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Acoustics -- Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors -- Part 2: General method of calculation

Acoustique -- Atténuation du son lors de sa propagation à l'air libre -- Partie 2: Méthode générale de calcul

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 9613-2

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Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors —

Part 2:
General method of calculation

Acoustique — Atténuation du son lors de sa propagation à l'air libre — Partie 2: Méthode générale de calcul

Reference number
ISO 9613-2:1996(E)

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 9613-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Noise*.

ISO 9613 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors:*

— *Part 1: Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere*

— *Part 2: General method of calculation*

Part 1 is a detailed treatment restricted to the attenuation by atmospheric absorption processes. Part 2 is a more approximate and empirical treatment of a wider subject — the attenuation by all physical mechanisms.

Annexes A and B of this part of ISO 9613 are for information only.

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Introduction

The ISO 1996 series of standards specifies methods for the description of noise outdoors in community environments. Other standards, on the other hand, specify methods for determining the sound power levels emitted by various noise sources, such as machinery and specified equipment (ISO 3740 series), or industrial plants (ISO 8297). This part of ISO 9613 is intended to bridge the gap between these two types of standard, to enable noise levels in the community to be predicted from sources of known sound emission. The method described in this part of ISO 9613 is general in the sense that it may be applied to a wide variety of noise sources, and covers most of the major mechanisms of attenuation. There are, however, constraints on its use, which arise principally from the description of environmental noise in the ISO 1996 series of standards.

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Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors —

Part 2:
General method of calculation

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9613 specifies an engineering method for calculating the attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors in order to predict the levels of environmental noise at a distance from a variety of sources. The method predicts the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level (as described in parts 1 to 3 of ISO 1996) under meteorological conditions favourable to propagation from sources of known sound emission.

These conditions are for downwind propagation, as specified in 5.4.3.3 of ISO 1996-2:1987 or, equivalently, propagation under a well-developed moderate ground-based temperature inversion, such as commonly occurs at night. Inversion conditions over water surfaces are not covered and may result in higher sound pressure levels than predicted from this part of ISO 9613.

The method also predicts a long-term average A-weighted sound pressure level as specified in ISO 1996-1 and ISO 1996-2. The long-term average A-weighted sound pressure level encompasses levels for a wide variety of meteorological conditions.

The method specified in this part of ISO 9613 consists specifically of octave-band algorithms (with nominal midband frequencies from 63 Hz to 8 kHz) for calculating the attenuation of sound which originates from a point sound source, or an assembly of point sources. The source (or sources) may be moving or stationary. Specific terms are provided in the algorithms for the following physical effects:

— geometrical divergence;

— atmospheric absorption;

— ground effect;

— reflection from surfaces;

— screening by obstacles.

Additional information concerning propagation through housing, foliage and industrial sites is given in annex A.

This method is applicable in practice to a great variety of noise sources and environments. It is applicable, directly or indirectly, to most situations concerning road or rail traffic, industrial noise sources, construction activities, and many other ground-based noise sources. It does not apply to sound from aircraft in flight, or to blast waves from mining, military or similar operations.

To apply the method of this part of ISO 9613, several parameters need to be known with respect to the geometry of the source and of the environment, the ground surface characteristics, and the source strength in terms of octave-band sound power levels for directions relevant to the propagation.

NOTE 1 If only A-weighted sound power levels of the sources are known, the attenuation terms for 500 Hz may be used to estimate the resulting attenuation.

The accuracy of the method and the limitations to its use in practice are described in clause 9.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 9613. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 9613 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1996-1:1982, *Acoustics — Description and measurement of environmental noise — Part 1: Basic quantities and procedures.*

ISO 1996-2:1987, *Acoustics — Description and measurement of environmental noise — Part 2: Acquisition of data pertinent to land use.*

ISO 1996-3:1987, *Acoustics — Description and measurement of environmental noise — Part 3: Application to noise limits.*

ISO 9613-1:1993, *Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors — Part 1: Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere.*

IEC 651:1979, *Sound level meters*, and Amendment 1:1993.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 9613, the definitions given in ISO 1996-1 and the following definitions apply. (See table 1 for symbols and units.)

3.1 equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level, L_{AT}: Sound pressure level, in decibels, defined by equation (1):

$$L_{AT} = 10 \lg \left\{ \left[(1/T) \int_0^T p_A^2(t)\, dt \right] \Big/ p_0^2 \right\} \text{ dB} \qquad \ldots (1)$$

where

$p_A(t)$ is the instantaneous A-weighted sound pressure, in pascals;

p_0 is the reference sound pressure (= 20 × 10^{-6} Pa);

T is a specified time interval, in seconds.

The A-frequency weighting is that specified for sound level meters in IEC 651.

NOTE 2 The time interval T should be long enough to average the effects of varying meteorological parameters. Two different situations are considered in this part of ISO 9613, namely short-term downwind and long-term overall averages.

Table 1 — Symbols and units

Symbol	Definition	Unit
A	octave-band attenuation	dB
C_{met}	meteorological correction	dB
d	distance from point source to receiver (see figure 3)	m
d_p	distance from point source to receiver projected onto the ground plane (see figure 1)	m
$d_{s,o}$	distance between source and point of reflection on the reflecting obstacle (see figure 8)	m
$d_{o,r}$	distance between point of reflection on the reflecting obstacle and receiver (see figure 8)	m
d_{ss}	distance from source to (first) diffraction edge (see figures 6 and 7)	m
d_{sr}	distance from (second) diffraction edge to receiver (see figures 6 and 7)	m
D_I	directivity index of the point sound source	—
D_z	screening attenuation	—
e	distance between the first and second diffraction edge (see figure 7)	m
G	ground factor	—
h	mean height of source and receiver	m
h_s	height of point source above ground (see figure 1)	m
h_r	height of receiver above ground (see figure 1)	m
h_m	mean height of the propagation path above the ground (see figure 3)	m
H_{max}	largest dimension of the sources	m
l_{min}	minimum dimension (length or height) of the reflecting plane (see figure 8)	m
L	sound pressure level	dB
α	atmospheric attenuation coefficient	dB/km
β	angle of incidence	rad
ρ	sound reflection coefficient	—

3.2 equivalent continuous downwind octave-band sound pressure level, L_{fT}(DW): Sound pressure level, in decibels, defined by equation (2):

$$L_{fT}(\text{DW}) = 10 \lg \left\{ \left[(1/T) \int_0^T p_f^{\,2}(t)\, \text{d}t \right] \Big/ p_0^{\,2} \right\} \text{ dB} \qquad \dots (2)$$

where $p_f(t)$ is the instantaneous octave-band sound pressure downwind, in pascals, and the subscript f represents a nominal midband frequency of an octave-band filter.

NOTE 3 The electrical characteristics of the octave-band filters should comply at least with the class 2 requirements of IEC 1260.

3.3 insertion loss (of a barrier)**:** Difference, in decibels, between the sound pressure levels at a receiver in a specified position under two conditions:

a) with the barrier removed, and

b) with the barrier present (inserted),

and no other significant changes that affect the propagation of sound.

4 Source description

The equations to be used are for the attenuation of sound from point sources. Extended noise sources, therefore, such as road and rail traffic or an industrial site (which may include several installations or plants, together with traffic moving on the site) shall be represented by a set of sections (cells), each having a certain sound power and directivity. Attenuation calculated for sound from a representative point within a section is used to represent the attenuation of sound from the entire section. A line source may be divided into line sections, an area source into area sections, each represented by a point source at its centre.

However, a group of point sources may be described by an equivalent point sound source situated in the middle of the group, in particular if

a) the sources have approximately the same strength and height above the local ground plane,

b) the same propagation conditions exist from the sources to the point of reception, and

c) the distance d from the single equivalent point source to the receiver exceeds twice the largest dimension H_{max} of the sources ($d > 2H_{max}$).

If the distance d is smaller ($d \leqslant 2H_{max}$), or if the propagation conditions for the component point sources are different (e.g. due to screening), the total sound source shall be divided into its component point sources.

NOTE 4 In addition to the real sources described above, image sources will be introduced to describe the reflection of sound from walls and ceilings (but not by the ground), as described in 7.5.

5 Meteorological conditions

Downwind propagation conditions for the method specified in this part of ISO 9613 are as specified in 5.4.3.3 of ISO 1996-2:1987, namely

— wind direction within an angle of ± 45° of the direction connecting the centre of the dominant sound source and the centre of the specified receiver region, with the wind blowing from source to receiver, and

— wind speed between approximately 1 m/s and 5 m/s, measured at a height of 3 m to 11 m above the ground.

The equations for calculating the average downwind sound pressure level L_{AT}(DW) in this part of ISO 9613, including the equations for attenuation given in clause 7, are the average for meteorological conditions within these limits. The term average here means the average over a short time interval, as defined in 3.1.

These equations also hold, equivalently, for average propagation under a well-developed moderate ground-based temperature inversion, such as commonly occurs on clear, calm nights.

6 Basic equations

The equivalent continuous downwind octave-band sound pressure level at a receiver location, L_{fT}(DW), shall be calculated for each point source, and its image sources, and for the eight octave bands with nominal midband frequencies from 63 Hz to 8 kHz, from equation (3):

$$L_{fT}(\text{DW}) = L_W + D_c - A \qquad \dots (3)$$

where

L_W is the octave-band sound power level, in decibels, produced by the point sound source relative to a reference sound power of one picowatt (1 pW);

D_c is the directivity correction, in decibels, that describes the extent by which the equivalent continuous sound pressure level from the point sound source deviates in a specified direction from the level of an omnidirectional point sound source producing sound power level L_W; D_c equals the directivity index D_I of the point sound source plus an index D_Ω that accounts for sound propagation into solid angles less than 4π steradians; for an omnidirectional point sound source radiating into free space, D_c = 0 dB;

A is the octave-band attenuation, in decibels, that occurs during propagation from the point sound source to the receiver.

NOTES

5 The letter symbol A (in italic type) signifies attenuation in this part of ISO 9613 except in subscripts, where it designates the A-frequency weighting (in roman type).

6 Sound power levels in equation (3) may be determined from measurements, for example as described in the ISO 3740 series (for machinery) or in ISO 8297 (for industrial plants).

The attenuation term A in equation (3) is given by equation (4):

$$A = A_{\text{div}} + A_{\text{atm}} + A_{\text{gr}} + A_{\text{bar}} + A_{\text{misc}} \qquad \ldots (4)$$

where

A_{div} is the attenuation due to geometrical divergence (see 7.1);

A_{atm} is the attenuation due to atmospheric absorption (see 7.2);

A_{gr} is the attenuation due to the ground effect (see 7.3);

A_{bar} is the attenuation due to a barrier (see 7.4);

A_{misc} is the attenuation due to miscellaneous other effects (see annex A).

General methods for calculating the first four terms in equation (4) are specified in this part of ISO 9613. Information on three contributions to the last term, A_{misc} (the attenuation due to propagation through foliage, industrial sites and areas of houses), is given in annex A.

The equivalent continuous A-weighted downwind sound pressure level shall be obtained by summing the contributing time-mean-square sound pressures calculated according to equations (3) and (4) for each point sound source, for each of their image sources, and for each octave band, as specified by equation (5):

$$L_{AT}(\text{DW}) = 10 \lg \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\sum_{j=1}^{8} 10^{0,1\left[L_{fT}(ij) + A_f(j)\right]} \right] \right\} \text{ dB} \qquad \ldots (5)$$

where

n is the number of contributions i (sources and paths);

j is an index indicating the eight standard octave-band midband frequencies from 63 Hz to 8 kHz;

A_f denotes the standard A-weighting (see IEC 651).

The long-term average A-weighted sound pressure level L_{AT}(LT) shall be calculated according to

$$L_{AT}(\text{LT}) = L_{AT}(\text{DW}) - C_{\text{met}} \qquad \ldots (6)$$

where C_{met} is the meteorological correction described in clause 8.

The calculation and significance of the various terms in equations (1) to (6) are explained in the following clauses. For a more detailed treatment of the attenuation terms, see the literature references given in annex B.

7 Calculation of the attenuation terms

7.1 Geometrical divergence (A_{div})

The geometrical divergence accounts for spherical spreading in the free field from a point sound source, making the attenuation, in decibels, equal to

$$A_{\text{div}} = \left[20 \lg (d/d_0) + 11 \right] \text{ dB} \qquad \ldots (7)$$

where

d is the distance from the source to receiver, in metres;

d_0 is the reference distance (= 1 m).

NOTE 7 The constant in equation (7) relates the sound power level to the sound pressure level at a reference distance d_0 which is 1 m from an omnidirectional point sound source.

7.2 Atmospheric absorption (A_{atm})

The attenuation due to atmospheric absorption A_{atm}, in decibels, during propagation through a distance d, in metres, is given by equation (8):

$$A_{atm} = \alpha d/1\,000 \qquad \ldots (8)$$

where α is the atmospheric attenuation coefficient, in decibels per kilometre, for each octave band at the midband frequency (see table 2).

For values of α at atmospheric conditions not covered in table 2, see ISO 9613-1.

NOTES

8 The atmospheric attenuation coefficient depends strongly on the frequency of the sound, the ambient temperature and relative humidity of the air, but only weakly on the ambient pressure.

9 For calculation of environmental noise levels, the atmospheric attenuation coefficient should be based on average values determined by the range of ambient weather which is relevant to the locality.

7.3 Ground effect (A_{gr})

7.3.1 General method of calculation

Ground attenuation, A_{gr}, is mainly the result of sound reflected by the ground surface interfering with the sound propagating directly from source to receiver.

The downward-curving propagation path (downwind) ensures that this attenuation is determined primarily by the ground surfaces near the source and near the receiver. This method of calculating the ground effect is applicable only to ground which is approximately flat, either horizontally or with a constant slope. Three distinct regions for ground attenuation are specified (see figure 1):

a) the source region, stretching over a distance from the source towards the receiver of $30h_s$, with a maximum distance of d_p (h_s is the source height, and d_p the distance from source to receiver, as projected on the ground plane);

b) the receiver region, stretching over a distance from the receiver back towards the source of $30h_r$, with a maximum distance of d_p (h_r is the receiver height);

c) a middle region, stretching over the distance between the source and receiver regions. If $d_p < (30h_s + 30h_r)$, the source and receiver regions will overlap, and there is no middle region.

According to this scheme, the ground attenuation does not increase with the size of the middle region, but is mostly dependent on the properties of source and receiver regions.

The acoustical properties of each ground region are taken into account through a ground factor G. Three categories of reflecting surface are specified as follows.

Table 2 — Atmospheric attenuation coefficient α for octave bands of noise

Temperature	Relative humidity	Atmospheric attenuation coefficient α, dB/km							
		Nominal midband frequency, Hz							
°C	%	63	125	250	500	1 000	2 000	4 000	8 000
10	70	0,1	0,4	1,0	1,9	3,7	9,7	32,8	117
20	70	0,1	0,3	1,1	2,8	5,0	9,0	22,9	76,6
30	70	0,1	0,3	1,0	3,1	7,4	12,7	23,1	59,3
15	20	0,3	0,6	1,2	2,7	8,2	28,2	88,8	202
15	50	0,1	0,5	1,2	2,2	4,2	10,8	36,2	129
15	80	0,1	0,3	1,1	2,4	4,1	8,3	23,7	82,8

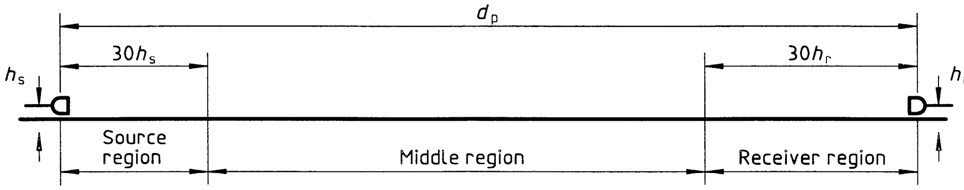

Figure 1 — Three distinct regions for determination of ground attenuation