Designation: E 2179 – 03$^{\varepsilon 2}$

Standard Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of the Effectiveness of Floor Coverings in Reducing Impact Sound Transmission Through Concrete Floors[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 2179; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

ε[1] NOTE—Sections 4.2 and 4.3 were editorially revised and section 12.1.3 was editorially added in September 2003.
ε[2] NOTE—Section 12 was editorially corrected in August 2004.

INTRODUCTION

This test method is part of a set for evaluating the sound-insulating properties of building elements. It is designed to measure the reduction in transmission of impact sound due to a floor covering in a laboratory. Others in the set include the measurement of sound isolation in buildings (Test MethodE 336), the laboratory methods of measuring airborne sound transmisssion loss of building partitions such as walls, floor-ceiling assemblies, doors, and other space-dividing elements (Test Method E 90); the laboratory measurement of impact sound transmission through floors (Test Method E 492), the measurement of impact sound transmission in buildings (Test Method E 1007), the measurement of sound transmission through building facades and facade elements (Guide E 966), and the measurement of sound transmission through a common plenum between two rooms (Method E 1414).

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a method for the laboratory measurement of the effectiveness of floor coverings in reducing impact noise from a standard tapping machine through concrete floors. The test results are not necessarily directly related to the subjective evaluations of the floor coverings.

1.2 This test method applies to all floor coverings, whether single or multi-layered, as installed on a standard concrete floor. Multi-layered coverings may be factory-assembled or assembled at the test laboratory.

1.3 The test method applies only to laboratory measurements. It does not apply to the measurement of the effectiveness of a floor covering in a field situation.

1.4 *Laboratory Accreditation*—A procedure for accrediting a laboratory for performing this test method is given in Method E 492.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:* [2]

C 634 Terminology Relating to Environmental Acoustics

E 90 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Airborne Sound Transmission Loss of Building Partitions and Elements

E 336 Test Method for Measurement of Airborne Sound Insulation In Buildings

E 492 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Impact Sound Transmission through Floor-Ceiling Assemblies Using the Tapping Machine

E 966 Guide for Field Measurements of Airborne Sound Insulation of Building Facades and Facade Elements

E 989 Classification for Determination of Impact Insulation Class (IIC)

E 1007 Test Method for Field Measurement of Tapping Machine Impact Sound Transmission Through Floor-Ceiling Assemblies and Associated Support Structures

E 1414 Test Method for Airborne Sound Attenuation Between Rooms Sharing a Common Ceiling Plenum

2.2 *ANSI Standards:*

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E33 on Environmental Acoustics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E33.03 on Sound Transmission.

Current edition approved April 10, 2003. Published June 2003. Originally approved in 2001. Last previous edition approved in 2001 as E 2179–01.

[2] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

S1.6 Standard Preferred Frequencies, Frequency Levels, and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements

S1.10 Pressure Calibration of Laboratory Standard Pressure Microphones

S1.11 Specification for Octave-band and Fractional-Octave-Band Analog and Digital Filters

2.3 *ISO Standards:*

ISO 717-2 Rating of Sound Insulation in Buildings and of Building Elements—Part 2: Impact Sound Insulation

ISO 140-6 Acoustics—Measurement of Sound Insulation in Buildings and of Building Elements—Part 6: Laboratory Measurements of Impact Sound Insulation of Floors

ISO 140-8 Acoustics Measurement of Sound Insulation in Buildings and of Building Elements—Part 8: Laboratory Measurements of the Reduction of Transmitted Impact Noise by Floor Coverings on a Heavyweight Floor

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of the acoustical terms used in this test method are given in Terminology C 634.

3.2 *Descriptions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *floor covering*—any resilient material, combination of resilient materials or combination of resilient material and rigid materials used to provide a finished walking surface on a floor. This includes all materials between the upper walking surface and the base concrete slab.

3.2.2 *reference concrete floor*—a hypothetical concrete floor used to calculate changes in impact insulation class (Δ*IIC*).

3.2.3 *standard concrete floor*—the actual concrete floor satisfying the provisions of this method used in the measurements.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Two vertically adjacent rooms are used: the upper one being designated the source room and the lower one the receiving room. A standard concrete floor is installed in an opening between them. The rooms and the floor installation are designed so the only significant sound radiation into the receiving room is from the standard concrete floor.

4.2 A standard tapping machine is installed and activated on the standard concrete floor and the normalized impact sound pressure levels are measured in the room below. The floor covering to be evaluated is then installed on the standard concrete floor and the normalized impact sound pressure levels measured again.

4.3 The differences in normalized impact sound pressure level are subtracted from the levels defined for a reference concrete floor and an IIC rating is calculated for the resultant array. This is the IIC that the covering would produce in combination with the reference concrete floor. The second rating, ΔIIC, is obtained by subtracting 28 from the first (28 is the IIC for the reference concrete floor). This gives the improvement in IIC that the covering would produce on the reference concrete floor.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The impact sound rating for a floor assembly is determined both by the basic floor assembly and the floor covering on the upper surface. The same floor covering in combination with different basic floor assemblies will not always give the same impact insulation class (IIC) ratings. This test method is designed to provide data that characterize the floor covering alone when installed over concrete slab floors.

5.2 The Δ*IIC* rating calculated in 13.4 is used to compare the effectiveness of different floor coverings on concrete floors.

5.3 The impact insulation class (IIC) calculated for the reference concrete floor with a covering provides an indication of the impact sound insulation that the covering will provide with typical, monolithic concrete floors.

5.4 When the normalized impact sound pressure levels below a bare concrete slab are known, the difference spectrum calculated in 13.1 may be used to estimate the impact sound pressure levels and hence the IIC that would result if the covering were installed on the slab.

5.5 **Warning:** Difference spectra measured using this method shall not be used to estimate impact sound pressure levels for floors comprising only one or two lightweight floor layers such as oriented strandboard or plywood. Such estimated impact sound pressure levels would be very inaccurate.

NOTE 1—The difference spectrum calculated in 13.1 gives unreliable estimates of the reduction in impact sound pressure levels due to the floor covering when it is placed on a joist floor incorporating a concrete topping (about 50 mm thick) poured directly on the plywood subfloor or steel deck. The estimated impact sound pressure levels are too low.[3]

5.6 This test method closely follows that described in ISO 140-8 except that the single number rating used is the impact insulation class (IIC) described in Classification E 989. The description of the standard concrete floor also differs.

NOTE 2—The requirement in Classification E 989 that no deviation above the reference contour may exceed 8 dB means that there is no simple relationship between ISO 140-8 test ratings and those generated by this method.

6. Test Rooms

6.1 The test rooms shall satisfy the requirements given in Method E 492.

7. Standard Concrete Floor

7.1 The standard concrete floor on which the test coverings are to be installed shall consist of a reinforced concrete slab or slab sections with a thickness of 150 ± 50 mm. The slab or slabs shall be homogeneous and of uniform thickness.

NOTE 3—A thickness of 150 mm is preferred for new facilities.

7.2 The surface of the test floor shall be smooth and sufficiently hard to endure the impacts of the tapping machine. Any screed applied to the surface of the test floor shall adhere solidly at all points so the screed does not chip, crack or become pulverized.

7.3 Inspect the surface of the slab frequently to assess surface damage. Repairs shall be made when the surface is no longer smooth.

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[3] "Impact Sound Measurements on Floors Covered with Small Patches of Resilient Materials or Floating Assemblies," A.C.C. Warnock. Internal Report IRC IR-802. National Research Council Canada. January 2000.