

Hearing protectors — General requirements —

Part 3: Ear-Muffs attached to an industrial safety helmet

The European Standard EN 352-3:2002 has the status of a
British Standard

ICS 13.340.20

National foreword

This British Standard is the official English language version of EN 352-3:2002. It supersedes BS EN 352-3:1997 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/7, Hearing protectors, which has the responsibility to:

- aid enquirers to understand the text;
- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

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This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health and Environment Sector Policy and Strategy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 October 2002

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the EN title page, pages 2 to 16, an inside back cover and a back cover.

The BSI copyright date displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

© BSI 31 October 2002

ISBN 0 580 40668 7

English version

Hearing protectors - General requirements - Part 3: Ear-muffs attached to an industrial safety helmet

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Exigences
générales - Partie 3: Serre tête montés sur casque de
protection pour l'industrie

Gehörschützer - Allgemeine Anforderungen - Teil 3: An
Industriehelmen befestigte Kapselgehörschützer

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 18 August 2002.

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Foreword

This document (EN 352-3:2002) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 159, "Hearing protectors", the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by April 2003, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by April 2003.

This document supersedes EN 352-3:1996.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For relationship with EU Directive(s), see informative annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

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, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Annex A is informative.

Introduction

This standard for "Hearing Protectors : Ear-muffs attached to an industrial safety helmet : General requirements", sets requirements for personal hearing protection devices in relation to Directive 89/686/EEC – Personal Protective Equipment.

The particular requirement in relation to the ability of hearing protectors to reduce noise below daily limit levels is addressed in the standard by requiring the sound attenuation of the hearing protectors, measured in accordance with EN 24869-1, to be not less than a specified minimum. Further, by requiring that the measured sound attenuation be declared, the selection of suitable hearing protectors for individual circumstances may be undertaken according to established practice.

EN 352-1 deals with requirements for ear-muffs, EN 352-2 with ear-plugs, EN 352-3 with ear-muffs attached to industrial safety helmets. EN 13819 deals with testing plans common to all types of hearing protectors covered by this series of prENs, and is in two Parts; Part 1 : Physical test methods, and Part 2 : Acoustic test methods.

Additional safety requirements and the associated test procedures for level-dependent ear-muffs are contained in EN 352-4, for ear-muffs with active noise reduction in prEN 352-5, for ear-muffs with audio communications in prEN 352-6 and for level-dependent ear-plugs in prEN 352-7.

The Parts of prEN 352, other than Parts 1, 2 and 3, cover the performance of functions additional to passive hearing protection. Hearing protectors which incorporate one or more of these functions are subject to the requirements and tests of each of the relevant Parts of prEN 352, including Parts 1, 2 or 3, as appropriate.

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

The requirements of EN 352-3 are concerned primarily with the physical and acoustic performance of the ear-muffs fitted to an industrial helmet which complies with EN 397.

The sizing requirements enable the great majority of the industrial population to be fitted satisfactorily by "medium size range" helmet mounted ear-muffs. Populations of other sizes may be accommodated by "small size range" or "large size range" helmet mounted ear-muffs, which are required to be accompanied by information regarding the range of sizes which they are designed to fit.

The standard also calls for the values of sound attenuation afforded by the helmet mounted ear-muffs (measured in accordance with EN 24869-1) in order to assist purchasers in selecting the most appropriate model for their needs. Minimum values of sound attenuation are also specified.

A maximum variability in insertion loss, measured objectively after a series of performance tests, is specified. The objective test method only facilitates the making of comparative measurements, and the insertion loss values obtained will differ from the measured sound attenuation values.

The latter, which require the helmet mounted ear-muffs to be tested whilst being worn by human test subjects, is regarded as providing the reference test method for the measurement of the acoustic performance of hearing protectors.