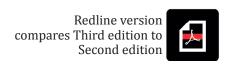
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Acoustics — Preferred reference values for acoustical and vibratory levels

Acoustique — Valeurs de référence récommandées pour les niveaux acoustiques et vibratoires

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IMPORTANT — PLEASE NOTE

This is a mark-up copy and uses the following colour coding:

Text example 1

indicates added text (in green)

Text example 2

— indicates removed text (in red)

— indicates added graphic figure



— indicates removed graphic figure

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 Heading numbers containg modifications are highlighted in yellow in the Table of Contents

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This Redline version provides you with a quick and easy way to compare the main changes between this edition of the standard and its previous edition. It doesn't capture all single changes such as punctuation but highlights the modifications providing customers with the most valuable information. Therefore it is important to note that this Redline version is not the official ISO standard and that the users must consult with the clean version of the standard, which is the official standard, for implementation purposes.



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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.

International Standards are The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the rules given ineditorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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 easting a vote.

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

ISO 1603 was prepared by Technical Committee The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*.

This second third edition cancels and replaces the first second edition (ISO 1683:1903), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

Various kinds of acoustical and vibratory levels expressed in decibels are commonly used in acoustics. In order to establish a uniform basis for the expression of those levels, a set of agreed reference values is needed.

The reference value determines whether the level for a particular quantity is positive or negative. For general measurements and many engineering specifications, it is desirable that levels of a given kind be consistently positive (or consistently negative) rather than both positive and negative.

In general, a reference value is expressed as the number one and a derived SI unit formed by the use of an appropriate SI prefix.

The values specified in this International Standard represent the values internationally adopted for several decades.

For airborne sound, a special reference value for sound pressure is stated according to widespread use and legal implications.

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Acoustics — Preferred reference values for acoustical and vibratory levels

Scope

This International Standard specifies reference values used in acoustics, in order to establish a uniform basis for the expression of acoustical and vibratory levels.

The reference values are mandatory for use in acoustics for airborne and sounds in air and other gases, sounds in water and other liquids, and for structure-borne sound, but may can also be used in other applications.

2 **Normative references**

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable to its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2041.—1), Mechanical vibration, shock and condition monitoring — Vocabulary

ISO/TR 25417, Acoustics — Definitions of basic quantities and terms

ISO 80000-8, Quantities and units Part 8: Acoustics

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 2041 and, ISO/TR 25417, ISO/TR 25417 80000-8, and the following apply.

reference value

quantity value used as a basis for comparison with values of quantities of the same kind

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 5.18]

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this International Standard, a reference value is expressed in terms of a number and an appropriate unit of measurement used to form a ratio of dimension one when defining a logarithmic quantity.

Specifications

4.1 Reference values for airborne sound quantities

Reference values for various airborne sound quantities in air and other gases are given in Table 1.

¹⁾ To be published. (Revision of ISO 2041.1990)

Table 1 — Reference values for airborne sound quantities

Quantity	Reference value
Sound pressure	20 μγα
Sound exposure	(20 μPa) ² s
Sound power	1 pW
Sound energy	1 p J
Sound intensity	1 pW/m ²

Table 1 — Reference values for airborne sound quantities in air and gases

Quantity	Reference value ^a	
Sound pressure	20 μΡα	
Sound exposure	(20 μPa) ² s	
Sound power	1 pW	
Sound energy	1 pJ	
Sound intensity	1 pW/m ²	
The reference value used to establish a level for a certain acoustical quantity should always be stated together with the respective level.		

4.2 Reference values for vibratory quantities sound quantities in liquids

Reference values for various vibratory quantities sound quantities in water and other liquids are given in Table 2.

Table 2 — Reference values for vibratory quantities

Quantity	ds.ite obs.	Reference value ^a
Vibratory displacement	adare by s	1 pm
Vibratory velocity ^b	1state 20. Ac	1 nm/s
Vibratory acceleration ^c	HTP: / JA	1 μm/s²
Vibratory force	<i>II.</i>	1 μΝ

The reference value used to establish a level for a certain vibratory quantity should always be stated together with the respective level.

Table 2 — Reference values for vibratory quantities sound quantities in water and other liquids

Quantity	Reference value ^a
Sound pressure ^b	1 μPa
Sound exposure	1 μPa ² s
Sound power	1 pW

The reference value used to establish a level for a certain acoustical quantity should always be stated together with the respective level.

In connection with structure-borne sound, a reference value of 50 nm/s is also in use. In this event, the vibratory velocity level takes values close to the associated sound pressure and sound intensity levels.

In connection with structure-borne sound, a reference value of $10 \,\mu\text{m/s}^2$ is also in use.

^b A sound pressure level with a reference value of 1 μ Pa is numerically 10 lg(20²/1²) dB, which is approximately 26,0 dB greater than the sound pressure level for the same sound pressure but with a reference value of 20 μ Pa.

The reference value for distance is used to form reference values for compound quantities, such as the product of sound pressure and distance (for which the reference value is 1 μ Pa m) or sound exposure and squared distance (for which the reference value is 1 μ Pa² m² s). Ratios of these compound quantities to other sound quantities lead to further compound quantities with dimensions of distance (with reference value 1 m) or area (with reference value 1 m²).

Table 2 (continued)		
Quantity	Reference value ^a	
Sound energy	1 pJ	
Sound intensity	1 pW/m ²	
Sound particle displacement	1 pm	
Sound particle velocity	1 nm/s	
Sound particle acceleration	1 μm/s ²	
Distance ^c	1 m	

The reference value used to establish a level for a certain acoustical quantity should always be stated together with the respective level.

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^b A sound pressure level with a reference value of 1 μPa is numerically 10 $\lg(20^2/1^2)$ dB, which is approximately 26,0 dB greater than the sound pressure level for the same sound pressure but with a reference value of 20 μPa.

The reference value for distance is used to form reference values for compound quantities, such as the product of sound pressure and distance (for which the reference value is 1 μ Pa m) or sound exposure and squared distance (for which the reference value is 1 μ Pa² m² s). Ratios of these compound quantities to other sound quantities lead to further compound quantities with dimensions of distance (with reference value 1 m) or area (with reference value 1 m²).