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**Acoustics — Measurement of airborne  
noise emitted by information  
technology and telecommunications  
equipment**

*Acoustique — Mesurage du bruit aérien émis par les équipements liés  
aux technologies de l'information et aux télécommunications*





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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 43, *Acoustics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Noise*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 7779:2010), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 3](#):
  - Updates of many items in [3.1](#) and [3.2](#) to be consistent with basic standards, such as ISO/TR 25417, ISO 3744, etc.
  - Addition of new [3.3](#) corresponding to new [Clause 9](#).
- [Clause 6](#):
  - In [6.4.6](#), the microphone calibration procedures were amended to be consistent with those of industrial counterpart, ECMA-74.
- [Clause 7](#):
  - In [7.3](#) ([7.3.1](#)), the procedure for test environment qualification was amended to clarify that any frequency bands, typically low in frequency, not significantly affecting A-weighted sound power level need not meet the hemi-anechoic room qualification criteria for the purposes of determining A-weighted sound power level.

- In [7.4.6](#), the microphone calibration procedures were amended to be consistent with those of industrial counterpart, ECMA-74.
- [Clause 8](#):
  - In [8.6](#), new [8.6.1](#) was inserted to clarify the method of defining operator position and bystander positions.
- [Clause 9](#):
  - [Clause 9](#) was newly inserted.
  - In relation to [Clause 9](#), [3.3](#) was also added, and the descriptions of [Tables 1, 5](#) and [6](#) (in [6.2](#), [7.2](#) and [8.2](#) respectively) were amended.
- [Annex B](#):
  - [B.2.2](#) and [B.2.3](#) were amended to clarify the section of size and microphone positions on the cylindrical measurement surface, respectively.
- [Annex D](#):
  - In [D.1](#), [D.8](#), [D.9.5](#), [D.10.3](#) and [D.10.4](#), descriptions were amended to clarify that [Annex D](#) permits to use FFT data below 89,1 Hz and above 11 200 Hz to calculate tone-to-noise ratio and prominence ratio.
  - In [D.9.7](#) and [D.10.7](#), notes were added to mention that new metrics for detecting prominent discrete tone, (1) total tone-to-noise ratio and (2) total prominence ratio are under development.
- [Annex E](#):
  - The measurement method stated in [Annex E](#) became out of date and was removed. But the annex structure is still maintained for the possible development of a new method (the title of the annex was amended accordingly).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document specifies methods for the measurement of airborne noise emitted by information technology and telecommunications (ITT) equipment. Hitherto, a wide variety of methods have been applied by individual manufacturers and users to satisfy particular equipment or application needs. These diverse practices have, in many cases, made comparison of noise emission difficult. This document simplifies such comparisons and is the basis for the declaration of the noise emission levels of ITT equipment.

In order to ensure accuracy, validity and acceptability, this document is based on the basic International Standards for determination of the sound power level and for determination of the emission sound pressure level at the operator position and bystander positions. Furthermore, implementation is simplified by conformity with these International Standards.

In many cases, free-field conditions over a reflecting plane are realised by hemi-anechoic rooms. These rooms can be particularly useful during product design to locate and to improve individual contributing noise sources. Reverberation test rooms can be more economical for production control and for obtaining sound power levels for noise emission declaration purposes.

The method for measuring the emission sound pressure level at the operator or bystander positions (based on ISO 11201) is specified in a separate clause, as this level is not considered to be primary noise emission declaration information. The measurements can, however, be carried out in conjunction with those for sound power determination in a free field over a reflecting plane.

For comparison of similar equipment, it is essential that the installation conditions and mode of operation be the same. In [Annex C](#), these parameters are standardized for many categories of equipment.

This document is based on ECMA-74.



# Acoustics — Measurement of airborne noise emitted by information technology and telecommunications equipment

## 1 Scope

This document specifies procedures for measuring and reporting the noise emission of information technology and telecommunications equipment.

NOTE 1 This document is considered part of a noise test code (see [3.1.2](#)) for this type of equipment and is based on basic noise emission standards (see [3.1.1](#)) ISO 3741, ISO 3744, ISO 3745, ISO 9295 and ISO 11201.

The basic emission quantity is the A-weighted sound power level, which can be used for comparing equipment of the same type but from different manufacturers, or for comparing different equipment.

Three basic noise emission standards for determination of the sound power levels are specified in this document in order to avoid undue restriction on existing facilities and experience. ISO 3741 specifies comparison measurements in a reverberation test room; ISO 3744 and ISO 3745 specify measurements in an essentially free field over a reflecting plane. Any of these three basic noise emission standards can be selected and used exclusively in accordance with this document when determining sound power levels of a machine.

The A-weighted sound power level is supplemented by the A-weighted emission sound pressure level determined at the operator position or the bystander positions, based on basic noise emission standard ISO 11201. This sound pressure level is not a level of noise immission at a work station (see [3.2.12](#)), but it can assist in identifying any potential problems that could cause annoyance, activity interference or hearing damage to operators and bystanders.

Methods for determination of whether the noise emission includes prominent discrete tones are specified in [Annex D](#).

This document is suitable for type tests and provides methods for manufacturers and testing laboratories to obtain comparable results.

The methods specified in this document allow the determination of noise emission levels for a functional unit (see [3.1.4](#)) tested individually.

The procedures apply to equipment which emits broad-band noise, narrow-band noise and noise which contains discrete-frequency components, or impulsive noise.

The sound power and emission sound pressure levels obtained can serve noise emission declaration and comparison purposes (see ISO 9296[3]).

NOTE 2 The sound power levels and emission sound pressure levels obtained are not intended to be considered as installation noise immission levels; however, they can be used for installation planning (see ECMA TR/27[1]).

If sound power levels obtained are determined for a number of functional units of the same production series, they can be used to determine a statistical value for that production series (see ISO 9296[3]).

## 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.