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Sound system equipment –
Part 4: Microphones

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| FOREWORD..... | 6 |
| 1 Scope..... | 8 |
| 2 Normative references..... | 8 |
| 3 Terms and definitions | 9 |
| 4 General conditions..... | 10 |
| 4.1 General..... | 10 |
| 4.2 Measurement conditions..... | 10 |
| 4.2.1 General | 10 |
| 4.2.2 Rated conditions | 11 |
| 5 Particular conditions | 12 |
| 5.1 Pre-conditioning..... | 12 |
| 5.2 Sound source..... | 12 |
| 5.3 Measurement of sound pressure..... | 12 |
| 5.4 Voltage measuring system..... | 12 |
| 5.5 Acoustical environment | 12 |
| 5.5.1 General | 12 |
| 5.5.2 Free-field conditions..... | 13 |
| 5.5.3 Diffuse field conditions | 15 |
| 5.5.4 Microphone coupled to a sound source by means of a small cavity coupler | 15 |
| 5.6 Methods of measuring frequency response | 16 |
| 5.6.1 Point-by-point and continuous sweep frequency methods..... | 16 |
| 5.6.2 Calibration methods | 16 |
| 5.7 Overall accuracy | 17 |
| 5.8 Graphical presentation of results | 17 |
| 6 Type description (acoustical behaviour) | 17 |
| 6.1 Principle of the transducer..... | 17 |
| 6.2 Type of microphone..... | 17 |
| 6.3 Type of directional response characteristics..... | 17 |
| 6.4 Application | 17 |
| 7 Terminals and controls..... | 17 |
| 7.1 Marking..... | 17 |
| 7.2 Connectors and electrical interface values | 18 |
| 8 Reference point and axis | 18 |
| 8.1 Reference point..... | 18 |
| 8.2 Reference axis | 18 |
| 9 Rated power supply | 18 |
| 9.1 Characteristics to be specified | 18 |
| 9.2 Method of measurement..... | 18 |
| 10 Electrical impedance..... | 19 |
| 10.1 Internal impedance..... | 19 |
| 10.1.1 Characteristic to be specified | 19 |
| 10.1.2 Methods of measurement | 19 |
| 10.2 Rated impedance | 19 |
| 10.3 Rated minimum permitted load impedance..... | 20 |

| | | |
|--------|--|----|
| 11 | Sensitivity..... | 20 |
| 11.1 | General..... | 20 |
| 11.2 | Sensitivities with respect to acoustical environment | 20 |
| 11.2.1 | Free-field sensitivity | 20 |
| 11.2.2 | Diffuse-field sensitivity | 21 |
| 11.2.3 | Close-talking- of and near-field sensitivity..... | 22 |
| 11.2.4 | Pressure sensitivity..... | 22 |
| 11.3 | Rated sensitivity..... | 22 |
| 12 | Response..... | 23 |
| 12.1 | Frequency response..... | 23 |
| 12.1.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 23 |
| 12.1.2 | Method of measurement..... | 23 |
| 12.1.3 | Graphical presentation of results | 23 |
| 12.2 | Effective frequency range..... | 23 |
| 12.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 23 |
| 12.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 23 |
| 13 | Directional characteristics | 24 |
| 13.1 | Directional pattern..... | 24 |
| 13.1.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 24 |
| 13.1.2 | Methods of measurement | 24 |
| 13.1.3 | Graphical presentation of results | 25 |
| 13.2 | Directivity index..... | 25 |
| 13.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 25 |
| 13.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 25 |
| 14 | Amplitude non-linearity | 26 |
| 14.1 | General..... | 26 |
| 14.2 | Total harmonic distortion | 26 |
| 14.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 26 |
| 14.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 26 |
| 14.3 | Harmonic distortion of the n^{th} order ($n = 2, 3, \dots$) | 27 |
| 14.3.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 27 |
| 14.3.2 | Method of measurement..... | 27 |
| 14.4 | Difference frequency distortion of second order | 27 |
| 14.4.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 27 |
| 14.4.2 | Method of measurement..... | 27 |
| 15 | Limiting characteristics | 28 |
| 15.1 | Rated maximum permissible peak sound pressure | 28 |
| 15.2 | Overload sound pressure | 28 |
| 15.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 28 |
| 15.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 28 |
| 16 | Balance..... | 29 |
| 16.1 | Balance of the microphone output..... | 29 |
| 16.2 | Balance under working conditions..... | 29 |
| 17 | Equivalent sound pressure level due to inherent noise..... | 30 |
| 17.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 30 |
| 17.2 | Method of measurement..... | 30 |
| 18 | Ambient conditions | 30 |
| 18.1 | General..... | 30 |

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| 18.2 | Pressure range | 31 |
| 18.3 | Temperature range..... | 31 |
| 18.4 | Relative humidity range..... | 31 |
| 19 | External influences | 31 |
| 19.1 | General..... | 31 |
| 19.1.1 | Specification and methods of measurement..... | 31 |
| 19.1.2 | Other external interferences | 31 |
| 19.2 | Equivalent sound pressure due to mechanical vibration..... | 31 |
| 19.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 31 |
| 19.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 32 |
| 19.3 | Equivalent sound pressure due to wind..... | 32 |
| 19.3.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 32 |
| 19.3.2 | Method of measurement..... | 32 |
| 19.4 | Transient equivalent sound pressure due to "pop" effect | 36 |
| 19.4.1 | General | 36 |
| 19.4.2 | Characteristic to be specified | 36 |
| 19.4.3 | Method of measurement..... | 38 |
| 20 | Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC)..... | 39 |
| 20.1 | Regulatory requirements | 39 |
| 20.2 | Requirements for preserving programme quality | 39 |
| 20.3 | Performance criteria..... | 40 |
| 20.3.1 | Criterion A..... | 40 |
| 20.3.2 | Criterion B..... | 40 |
| 20.4 | Testing for immunity to disturbances in the presence of acoustical noise | 41 |
| 20.5 | Immunity to frequency-modulated radiated disturbances | 41 |
| 20.6 | Immunity to magnetic fields | 41 |
| 20.7 | Immunity to ripple on DC power supply | 41 |
| 20.8 | Permanent magnetic field | 42 |
| 20.9 | Evaluation and reporting of the test results | 42 |
| 21 | Physical characteristics | 42 |
| 21.1 | Dimensions | 42 |
| 21.2 | Weight..... | 42 |
| 21.3 | Cables and connectors..... | 42 |
| 22 | Classification of the characteristics to be specified | 42 |
| Annex A | (normative) Additional characteristics | 45 |
| A.1 | Characteristic sensitivity for speech..... | 45 |
| A.1.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 45 |
| A.1.2 | Method of measurement..... | 45 |
| A.2 | Front-to-rear sensitivity index (0° to 180°)..... | 46 |
| A.2.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 46 |
| A.2.2 | Method of measurement..... | 46 |
| A.3 | Noise-cancelling index | 46 |
| A.3.1 | Characteristic to be specified | 46 |
| A.3.2 | Method of measurement..... | 46 |
| A.4 | Special characteristics for stereo microphones..... | 47 |
| A.4.1 | General | 47 |
| A.4.2 | Included angle of an XY (left-right) microphone..... | 47 |
| A.4.3 | Acceptance angle | 47 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Annex B (informative) Sound insulation device | 48 |
| Annex (informative) Simplified procedure for “pop” measurements | |
| General | |
| Measurement set-up | |
| Measurement procedure | |
| Approximate inclusion of different frequency responses | |
| Annex C (informative) Recommendations for professional digital microphones | 52 |
| C.1 General | 52 |
| C.2 Data sheets for digital microphones | 52 |
| Annex D (informative) Recommended method for measuring noise levels according to ITU-R BS.468-4 in the digital domain | 55 |
| D.1 General | 55 |
| D.2 Recommended method | 55 |
| D.3 Matlab code | 56 |
| Bibliography | 59 |
| | |
| Figure – Measurement set-up | |
| Figure – Test fixture for the sound field sensitivity | |
| Figure 1 – Balance of the output | 29 |
| Figure 2 – Balance under working conditions | 29 |
| Figure 3 – Measurement set-up for wind influence | 33 |
| Figure 4 – Wind generators, type 1 (Figure 4a) and type 2 (Figure 4b) | 35 |
| Figure 5 – Electrical and mechanical setup for the measuring of the "pop" effect | 37 |
| Figure B.1 – Sound insulation device | 48 |
| Figure D.1 – ITU weighting filter for weighted and unweighted measurements | 55 |
| Figure D.2 – Peak value rectifier scheme | 56 |
| | |
| Table – Reference signal and characteristics | |
| Table 1 – Reverberation time of the empty room | 15 |
| Table 2 – Examples of EMC regulations and standards | 39 |
| Table 3 – Basic EMC standards and their application to microphones | 40 |
| Table 4 – Classification of characteristics | 43 |
| Table A.1 – Speech power weighting factor at octave-band centre frequencies | 45 |
| Table C.1 – Classification of the characteristics recommended to be specified | 52 |
| Table C.2 – Additional digital characteristics to be specified | 54 |
| Table D.1 – Time constants for the two PVRs | 56 |

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT –

Part 4: Microphones

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International Standard IEC 60268-4 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition published in 2014. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Subclause 19.4 on "pop" measurement replaces Annex C;
- b) new Annex D for noise measurements in the digital domain.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| CDV | Report on voting |
|--------------|------------------|
| 100/2992/CDV | 100/3109/RVC |

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

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

A list of all parts of the IEC 60268 series, under the general title *Sound system equipment*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.
SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT –

Part 4: Microphones

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60268 specifies methods of measurement for the electrical impedance, sensitivity, directional response pattern, dynamic range and external influences of sound system microphones, and also details the characteristics to be specified by the manufacturer.

It applies to sound system microphones for all applications for speech and music. It does not apply to measurement microphones, but it does apply to each audio channel of microphones having more than one channel, for example for stereo or similar use. It is also applicable to flush-mounted microphones and to the analogue characteristics of microphones with digital audio output.

For the purposes of this International Standard, a microphone includes all such devices as transformers, pre-amplifiers, or other elements that form an integral part of the microphone, up to the output terminals specified by the manufacturer.

The major characteristics of a microphone are considered in Clauses 6 to 21. Additional characteristics are considered in Annex A, ~~Annex C~~ and Annex ~~D~~.

NOTE The characteristics specified in this document do not ~~completely~~ describe the subjective response of the microphone. Further work is necessary to find new definitions and measurement procedures for a later ~~replacement~~ ~~by~~ introduction of objective characteristics ~~of~~ for at least some of the subjective descriptions used to describe microphone performance.

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.

CISPR 35:2016, *Electromagnetic compatibility of multimedia equipment – Immunity requirements*

IEC 60268-1:1985, *Sound system equipment – Part 1: General*

IEC 60268-1:1985/AMD1:1988

IEC 60268-1:1985/AMD2:1988

IEC 60268-2:1987, *Sound system equipment – Part 2: Explanation of general terms and calculation methods*

IEC 60268-2:1987/AMD1:1991

IEC 60268-3:2013, *Sound system equipment – Part 3: Amplifiers*

IEC 60268-5:2003, *Sound system equipment – Part 5: Loudspeakers*

IEC 60268-5:2003/AMD1:2007

IEC 60268-11:1987, *Sound system equipment – Part 11: Application of connectors for the interconnection of sound system components*

IEC 60268-11:1987/AMD1:1989
IEC 60268-11:1987/AMD2:1991

IEC 60268-12:1987, *Sound system equipment – Part 12: Application of connectors for broadcast and similar use*

IEC 60268-12:1987/AMD1:1991

IEC 60268-12:1987/AMD2:1994

IEC 61000-4-2:2008, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrostatic discharge immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3:2006, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-3: Testing and measurement techniques – Radiated, radio-frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-3:2006/AMD1:2007

IEC 61000-4-3:2006/AMD2:2010

IEC 61000-4-4:2012, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-4: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-6:2008 2013, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-6: Testing and measurement techniques – Immunity to conducted disturbances, induced by radio-frequency fields*

IEC 61000-4-8:2009, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-8: Testing and measurement techniques – Power frequency magnetic field immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-16:2015, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-16: Testing and measurement techniques – Test for immunity to conducted, common mode disturbances in the frequency range 0 Hz to 150 kHz*

IEC 61000-4-17:1999, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-17: Testing and measurement techniques – Ripple on d.c. input power port immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-17:1999/AMD1:2001

IEC 61000-4-17:1999/AMD2:2008

IEC 61260-1:2014, *Electroacoustics – Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters – Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61938:2013, *Multimedia systems – Guide to the recommended characteristics of analogue interfaces to achieve interoperability*

ITU-T Recommendation P.51:1996, *Artificial mouth*

EN 55103-2:2009, *Electromagnetic compatibility – Product family standard for audio, video, audio-visual and entertainment lighting control apparatus for professional use – Part 2: Immunity*

EN 300 422-2 V1.3.1:2011, *Electromagnetic compatibility and radio spectrum matters (ERM) – Wireless microphones in the 25 MHz to 3 GHz frequency range – Part 2: Harmonized EN covering the essential requirements of article 3.2 of the R&TTE Directive*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60268-1 and the following apply.

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

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

3.1

far-field microphone

microphone for use mainly at a distance of 1 m or more ~~than 1 m~~ from the source of sound

Note 1 to entry: The term "far-field microphone" describes a microphone application (see 6.4) and not a type of microphone. A specific microphone may have one or more applications, but the term is helpful in specifying the method of measurement.

3.2

near-field microphone

microphone for use by an individual performer at a distance of approximately 30 cm

Note 1 to entry: The term "near-field microphone" describes a microphone application (see 6.4) and not a type of microphone. A specific microphone may have one or more applications, but the term is helpful in specifying the method of measurement.

3.3

close-talking microphone

microphone for use at a distance of approximately 25 mm from the source of sound

Note 1 to entry: The term "close-talking microphone" describes a microphone application (see 6.4) and not a type of microphone. A specific microphone may have one or more applications, but the term is helpful in specifying the method of measurement.

4 General conditions

4.1 General

Special reference is made to IEC 60268-1, concerning:

- units and system of measurement;
- frequencies of measurement;
- quantities to be specified and their accuracy (see also 5.7);
- marking (see also 7.1);
- ambient conditions;
- filters, networks and measuring instruments for noise specification and measurement;
- individual specifications and type specifications;
- graphical presentation of characteristics;
- scales for graphical presentation;
- personal safety and prevention of spread of fire;
- method of producing a uniform alternating magnetic field;
- search coils for measuring the magnetic field strength,

and to IEC 61938 concerning powering of microphones.

4.2 Measurement conditions

4.2.1 General

For convenience in specifying how microphones shall be set up for measurement, three sets of conditions have been defined in this document, under the title of "rated conditions".

Microphones should be measured in conditions approximating those in which they are intended to be used. Three sets of measurement conditions are specified in this document: free-field, near-field and close-talking. The differences between these sets of conditions are in the distance to the sound source and the sound pressure level of the measurement. Measurements shall be reported using at least one of these sets of conditions. Additional data may be included, provided that the measurement conditions are specified.

Three ratings are basic to the formulation of these concepts:

- rated power supply (see 9.1);
- rated impedance (see 10.2);
- rated sensitivity (see 11.3).

To obtain the correct conditions for measurement, the above-mentioned ratings shall be taken from the specifications supplied by the manufacturer of the equipment.

The term "rated" applied to other characteristics relates to the specification or measurement of the particular characteristic under rated conditions or under conditions unambiguously connected to them. This applies, for example, to the following two characteristics:

- rated output voltage;
- rated equivalent sound pressure level due to inherent noise.

Methods of measurement are given in this document for electrical impedance, sensitivity, directional pattern, dynamic range and external influences. Where alternative methods are given, the chosen method shall be specified.

4.2.2 Rated conditions

The microphone is understood to be working under rated conditions when the following conditions are fulfilled:

- the microphone is connected to the resistive load specified in 5.4, or as specified by the manufacturer;
- if the microphone needs a power supply, this is the rated power supply;
- the microphone (except a close-talking or near-field microphone) is placed in a sound field meeting the free-field conditions in 5.5.2, the waves having zero-degree incidence with respect to the reference direction;
- far-field microphones shall be measured in free-field conditions;
- the undisturbed sound pressure (in the absence of the microphone) in the sound field at the reference point of the microphone is sinusoidal and set at a level of 1 Pa (94 dB SPL);
- for close-talking microphones, the microphone is placed at a stated distance, no more than 25 mm from the artificial mouth complying with ITU-T Recommendation P.51, and the undisturbed sound pressure in the sound field at the reference point of microphone is sinusoidal and set at a level of 3 Pa (104 dB SPL);
- for near-field microphones, the microphone is placed at 30 cm from the artificial mouth complying with ITU-T Recommendation P.51, and the undisturbed sound pressure in the sound field at the reference point of microphone is sinusoidal and set at a level of 1 Pa (94 dB SPL);
- if a special microphone needs a different measurement level or procedure (e.g. Lavalier or boundary layer microphones), it shall be stated in the technical data together with the reason for this. Levels related to the normal reference level of 94 dB by multiples of 10 dB are preferred;
- controls, if any, are set to the position recommended by the manufacturer;

- in the absence of a clear reason to the contrary, the measurement frequency is 1 000 Hz (see IEC 60268-1);
- the ambient pressure, relative humidity and ambient temperature are within the limits given in IEC 60268-1, and shall be stated.

Measurements may be made at a sound pressure of 0,3 Pa if this is necessary due to limitations of the performance of the loudspeaker or other measurement equipment, and only if any change in performance between the level used and the reference level is known with the necessary accuracy for the relevant characteristics.

5 Particular conditions

5.1 Pre-conditioning

A microphone with preamplifier shall be switched on for the period of time specified by the manufacturer, before measurements are made, to allow the components to reach the stationary temperature for rated conditions. If the manufacturer specifies no period, a period of 10 s shall be allowed for stabilization. If the microphone contains a vacuum tube or other heating device the time shall be 10 min.

5.2 Sound source

The sound source shall be capable of producing at the microphone position the sound pressure level as defined for rated conditions. The amplitude non-linearity of the sound source shall be held to such a value that the effect on the measured response does not exceed 0,5 dB. If the conditions of measurement preclude the possibility of securing sufficiently low distortion, a narrow-band filter may be used at the microphone output terminals, which allows the response at the fundamental frequency to be measured.

For free-field calibration and calibration of near-field microphones, the sound source shall be contained in an enclosure which radiates sound from one well-defined opening ~~only, and such an opening shall be~~ fulfilling the sound field requirements, preferably by only one being radially symmetrical with respect to the axis of the reference direction of the microphone.

5.3 Measurement of sound pressure

A calibrated reference pressure microphone shall be used to measure the sound pressure. The reference microphone shall be calibrated with an accuracy of ± 1 dB at 1 kHz or better.

5.4 Voltage measuring system

The voltage generated by the microphone, when in a sound field, shall be determined by using a voltmeter with an input resistance ~~of negligible to the specified microphone load. This load is~~ five times the rated impedance of the microphone, unless otherwise stated by the manufacturer. If external equipment, such as a power supply, applies an impedance in parallel with the microphone, its impedance shall be taken into account.

NOTE Microphones having a rated impedance of 200 Ω often have an actual internal impedance in the order of 50 Ω , and many of them perform best with a minimum load impedance around 1 000 Ω .

5.5 Acoustical environment

5.5.1 General

The microphone can be measured in different acoustical environments:

- a) in a free field or similar with negligible boundary effects, e.g. by using special computer-generated sound source signals:
 - spherical waves, or