

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

Audio and audiovisual equipment – Digital audio parts – Basic measurement methods of audio characteristics –  
Part 4: Personal computer  
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IEC 61606-4:2005  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/ad-7069-4/61606-4-2005>  
Equipement audio et audiovisuel – Parties audio numériques – Méthodes de mesure de base des caractéristiques audio –  
Partie 4: Ordinateur personnel



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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms .....	6
3.1 Terms and definitions .....	6
3.2 Abbreviated terms .....	8
3.3 Rated values .....	8
4 Measuring conditions.....	8
4.1 Environmental conditions .....	8
4.2 Power supplies.....	8
4.3 Test signal frequencies .....	9
4.4 Standard setting .....	10
4.5 Working setting .....	11
4.6 Preconditioning .....	12
5 Measuring instruments .....	12
5.1 Analogue signal generator.....	12
5.2 Analogue in-band level meter .....	12
5.3 Analogue low-pass filter .....	12
5.4 Analogue weighting filter .....	12
5.5 Standard medium .....	12
5.6 Recording medium .....	13
5.7 Software for digital data evaluation.....	13
5.8 Short-term distortion meter.....	14
5.9 Other instruments.....	14
6 Methods of measurement (digital-in/analogue-out) .....	14
6.1 Input/output characteristics .....	15
6.2 Frequency response .....	16
6.3 Noise characteristics .....	17
6.4 Distortion characteristics .....	21
7 Methods of measurement (analogue-in/digital-out) .....	23
7.1 Input/output characteristics .....	23
7.2 Frequency response.....	25
7.3 Noise characteristics .....	26
7.4 Distortion characteristics .....	29
Figure 1 – Block diagram for maximum output amplitude measurement .....	15
Figure 2 – Block diagram for gain difference between channels measurement .....	16
Figure 3 – Block diagram for frequency-response measurement .....	16
Figure 4 – Block diagram for signal-to-noise ratio measurement .....	17
Figure 5 – Block diagram for dynamic range measurement .....	18
Figure 6 – Block diagram for channel separation measurement.....	20
Figure 7 – Block diagram for distortion and noise measurement.....	21
Figure 8 – Block diagram for short-term distortion measurement.....	22
Figure 9 – Block diagram for maximum allowable input amplitude measurement.....	23

Figure 10 – Block diagram for gain difference between channel and tracking error measurement.....	24
Figure 11 – Block diagram for frequency response measurement.....	25
Figure 12 – Block diagram for signal-to-noise ratio measurement .....	26
Figure 13 – Block diagram for dynamic range measurement .....	27
Figure 14 – Block diagram for channel separation measurement.....	28
Figure 15 – Block diagram for distortion and noise measurement.....	29
Figure 16 – Block diagram for short-term distortion measurement.....	30
Table 1 – Frequencies used in the measurement .....	9

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT –  
DIGITAL AUDIO PARTS –  
BASIC MEASUREMENT METHODS  
OF AUDIO CHARACTERISTICS –**

**Part 4: Personal computer**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61606-4 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia equipment and systems.

This bilingual version (2012-05) corresponds to the monolingual English version, published in 2005-12.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
100/952/CDV	100/1030/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The French version of this standard has not been voted upon.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

IEC 61606 consists of the following parts under the general title *Audio and audiovisual equipment – Digital audio parts – Basic measurement methods of audio characteristics*:

Part 1: General

Part 2: Consumer use

Part 3: Professional use<sup>1</sup>

Part 4: Personal computer

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- reconfirmed;
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<sup>1</sup> Under consideration.

# AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT – DIGITAL AUDIO PARTS – BASIC MEASUREMENT METHODS OF AUDIO CHARACTERISTICS –

## Part 4: Personal computer

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61606 specifies the basic measurement methods of a linear PCM signal for an audio part of personal computers (PCs) and applies to both desktop and portable computers. The common measuring conditions and methods are described in IEC 61606-1. Specific conditions and methods of measurement for PCs are given in this standard.

NOTE 1 The methods described are mostly based on sampling frequencies from 8 kHz to 192 kHz and bit length from 8 bit to 24 bit.

NOTE 2 This standard describes tests for equipment which has digital input with analogue output and analogue input with digital output. Digital input data are provided from an internal HDD or other memory media and output digital data are recorded to an internal HDD or main memories.

NOTE 3 The methods specified in this standard are not applicable to systems incorporating bit-rate reduced digital audio signals that have data loss or to 1-bit signals. This part does not apply to analogue input with analogue output and digital input with digital output as described in IEC 61606-1.

NOTE 4 When a CPU in a PC is overloaded by tasks other than those for audio input/output, the PC may fail to record/reproduce the whole audio data. This standard applies only to the measurement in which input/output data are recorded/reproduced without such missing data. The performance of a PC with missing audio data may be evaluated by the short-term distortion measurement although such evaluation is not within the scope of this standard.

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### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

IEC 60038, *IEC standard voltages*

IEC 60268-2, *Sound system equipment – Part 2: Explanation of general terms and calculation methods*

IEC 61606-1, *Audio and audiovisual equipment – Digital audio parts – Basic measurement methods of audio characteristics – Part 1: General*

IEC 61606-2, *Audio and audiovisual equipment – Digital audio parts – Basic measurement methods of audio characteristics – Part 2: Consumer use*

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 1: Specifications*

### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 61606-1, as well as the following, apply.



### 3.1.1

#### **personal computer PC**

personal computer which is designed to be used by one person at a time

NOTE 1 A PC does not include optional sound cards or any board or drive installed by the user after purchase.

NOTE 2 A PC may be used by more than one person when it is used with network computers.

### 3.1.2

#### **standard input signal amplitude**

input analogue signal amplitude which corresponds to the digital **full-scale level**:

- analogue input terminal: 2 V r.m.s.
- microphone terminal: 100 mV r.m.s.

### 3.1.3

#### **standard output signal amplitude**

output analogue signal amplitude which corresponds to the digital **full-scale level**:

- analogue output terminal: 2 V r.m.s.

NOTE If the **EUT** cannot output the amplitude of 2 V r.m.s., 1 V r.m.s. may be used for the measurement. In that case, measured data should be indicated with the measured voltage.

- headphone terminal: maximum output amplitude

### 3.1.4

#### **normal measuring amplitude**

analogue signal amplitude equal to 1/10 of the **standard input signal amplitude**

### 3.1.5

#### **normal source impedance**

impedance which is connected to the analogue input terminals of the **EUT**:

- analogue input terminal: 2,2 k $\Omega$
- microphone terminal: 600  $\Omega$

### 3.1.6

#### **normal load impedance**

load impedance which is connected to the output terminals of the **EUT**:

- load of analogue output terminal: 22 k $\Omega$
- load of headphone terminal: 32  $\Omega$
- load of speaker terminals: 8  $\Omega$  or equal to the impedance of internal speakers

### 3.1.7

#### **factory setting**

default setting of **EUT** as defined by the manufacturer

### 3.1.8

#### **standard medium**

internal storage medium which provides digital test data at the standard setting and should be a hard disk drive (HDD) working on the **EUT**

NOTE If the **EUT** is not equipped with a HDD, another memory medium which is used as a main memory may be used. In this case, it should be stated with the results.

### 3.1.9

#### **recording medium**

internal data storage medium on which audio playback data are recorded for the analogue-in/digital-out measurement and should be a hard disk drive (HDD)

NOTE If the **EUT** is not equipped with a HDD, another memory medium which is used as a main memory may be used.

**3.1.10****working medium**

internal storage medium from which digital test data are provided at the working setting

NOTE This medium should be a main data source when audio signal is played on the **EUT**, such as a compact disc (CD).

**3.2 Abbreviated terms**

EUT	equipment under test, which is a PC in this standard
AC	alternating current
r.m.s.	root-mean square
LPCM	linear pulse code modulation
LSB	least significant bit

**3.3 Rated values**

For a full explanation of these terms, see IEC 60268-2. The following are rated conditions for digital audio equipment which should be specified by the manufacturer:

- rated supply voltage;
- rated supply frequency;
- rated digital input **word length**;
- rated **sampling frequency**(ies).

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**4 Measuring conditions**

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**4.1 Environmental conditions**

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The following environmental conditions with the indicated tolerances shall be used:

- air pressure: 96 kPa ± 10 kPa
- ambient temperature: 15 °C to 35 °C
- relative humidity: (60 ± 15) %

**4.2 Power supplies**

An a.c. power supply or a battery shall be used. If a battery is used, it should be stated with the results.

**4.2.1 Supply voltage**

Rated a.c. power supply voltage, as specified in IEC 60038, shall be used. The tolerance of the supply voltage should be ±10 % or less.

**4.2.2 Frequency(ies)**

AC power supply frequency(ies) specified by the manufacturer shall be used. The tolerance of the frequency should be +2 %, –4 % or less.

**4.2.3 Noises at the power supply output**

Noises at the power supply output should be less than the amplitude which affects the result of measurement.

#### 4.2.4 Battery

Only the battery designed for the **EUT** or built in the **EUT** shall be used.

#### 4.3 Test signal frequencies

The frequency of the test signal shall be selected from the values in Table 1. In catalogues and other documents, where precision is not required or implied in the description, it is permitted to use the nominal values shown in this table. Unless otherwise specified, the reference frequency for measurements shall be 997 Hz, which may be stated in non-critical contexts, as 1 kHz.

**Table 1 – Frequencies used in the measurement**

<i>Dimensions in Hz</i>										
Nominal frequency	Actual frequency									
	$f_s=$ 8 000	$f_s=$ 11 025	$f_s=$ 16 000	$f_s=$ 22 050	$f_s=$ 32 000	$f_s=$ 44 100	$f_s=$ 48 000	$f_s=$ 88 200	$f_s=$ 96 000	$f_s=$ 192 000
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
32	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
63	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
125	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
250	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251	251
500	499	499	499	499	499	499	499	499	499	499
1 000	997	997	997	997	997	997	997	997	997	997
2 000	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999	1 999
3 700	3 677	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
4 000	–	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001	4 001
5 100	–	5 059	5 059	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 400	–	–	7 351	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 000	–	–	–	7 993	7 993	7 993	7 993	7 993	7 993	7 993
10 000	–	–	–	–	10 007	10 007	10 007	10 007	10 007	10 007
10 100	–	–	–	10 141	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 500	–	–	–	–	12 503	12 503	12 503	–	–	–
14 700	–	–	–	–	14 717	14 717	14 717	–	–	–
16 000	–	–	–	–	–	16 001	16 001	16 001	16 001	16 001
18 000	–	–	–	–	–	17 987	17 987	–	–	–
20 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	19 997	19 997	19 997	19 997
20 300	–	–	–	–	–	20 269	–	–	–	–
22 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	22 079	–	–	–
30 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	29 989	29 989	–
35 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	34 981	34 981	–
40 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	40 429	40 429	40 429
44 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44 159	–
50 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	49 999
70 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	70 001
80 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	79 999
88 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	88 301

If a sweep signal is used in the measurement, the sweep frequency range is from 16 Hz to  $1/2 \times f_s$ .

#### 4.4 Standard setting

##### 4.4.1 Standard input condition for the EUT

###### 4.4.1.1 Analogue signal input condition

###### 4.4.1.1.1 Microphone Input

Signal amplitude: **normal measuring amplitude**

Source impedance: **normal source impedance**

###### 4.4.1.1.2 Analogue Input

Signal amplitude: **normal measuring amplitude**

Source impedance: **normal source impedance**

###### 4.4.1.2 Digital signal Input condition

The test digital signal shall be recorded on the **standard medium**.

Input signal level: **normal measuring level**

##### 4.4.2 Standard output condition for the EUT

###### 4.4.2.1 Analogue output condition

###### 4.4.2.1.1 Voltage output and headphone output condition

Signal amplitude: 1/10 of **standard output signal amplitude**

Load impedance: **normal load impedance**

###### 4.4.2.1.2 Power output condition

Signal amplitude: 1/10 of **maximum output amplitude**

Load impedance: **normal load impedance**

###### 4.4.2.2 Digital output condition

The digital signal that is obtained from an analogue input signal shall be recorded on the **recording medium**.

Output signal level:  $-20 \text{ dB}_{\text{FS}}$

##### 4.4.3 Hardware condition

###### 4.4.3.1 Standard medium setting

To prepare the measurement, test signals shall be recorded on the **standard medium**. These recorded signals are used for an input test signal.

The signal format and accuracies are specified in 4.6.1 of IEC 61606-1.

###### 4.4.3.2 Other hardware settings

All settings shall be set according to the **factory setting** except for the settings, such as hardware volume control, necessary for certain specific measurements.

#### 4.4.4 Software condition

##### 4.4.4.1 Audio playback and recording software

A **factory setting** software should be used for audio reproduction and recording.

##### 4.4.4.2 Display setting

All settings shall be set according to the **factory setting**.

Contents displayed on the screen shall be limited to those which are necessary for the measurement, and other contents (for example, a background picture or video) should not be displayed.

##### 4.4.4.3 Other software

It is not necessary to activate any other software except for **factory setting** software if this exists.

#### 4.4.5 Setting of level controls

##### 4.4.5.1 Analogue-in/digital-out case

###### 4.4.5.1.1 Analogue level control

The analogue level control shall be adjusted so that an input analogue signal of 997 Hz and the **normal measuring amplitude** is converted into a digital output level of  $-20 \text{ dB}_{\text{FS}}$ . If the **EUT** is not equipped with an analogue level control, the measurement may be performed at the default gain.

###### 4.4.5.1.2 Digital level control

Level controls provided in the digital domain shall be adjusted to 0 dB.

##### 4.4.5.2 Digital-in/analogue-out case

###### 4.4.5.2.1 Digital level control

Level controls provided in the digital domain shall be adjusted to 0 dB.

###### 4.4.5.2.2 Analogue level control

The analogue level control shall be adjusted so that an input digital signal of 997 Hz and the **normal measuring level** is converted into the output of **normal measuring amplitude**. If the **EUT** is not equipped with any analogue level control, the measurement may be performed at the default gain.

#### 4.5 Working setting

Digital test data shall be reproduced from the **working medium**.

NOTE This medium should be a main data source when audio signal is played on the **EUT** such as a CD drive.

##### 4.5.1 Digital input condition

The test digital signal shall be recorded on the **working medium**.

##### 4.5.2 Other conditions

Other conditions shall be the same as those for the standard setting.

#### 4.6 Preconditioning

The equipment shall be operated under normal operating conditions for the preconditioning period specified by the manufacturer prior to any measurements being performed. This condition is intended to allow the equipment to be stabilized. If the manufacturer specifies no preconditioning period, a period of 5 min shall be assumed. Should operational requirements preclude preconditioning, the manufacturer shall state so.

Should power supply to the equipment be interrupted during the measurement, sufficient preconditioning time shall be allowed to obtain the stabilized state again.

### 5 Measuring instruments

#### 5.1 Analogue signal generator

As specified in 4.6.1.1.1 of IEC 61606-1.

#### 5.2 Analogue in-band level meter

As specified in 4.6.3.2 of IEC 61606-1.

#### 5.3 Analogue low-pass filter

As specified in 4.6.2.1 of IEC 61606-1.

In the case where  $f_s$  is lower than 40 kHz, the **upper band-edge frequency** should be 20 kHz.

#### 5.4 Analogue weighting filter

The weighing filter used shall have A-weighting characteristics with tolerances class 1 as specified for sound level measurements in IEC 61672-1.

#### 5.5 Standard medium

Refer to 3.1.8

Memory capacity: enough size to store the source data

##### 5.5.1 Data format for digital test signal

The digital test data recorded on to the **standard medium** for the measurement are calculated from the ideal sine waveform as follows.

Data format:	<b>LPCM</b>
<b>Word length:</b>	from 8 bit to 24 bit
Signal level:	<b>digital zero</b> , $-60 \text{ dB}_{\text{FS}}$ , $-30 \text{ dB}_{\text{FS}}$ , $-20 \text{ dB}_{\text{FS}}$ , or <b>full-scale level</b>
Signal offset:	less than 1/2 LSB
Signal level accuracy:	error less than 1/2 LSB
<b>Sampling frequency (<math>f_s</math>)</b>	from 8 kHz to 192 kHz, depending on $f_s$ in Table 1
Test frequency:	range from 4 Hz to $0,46 f_s$ Hz, depending on test frequency in Table 1
Frequency accuracy:	error less than $1 \text{ Hz}/f_s$

## 5.6 Recording medium

Refer to 3.1.9.

Memory capacity: enough size to store the data to be measured.

## 5.7 Software for digital data evaluation

This software shall evaluate digital output data stored on the **recording medium** in the **EUT**. The software shall be installed in the **EUT**. When the recorded data on the **recording medium** is transmitted to an external instrument, the software for evaluation may be installed in the external instrument.

### 5.7.1 Narrow band-pass filter

#### 5.7.1.1 Transmission characteristics

Stop band: attenuation: more than 60 dB at half and twice the measuring frequency.

#### 5.7.1.2 Centre frequency of the filter

The centre frequencies of the narrow band-pass filter shall comply with the actual frequencies specified in 4.3 and used in the measurement (see Table 1).

#### 5.7.1.3 Transmission distortion

The transmission distortion shall be less than the value which affects measurement values.

### 5.7.2 Digital weighting filter

The characteristics of weighing filter shall comply with A-weighting characteristics with tolerances class 1 as specified for sound level measurements in IEC 61672-1.

### 5.7.3 Level meter

A level meter shall be calibrated to indicate the r.m.s. signal level expressed in dB<sub>FS</sub> and shall have the following characteristics:

frequency range: **in-band frequency range**

measuring range: **FS** to 1 LSB

accuracy: error not greater than 1 % of reading or 1/2 LSB

The r.m.s. signal level,  $V_{\text{total}}$ , shall be calculated from the digital data within the **in-band frequency range**. A method of calculation is shown in 4.6.1 of IEC 61606-2.

### 5.7.4 Digital distortion + noise (THD+N) meter

A digital distortion + noise (THD+N) meter shall have the capability equivalent to calculating the ratio of the total signal output to the noise and distortion components.

A measurement method is shown in 4.6.2 of IEC 61606-2.