
**Acoustics — Preferred reference values
for acoustical and vibratory levels**

*Acoustique — Valeurs de référence recommandées pour les niveaux
acoustiques et vibratoires*

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Foreword

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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](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 1683:2008), 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 airborne sound, a special reference value for sound pressure is stated according to widespread use and legal implications.

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