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Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise -
Part 2-1: Particular requirements for dry vacuum cleaners

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Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise - Part 2-1: Particular requirements for dry vacuum cleaners

FOREWORD

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This extended version (EXV) of the official IEC Standard provides the user with the full content of the Standard.

IEC 60704-2-1:2026 EXV includes the content of IEC 60704-2-1:2026 and the references made to IEC 60704-1:2021.

The specific content of IEC 60704-2-1:2026 is displayed on a blue background.

IEC 60704-2-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 59F: Surface cleaning appliances, of IEC technical committee 59: Performance of household and similar electrical appliances. It is an International Standard.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition published in 2020. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

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

a) alignment with IEC 60704-1:2021;
b) addressing consumer relevant testing aspects;
c) robustness of standards and closing potential loopholes
d) enlarged scope to include noise measurement on **docking stations**.

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

Draft	Report on voting
59F/567/FDIS	59F/573/RVD

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

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with IEC 60704-1:2021, *Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise - Part 1: General requirements.*

The relevant text of IEC 60704-1:2021 as amended by this document establishes the test code for **dry vacuum cleaners**.

This document supplements or modifies the corresponding clauses in IEC 60704-1:2021. When a particular subclause of IEC 60704-1:2021 is not mentioned in this document, that subclause is applicable as far as reasonable. Where this standard states "addition", "modification" or "replacement", the relevant requirements, test specifications or explanatory matter in Part 1 should be adapted accordingly.

Subclauses, tables, and figures that are additional to those in IEC 60704-1:2021 are numbered starting from 101. Additional annexes are lettered AA, BB, etc.

Unless notes are in a new subclause or involve notes in IEC 60704-1:2021, they are numbered starting from 101, including those in a replaced clause or subclause.

In this standard, the following print types are used:

– terms defined in Clause 3: **bold type**.

A list of all the parts in the IEC 60704 series, published under the general title *Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise*, 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 webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

– reconfirmed,
– withdrawn, or
– revised.

INTRODUCTION to IEC 60704-1:2021

Although the noise emitted by household appliances does not generally present a hazard to the hearing of the operator and other exposed persons, the need for standardization procedures for the determination of the noise emitted has been recognized for a long time. Such procedures should be specified, not only for special types of appliances, but also the principles should be applicable to the majority of appliances in general use.

Generally, the determination of noise levels is only part of a comprehensive testing procedure covering many aspects of the properties and performances of the appliance. It is therefore important that the requirements for noise measurements (such as test environment, instrumentation, and amount of labour involved) be kept at a modest level.

The results of noise measurements are used for many purposes, for example for noise declaration, as well as for comparing the noise emitted by a specific appliance to the noise emitted by other appliances of the same family. In other cases, the results are taken as a basis for engineering action in the development stages of new pieces of equipment, or in deciding on means for sound insulation. For all purposes, it is important to specify procedures with known accuracy so that the results of measurements taken by different laboratories can be compared.

These conditions have, as far as possible, been taken into account in the preparation of this test code. The acoustic measuring methods are based on those described in ISO 3743-1:2010, ISO 3743-2:2018 and ISO 3744:2010.

The adoption of these methods permits the use of hemi-anechoic rooms, special reverberation test rooms and hard-walled test rooms. The result of the measurements is the sound power level of the appliance. Within the measuring uncertainty specific to these methods, the results from the determination under free field conditions over a reflecting plane are equal to those obtained in reverberant fields.

The use of intensity methods as described in ISO 9614-1:1993, ISO 9614-2:1996, and ISO 9614-3:2002 is applicable under special conditions, which are described in specific parts of the IEC 60704-2 series.

This test code is concerned with airborne noise only. In some cases, structure-borne noise, for example transmitted to the adjoining room, can be of importance.

INTRODUCTION to IEC 60704-2-1:2026

The measuring conditions specified in this document provide for sufficient accuracy in determining the noise emitted and comparing the results of measurements taken by different laboratories, whilst simulating as far as possible the practical use of **dry vacuum cleaners**.

It is recommended to consider the determination of noise levels as part of a comprehensive testing procedure covering many aspects of properties and performance of household vacuum cleaners.

NOTE As stated in the introduction to IEC 60704-1, this test code is concerned with airborne noise only.

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60704 applies to electric appliances (including their accessories or components) for household and similar use, supplied from mains or from batteries.

By "similar use" is understood the use in conditions similar to those found in households, for example in inns, coffee houses, tea rooms, hotels, barber or hairdresser shops, launderettes, etc., if not otherwise specified in the IEC 60704-2 series.

This document does not apply to

– appliances, equipment, or machines designed exclusively for industrial or professional purposes;
– appliances that are integrated parts of a building or its installations, such as equipment for air conditioning, heating and ventilating (except household fans, cooker hoods, free-standing heating appliances, dehumidifiers, air cleaners, and stand-alone water heaters), oil burners for central heating, pumps for water supply and for sewage systems;
– separate motors or generators and
– appliances exclusively for outdoor use.

For determining and verifying noise emission values declared in product specifications, see IEC 60704-3:2019.

This document specifies the determination of airborne acoustical noise of mains operated and cordless **dry vacuum cleaners** including their accessories and **docking stations** for household use or under conditions similar to those in households.

For **wet and dry vacuum cleaners**, the dry cleaning function applies. The wet cleaning function is measured in accordance with IEC 60704-2-20.

NOTE 101 Particular requirements for floor cleaning robots are specified in IEC 60704-2-17[1].

This document describes the determination of the noise emission of **dry vacuum cleaners** under normal operating conditions on carpet and hard floor in accordance with IEC 62885-2:—, 4.6[2].

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.

IEC 60704-2 (all parts), *Household and similar electrical appliances – Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise*

IEC 60704-2-20, *Household and similar electrical appliances - Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise - Part 2-20: Particular requirements for wet hard floor cleaning appliances*

1 Under preparation. Stage at the date of publication: IEC/CDV 60704-2-17:2026.

2 Under preparation. Stage at the date of publication: IEC/FDIS 62885-2:2026.

IEC 60704-3:2019, *Household and similar electrical appliances – Test code for the determination of airborne acoustical noise – Part 3: Procedure for determining and verifying declared noise emission values*

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

IEC 61672-1:2013, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 1: Specifications*

IEC TS 62885-1, *Surface cleaning appliances - Part 1: General requirements on test material and test equipment*

IEC 62885-2:—,[2] *Surface cleaning appliances - Part 2: Dry vacuum cleaners for household and similar use - Methods for measuring the performance*

ISO 3743-1:2010, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources – Engineering methods for small, movable sources in reverberant fields – Part 1: Comparison method for hard-walled test rooms*

ISO 3743-2:2018, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound pressure – Engineering methods for small, movable sources in reverberant fields – Part 2: Methods for special reverberation test rooms*

ISO 3744:2010, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound pressure – Engineering method in an essentially free field over a reflecting plane*

ISO 9614-1:1993, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound intensity – Part 1: Measurement at discrete points*

ISO 9614-2:1996, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound intensity – Part 2: Measurement by scanning*

ISO 9614-3:2002, *Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound intensity – Part 3: Precision method for measurement by scanning*

ISO 6926:2016, *Acoustics – Requirements for the performance and calibration of reference sound sources used for the determination of sound power levels*

ISO 12001:1996, *Acoustics – Noise emitted by machinery and equipment – Rules for the drafting and presentation of a noise test code*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. Terms and definitions pertinent to the determination of sound power levels can be found in ISO 3743-1:2010, ISO 3743-2:2018 and ISO 3744:2010.

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
measurement time interval
portion or a multiple of an operational period or operational cycle for which the sound power levels are determined

3.2
operational period
interval of time during which a specified process is accomplished by the appliance under test (for example, washing or rinsing or drying for a dishwasher)

3.3
operational cycle
specific sequence of operational periods occurring while the appliance under test performs a complete work cycle

Note 1 to entry: During the operational cycle, each operational period is associated with a specific process that can occur only once, or can be repeated (for example, washing and rinsing and drying for a dishwasher).

3.4
time history
continuous recording of the sound pressure level (for a distinct microphone position) as a function of time, which is obtained during one or more operational periods of an operational cycle

3.5
reference box
hypothetical right parallelepiped terminating on the reflecting plane(s) on which the noise source under test is located, that just encloses the source including all the significant sound radiating components and any test table on which the source is mounted

[SOURCE: ISO 3744:2010, 3.10, modified – The note has been omitted.]

3.6
test enclosure
enclosure used for simulating the typical acoustic built-in or/and mounting conditions

3.101
dry vacuum cleaner
electrically operated appliance that removes dry material (for example, dust, fibre, threads, and debris) from the surface to be cleaned by an air flow created by a vacuum developed within the unit, the removed material being separated in the appliance and the cleaned suction air being returned to the ambient air

[SOURCE: IEC 62885-2: —, 3.8]

3.102
wet and dry vacuum cleaner
appliance designed to remove liquid in combination with the functionality of a **dry vacuum cleaner**

3.103
cleaning head
plain nozzle or brush attached to a connecting tube, or a power nozzle, separate or part of the cleaner housing, and that part of a **dry vacuum cleaner** which is applied to a surface to be cleaned

[SOURCE: IEC 62885-2: —, 3.3]

3.104
active nozzle
cleaning head provided with a driven agitation device to assist dirt removal

Note 1 to entry: The agitation device can be driven by an incorporated electric motor (motorized nozzle), an incorporated turbine powered by the air flow (air-turbine nozzle) or an incorporated friction or gear mechanism actuated by moving the **cleaning head** over the surface to be cleaned (mechanical nozzle).

[SOURCE: IEC 62885-2: —, 3.2]

3.105
standard Wilton test carpet
Wilton carpet on which the **dry vacuum cleaner** and its **cleaning head** is placed for the measurement

Note 1 to entry: The specification of the **standard Wilton test carpet** can be found in IEC TS 62885-1.

3.106
standard hard floor
hard floor on which the **dry vacuum cleaner** and its **cleaning head** is placed for the measurement

3.107
docking station
base unit
unit that can provide manual or automatic battery charging facilities, dust removal from the **dry vacuum cleaner**, data processing facility or other support functions

4 Measurement methods and acoustical environments

4.1 General

This document is concerned with objective methods of engineering accuracy grade 2 in accordance with ISO 12001:1996 for determining sound power levels L_W, expressed in decibels (dB), with reference to a sound power of one picowatt (1 pW), of airborne acoustical noise within the specified frequency range of interest (generally including the octave-bands with centre frequencies from 125 Hz to 8 000 Hz), and for prescribed operating conditions of the appliance to be measured.

Methods for determining sound power levels with precision accuracy grade 1 in accordance with ISO 12001:1996, as specified for example in ISO 3741 and ISO 3745, are not included in this document. They may, however, be applied if the appropriate test environment and instrumentation are available.

NOTE 1 The noise values obtained under the described conditions of this document will not necessarily correspond to the noise experienced under the operational conditions of practical use.

NOTE 2 For quality control during production etc., simplified methods can be appropriate. For noise reduction purposes, other measurement methods employing, for example, narrow-band analysis or intensity techniques usually have to be applied. These methods are not covered by this document.

The total noise emitted by machinery or equipment and radiated in all directions to the space surrounding the machine can be characterized by the sound power of the machine. Within the accuracy range of this document, the sound power of a machine is basically independent of the environment in which the machine is installed

Therefore, the concept of sound power level has been chosen for expressing the noise emission of appliances for household and similar purposes.

The preferred noise emission quantity is the A-weighted sound power level, L_{WA}, in dB (re 1 pW).

According to this document, two principal methods exist, the direct method and the comparison method, as described in 4.2 and 4.3. These two methods can be used alternatively.

Different types of environments, as described in 4.4, may be used. A part of the IEC 60704-2 series may, if necessary, exclude one or several combinations among those available.

4.2 Direct method

The direct method can be used only for measurements in qualified test environments in accordance with ISO 3744:2010 for free field conditions over reflecting plane(s), and in accordance with ISO 3743-2:2018 for special reverberation test rooms.

With this method, the sound power level is determined

– in free field conditions over reflecting plane(s), from time-averaged sound pressure levels (on a mean-square basis) over the measurement surface and from the area of the measurement surface, S, or

– in reverberation and special reverberation test rooms, from averaged sound pressure levels, and from the reverberation time and the volume of the test room.

If for a measurement in a free field, reverberation or special reverberation room is not possible because the appliance cannot be placed or operated in such an environment, the intensity method in accordance with ISO 9614-1:1993, ISO 9614-2:1996, and ISO 9614-3:2002 shall be applied. For the intensity method, the standard deviations given in the parts of the IEC 60704-2 series and IEC 60704-3:2019 are not applicable unless stated explicitly.

These methods yield results expressed in A-weighted sound power levels (and in octave- or 1/3 octave-band sound power levels, if required) that are calculated directly from measured sound pressure levels.

NOTE This method can also be used in conjunction with more precise methods, such as those given in ISO 3741 and ISO 3745.

If audible discrete tones are present in the noise emitted by the source, the estimated standard deviation of the measured sound pressure levels in the special reverberation room can increase. In such cases, additional microphone positions or source positions can be necessary, as specified in ISO 3743-2.

If an operator is necessary, it is considered as part of the test environment. Therefore, the operator shall be present also during the reverberation time measurement with the RSS. The position of the operator shall be approximately at the same position as in the measurement with the test sample.

4.3 Comparison method

The comparison method for measurement is explicitly described in ISO 3743-1:2010 and in ISO 3743-2:2018.

NOTE The term "comparison method" is not explicitly given in ISO 3744:2010, but when applying the "absolute comparison test" for the determination of the environmental correction given in A.3 of ISO 3744:2010, by using a reference sound source, the procedure is, in fact, a comparison method.

With this method, the sound power level is determined by comparing the averaged values (on a mean-square basis) of the sound pressure levels produced by the source in the test room to the averaged values of the sound pressure levels produced in the same room by a calibrated reference sound source (RSS) of known sound power output, complying with the requirements

of ISO 6926:2016. The difference in sound pressure levels is equal to the difference in sound power levels when conditions are the same for both sets of measurements.

This method yields results expressed in octave- or 1/3 octave-band sound power levels, and the A-weighted sound power level is calculated from the octave- or 1/3 octave-band sound power levels.

To check whether there is a systematic difference between results obtained in different environments, the use of the comparison method is recommended.

If audible discrete tones are present in the noise emitted by the source, the estimated standard deviation of the measured sound pressure levels in the hard-walled test room or in the special reverberation room can increase. In such cases, additional microphone positions or source positions can be necessary, as specified in ISO 3743-1 or ISO 3743-2.

If an operator is necessary, it is considered as part of the test environment. Therefore, the operator shall be present also during the comparison measurement with the RSS. The position of the operator shall be approximately at the same position as in the measurement with the test sample.

4.4 Acoustical environments

4.4.1 General requirements and criterion for adequacy of the test environment

They are given in the following clauses:

– Clause 4 of ISO 3743-1:2010 for hard-walled test rooms;
– Clause 5 of ISO 3743-2:2018 for special reverberation test rooms and
– Clause 4 of ISO 3744:2010 for free-field conditions over a reflecting plane.

A classification of different types of noise is given in ISO 12001:1996. The method specified in ISO 3744:2010 is suitable for measurements of all types of noise emitted by household appliances. The methods specified in ISO 3743-1:2010 and ISO 3743-2:2018 are suitable for all types of noise, except for sources of impulsive noise consisting of short-duration noise bursts. This will be taken into account in the preparation of parts of the IEC 60704-2 series.

The method specified in ISO 3744:2010 is applicable to noise sources of any size. Limitations for the size of the source are given in 4.2 of ISO 3743-1:2010 and in Clause 5 of ISO 3743-2:2018. This will be taken into account in the preparation of parts of the IEC 60704-2 series.

NOTE For free-field conditions over a reflecting plane, the absolute comparison test for the qualification of the environment, described in Clause A.2 of ISO 3744:2010, is preferred.

Guidelines for the design of simple test rooms with free-field conditions are given in Annex C.

Guidelines for the design of a suitable special reverberation test room are given in ISO 3743-2:2018, Annex A.

The methods specified in ISO 3743-1, ISO 3743-2 and ISO 3744 can be used for measuring noise emitted by electric vacuum cleaners.

4.4.2 Criterion for background noise level

Requirements for the background noise level are given in 4.5 of ISO 3743-1:2010, in 6.5 of ISO 3743-2:2018 and in 4.2 of ISO 3744:2010. Averaged over the microphone positions, the background noise level shall be at least 6 dB below, and preferably more than 15 dB below, the sound pressure level to be measured.