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**Turbines and turbine sets —  
Measurement of emitted airborne  
noise — Engineering/survey method**

*Turbines et groupes de turbines — Mesurage du bruit aérien émis —  
Méthode d'expertise/de contrôle*

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

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 editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 192, *Gas Turbines*, in collaboration with Technical Committee IEC/TC 5, *Steam Turbines*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10494:1993), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the measurement of airborne noise from steam turbines and steam turbine sets has been added;
- the content has been aligned with ISO 3744:2010 and ISO 3746:2010;
- the title has been updated.

## Introduction

### 0.1 Background

Control of noise from machines or equipment requires effective exchange of acoustical information among the several parties concerned. These include the manufacturer, specifier, installer and user of the machine or equipment. This acoustical information is obtained from measurements.

These measurements are useful only if they are carried out under specified conditions to obtain defined acoustical quantities using standardized instruments.

The sound power level data determined according to this document is essentially independent of the environment in which the data are obtained. This is one of the reasons for using sound power level to characterize the sound emitted by various types of machine equipment.

Sound power level data are useful for the following:

- a) calculating the approximate sound pressure level at a given distance from a machine operating in a specified environment;
- b) comparing the noise radiated by machines of the same type and size;
- c) comparing the noise radiated by machines of different types and sizes;
- d) determining whether a machine complies with a specified upper limit of noise emission;
- e) planning in order to determine the amount of transmission loss or noise control required under certain circumstances;
- f) engineering work to assist in developing quiet machinery and equipment.

This document gives requirements for the measurement of the noise emission of turbines and turbine sets. It has been prepared in accordance with ISO 3740:2000 on the basis of ISO 3744:2010. Due to the special conditions concerning turbines and turbine sets, it is necessary to define different noise sources and to use measurement surfaces differing from those specified in ISO 3744:2010.

For some environmental conditions, it can be necessary to use the survey methods based on ISO 3746:2010 resulting in a lower grade of accuracy. Frequency information is still recorded and reported.

### 0.2 Aims

The methods defined in this document apply to the measurement of the noise emission of a turbine or turbine set under steady-state operating conditions. The results are expressed as sound pressure levels, and sound power levels in A-weighted and in octave bands.

The aim of this document is a grade 2 (engineering) result (see [Table 1](#)). When the correction for background noise exceeds the limit of 1.3 dB but is less than 3 dB and/or the correction for environment exceeds the limits of 4 dB but is less than 7 dB, then a grade 3 (survey) result is obtained (see [Table 2](#)).

Measurements made in conformity with this document should result in standard deviations which are equal to or less than those given in [Table 3](#). The uncertainties in [Table 3](#) depend not only on the accuracies with which sound pressure levels and measurement surface areas are determined, but also on the “near-field error” which increases for smaller measurement distances and lower frequencies (i.e. those below 250 Hz). The near-field error always leads to measured sound power levels which are higher than the real sound power levels.

NOTE 1 If the methods specified in this document are used to compare the sound power levels of similar machines that are omnidirectional and radiate broad-band noise, the uncertainty in this comparison tends to result in standard deviations which are less than those given in [Table 3](#), provided that the measurements are performed in the same environment with the same shape of measurement surface.

NOTE 2 The standard deviations given in Table 3 reflect the cumulative effects of all causes of measurement uncertainty, excluding variations in the sound power levels from test to test which can be caused, for example, by changes in the mounting or operating conditions of the source. The reproducibility and repeatability of the test result can be considerably better (i.e. smaller standard deviations) than the uncertainties given in Table 3 would indicate.

**Table 1 — International Standards specifying various methods for determining the sound power levels of machines and equipment**

International Standard	Classification of method	Test environment	Volume of source	Character of noise	Sound power levels obtainable
<b>Normative</b>					
ISO 3744	Grade 2 (engineering)	Outdoors or in large rooms	No restrictions; limited only by available test environment	Any	A-weighted and in octave bands or one-third octave bands
ISO 3746	Grade 3 (survey)	No special test environment	No restrictions; limited only by available test environment	Any	A-weighted
<b>Informative</b>					
ISO 3741	Grade 1 (precision)	Reverberation room meeting specified requirements	Less than 2 % of test room volume	Steady, non-steady, fluctuating, isolated bursts of sound energy, broadband, discrete frequency	A-weighted and in octave bands or one-third octave bands
ISO 3743-1	Grade 2 (engineering)	Hard-walled test room	Less than 2,5 % of test room volume	Steady, non-steady, fluctuating, isolated bursts of sound energy	A-weighted and in octave bands
ISO 3743-2	Grade 2 (engineering)	Special reverberation test room	Preferably less than 1 % of test room volume	Steady, non-steady, fluctuating, broadband, narrow-band, discrete frequency	A-weighted and in octave bands
ISO 3745	Grade 1 (precision)	Anechoic- or hemi-anechoic room	Preferably less than 0,5 % of test room volume	Any	A-weighted and in one-third octave bands
ISO 3747	Grade 2 and 3 (engineering and survey)	No special test environment, but sufficiently reverberant; source under test non-movable	No restrictions; limited only by available test environment	Steady, non-steady, fluctuating, isolated bursts of sound energy, primarily broad-band	A-weighted and in octave bands
ISO 9614-1	Grade 1, 2 and 3 (precision, engineering and survey)	No special test environment	No restrictions <sup>b</sup>	Any, but stationary in time	A-weighted and in octave bands or one-third octave
<sup>a</sup> Method to determine the sound power of airborne noise caused by machinery surface vibration specifically. <sup>b</sup> For measurements in anechoic or hemi-anechoic rooms limited by the size of the test room.					