

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION R 1999

ACOUSTICS

ASSESSMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE
FOR HEARING CONSERVATION PURPOSES

1st EDITION

May 1971

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 1999, *Acoustics – Assessment of occupational noise exposure for hearing conservation purposes*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*, the Secretariat of which is held by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Work on this question led to the adoption of Draft ISO Recommendation No. 1999, which was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry in May 1970. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies :

Austria	Greece	Sweden
Belgium	Hungary	Switzerland
Canada	Ireland	U.A.R.
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Denmark	New Zealand	U.S.A.
France	Norway	U.S.S.R.
Germany	South Africa, Rep. of	

The following Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft :

Japan

This Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

FOREWORD

The human hearing mechanism can be impaired by noise exposure. The degree of impairment depends on the noise level and duration as well as on the sensitivity of the individual.

In many cases permanent impairment of hearing due to noise exposure develops over years resulting in a severe hearing loss greatly affecting the faculty of communication by speech.

This ISO Recommendation results from the need for methods by which the risk for noise-induced impairment of hearing can be estimated. The existence of such methods will make it easier for interested bodies to set up limits for tolerable noise exposure during work and for the institution of hearing conservation programmes.

Emphasis is put on a simple but sufficiently reliable method for sound measurement, a method which can be used also by people without special acoustical knowledge.

The complicated problems connected with the effect of recovery periods within the working day have been considered, but it was felt that further research and consideration were necessary before simple rules applicable to such effects could be established. Similar remarks also apply to some types of impulsive noise.