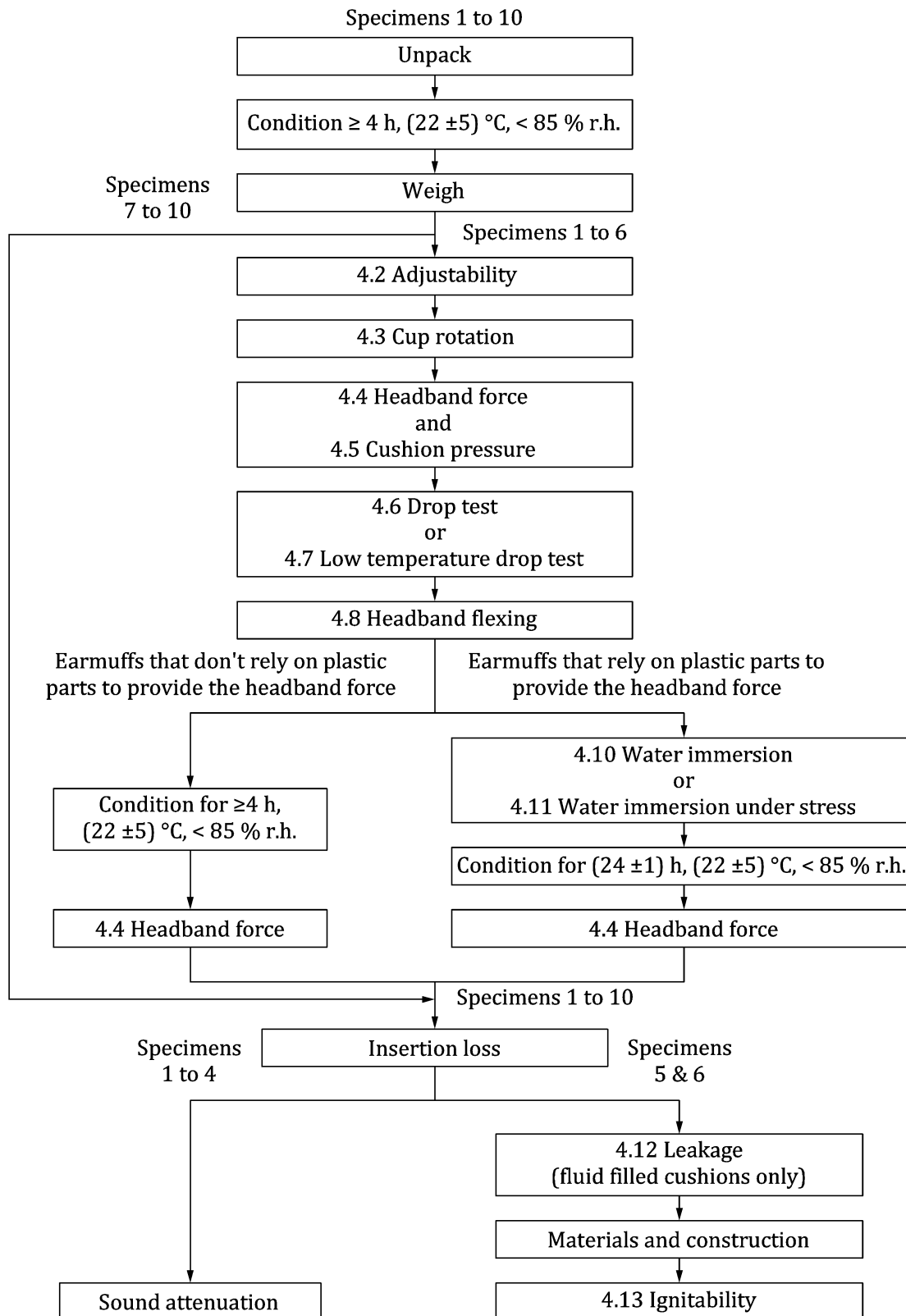


Figure 1 — Testing scheme flow chart for headband earmuffs

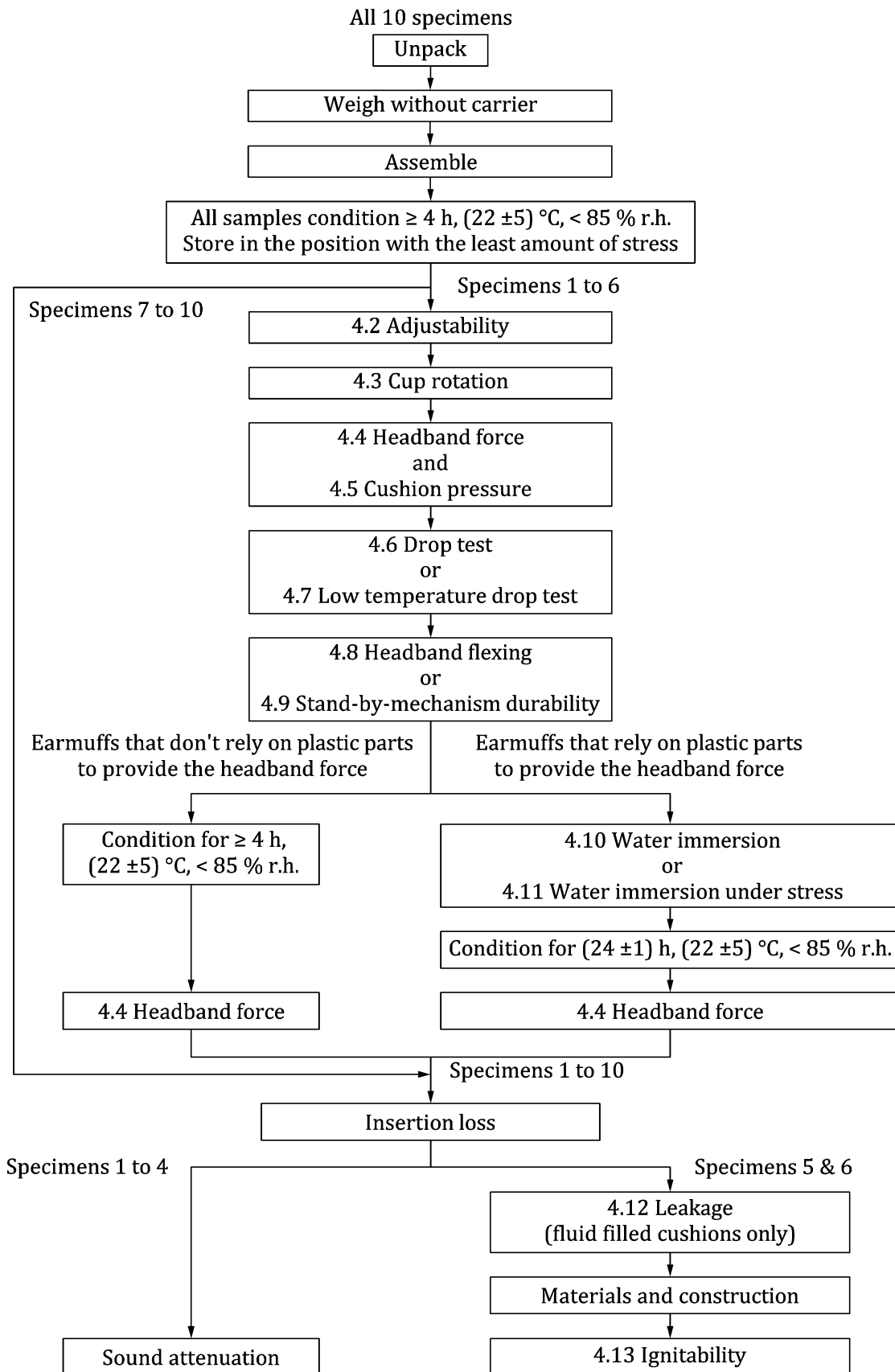


Figure 2 — Testing scheme flow chart for mounted earmuffs – basic combinations

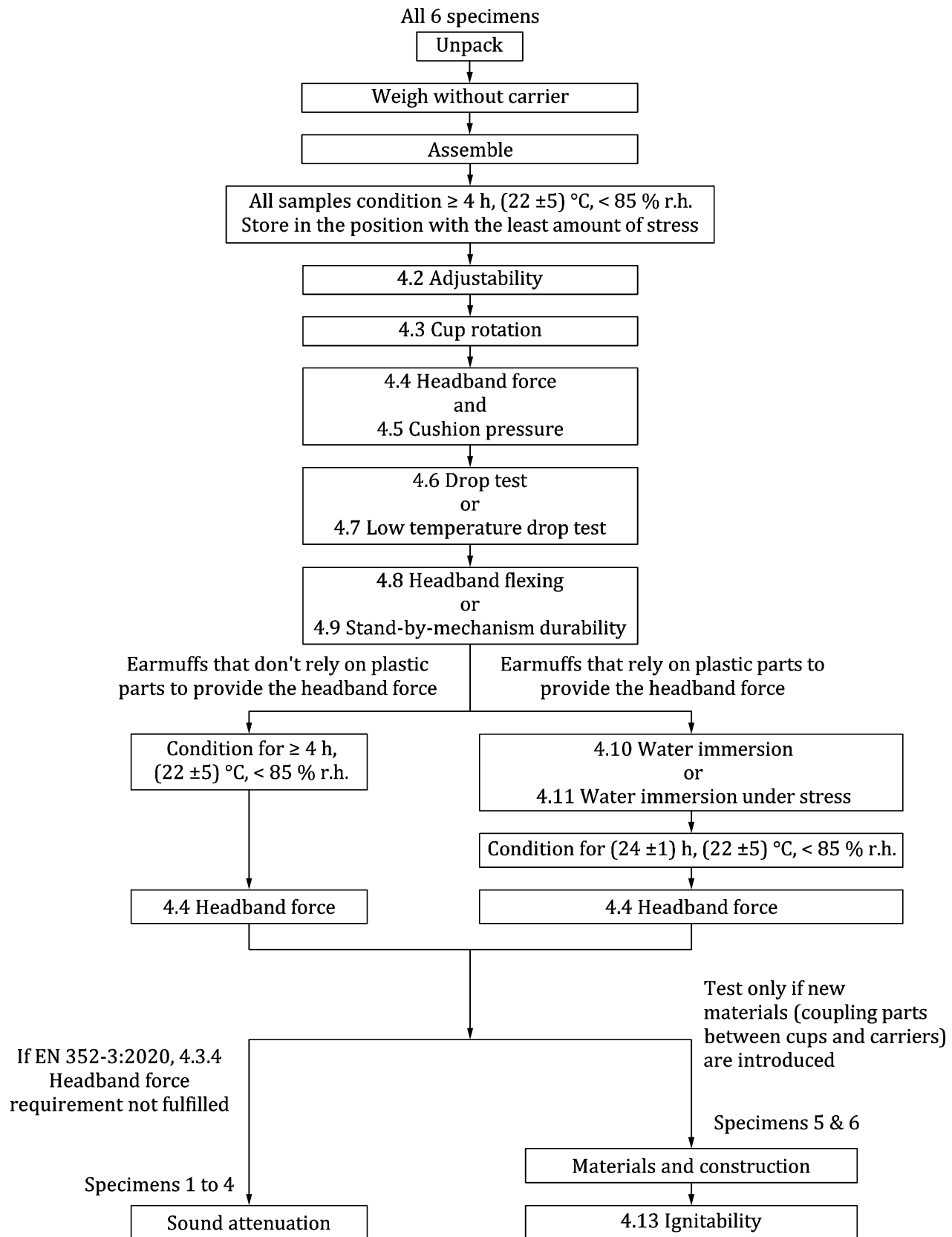
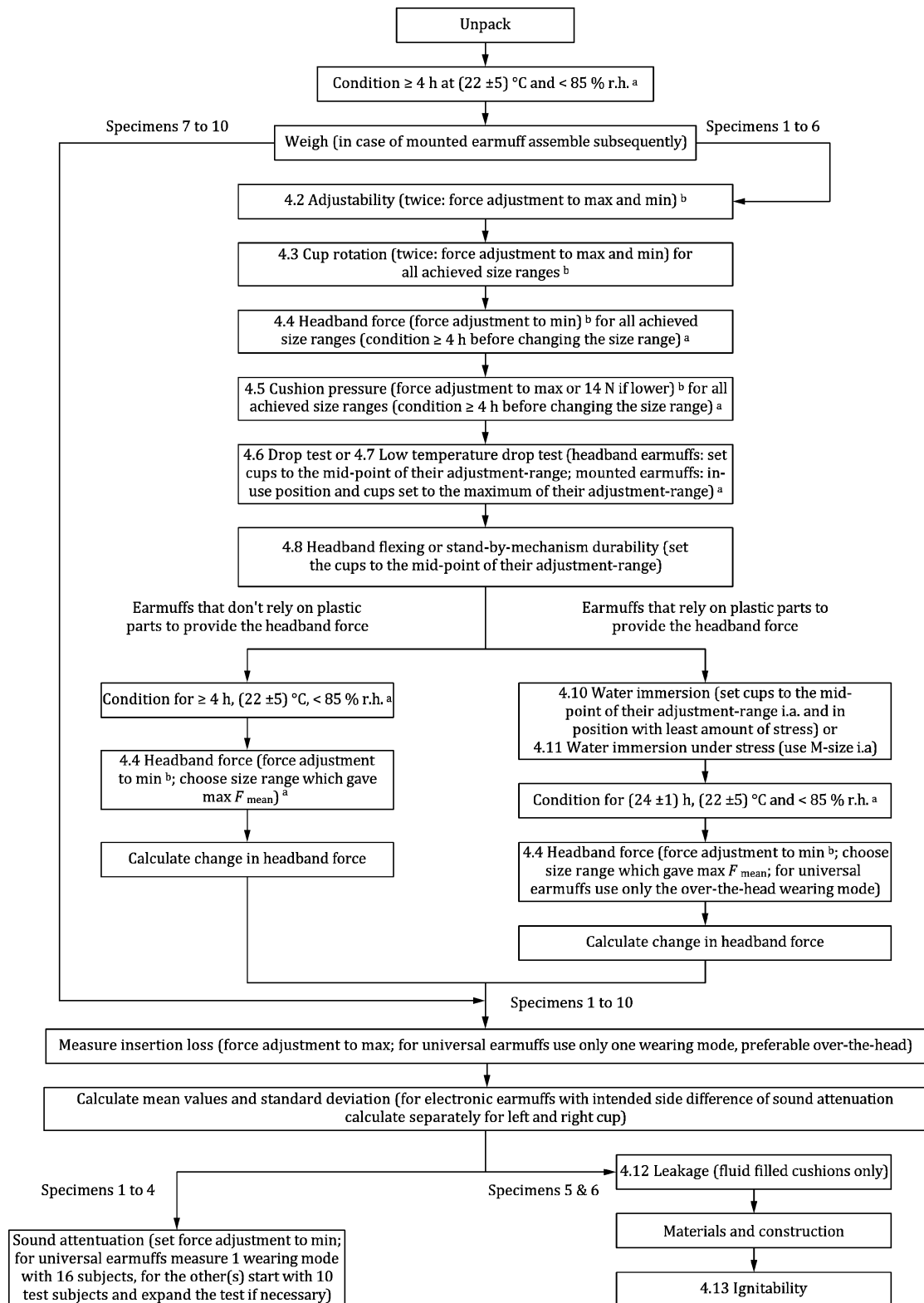


Figure 3 — Testing scheme flow chart for mounted earmuffs – supplementary combinations



Key

- ^a store in position with least amount of stress
- ^b use adaptors for non-planar cushions, if applicable (i.a.)

Figure 4 — Testing scheme flow chart for earmuffs with adjustable headband force (headband and mounted earmuffs)

4.2 Adjustability

4.2.1 Principle

The ability of the earmuffs to be adjusted to fit specified test dimensions is assessed using a suitable mounting fixture (headband earmuffs) or test headforms (mounted earmuffs).

4.2.2 Apparatus

4.2.2.1 Mounting fixture

The outline of an example is shown in Figure 5.

4.2.2.2 Test headforms

The test headforms shall be in accordance with the dimensions given in EN 960:2006, for sizes 505, 575 and 615 above the reference plane only and modified for width. Details are given in Figure 6 and examples of mounted pinnae in Figures 7 and 8.

NOTE Additional parts of the headforms of EN 960:2006 can be used to support correct mounting of carriers (e.g. the neck part).

4.2.2.3 Pinna simulators

The required dimensions are shown in Figure 10. A mounted pinna simulator is shown in Figure 11. Alternatively, pinna simulators can be produced by 3D printing. An example is shown in Figure 12.

4.2.2.4 Non-planar cushion adaptor

For earmuffs with non-planar cushions, the manufacturer shall supply suitable adaptors which shall be fitted to the mounting fixture, such that, when the earmuffs are fitted to the mounting fixture, and with the plates of the latter set parallel, the centres of the openings of the earmuff cushions lie on the horizontal axis through the centre of the force transducer.

4.2.3 Procedure

4.2.3.1 Headband earmuffs

4.2.3.1.1 Fit the pinna simulators to the plates of the apparatus so that their longer axes are vertical for over-the-head and under-the-chin earmuffs or so that their shorter axes are vertical for behind-the-head earmuffs (see Figure 7 resp. Figure 8 as examples).

4.2.3.1.2 Adjust the cups/headband to their longest position and, if the earmuffs incorporate a means to adjust the headband force, adjust the force to its maximum setting.

4.2.3.1.3 Place the earmuffs on the fixture so that the headband is vertical and the pinna simulators are enclosed by the cushions.

4.2.3.1.4 Adjust the separation of the plates and the height of the headband support to correspond in turn with each of the combinations of dimensions of width and height respectively shown in Table 1 or Table 2, as appropriate.

4.2.3.1.5 For each of the combinations of dimensions of width and height respectively, check whether the range of adjustment of the cups/headband and of the width between the cushions enable the earmuffs to be fitted so that:

- a) for over-the-head earmuffs, the internal apex of the headband touches the headband support pad, or, for behind-the-head or under-the-chin earmuffs, the internal apex of the headband touches or lies beyond the headband support pad;

NOTE 1 Some earmuffs, because of their design, cannot be assessed correctly by this method. This applies for example, to those behind-the-head earmuffs where the headband is designed to pass only around the back of the neck. For these products this test is performed by using the appropriate test headforms as specified in EN 960:2006, sizes 505, 575 and 615 (full headforms, including chin and neck), fitted with pinna simulators at the heights given in Figure 6 appropriate to the earmuff size range.

- b) the contact between the cushions and the plates of the fixture is continuous insofar as it provides an unbroken barrier between the inside and outside perimeters of the cushions.

NOTE 2 Discontinuity in contact between the cushions and the plates is acceptable in the region where the pinna simulator mounting area (46 mm × 10 mm) lies on the plates.

4.2.3.1.6 If the earmuffs incorporate a means to adjust the headband force, adjust the force to its minimum setting and repeat steps 4.2.3.1.4 and 4.2.3.1.5.

Table 1 — Test dimensions – adjustability (over-the-head and under-the-chin earmuffs)

Dimensions in millimetres with a limit deviation of ±1 mm

Test height mm	Test width mm		
	125	145	155
115	S	S/M	—
130	S/M	S/M/L	M/L
140	—	M/L	L
M indicates earmuffs of ‘medium’ size range. S indicates earmuffs of ‘small’ size range. L indicates earmuffs of ‘large’ size range. – not applicable.			

Table 2 — Test dimensions – adjustability (behind-the-head earmuffs)Dimensions in millimetres with a limit deviation of ± 1 mm

Test depth mm	Test width mm		
	125	145	155
75	S	S/M	—
90	S/M	S/M/L	M/L
105	—	M/L	L
M indicates earmuffs of 'medium' size range. S indicates earmuffs of 'small' size range. L indicates earmuffs of 'large' size range. — not applicable.			

NOTE 1 The dimensions given in Tables 1 and 2 have been chosen to cover appropriate combinations of the head dimensions of the 5th, 50th and 95th percentiles of the adult population.

NOTE 2 If non-planar cushion adaptors are fitted to the mounting fixture, test width is the dimension between the two outermost points of the cushion adaptors measured along the horizontal axis through the centre of the force transducer.

4.2.3.2 Mounted earmuffs

4.2.3.2.1 Fit the pinna simulators to the side plates of the test headforms so that their longer axes are vertical and coincident with the transverse vertical axis of the headform. Adjust their vertical position as necessary to correspond with the test heights given in Table 3.

4.2.3.2.2 If the earmuff carrier incorporates a means to adjust the harness, adjust it to give the maximum external vertical distance, in accordance with the carrier manufacturer's instructions (see Figure 9), making sure that the harness is still in contact with the test headform. Fit the mounted earmuff to the test headform and measure the vertical distance between the ear canal entrance and the external surface of the carrier shell (see Figure 9 and Figure 13) to be used in 4.3.3. If the carrier does not include a shell measure the vertical distance between the ear canal entrance and the external surface of the carrier.

NOTE This adjustment assumes continuing compliance of these dimensions with the requirements of the relevant carrier standard (for example EN 397).

4.2.3.2.3 If the mounted earmuffs incorporate a means to adjust the headband force, adjust the force to its maximum setting.

4.2.3.2.4 Place the mounted earmuff on each headform in turn, in the as-worn position, and so that the pinna simulators are enclosed by the cushions. Maintain the carrier in position by the application of a force of nominally 50 N acting along the vertical axis.