Australian/New Zealand Standard®

Occupational noise management

Part 0: Overview
This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee AV/3, Acoustics, Human Effects. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 December 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 15 January 1998. It was published on 5 March 1998.

The following interests are represented on Committee AV/3:

- Acoustical Consulting Interests, New Zealand
- Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants
- Australian Acoustical Society
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Hearing Services
- Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
- Department of Bush Fire Services, New South Wales
- Department of Labour, New Zealand
- New South Wales Nurses Association
- Royal Institution of Naval Architects, Australia
- Safety Institute of Australia
- The Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia
- The Institute of Marine Engineers, Australian/New Zealand Division
- Victorian WorkCover Authority
- WorkCover N.S.W.
- WorkSafe, Western Australia

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

- Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists
- Compensation Court of New South Wales
- Composites Institute of Australia
- Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 95468.*
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Originated in Australia as part of AS 1269 — 1976.
Jointly revised and redesignated AS/NZS 1269.0:1998.

PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY:

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
1 The Crescent,
Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
Level 10, Radio New Zealand House,
155 The Terrace,
Wellington 6001 New Zealand

ISBN 0 7337 1768 3
PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee AV/3, Acoustics, Human Effects to supersede, in part, AS 1269—1989, Acoustics—Hearing conservation.

This is Part 0 in a series of Standards whose objective is to provide requirements and guidance on all facets of occupational noise management. It is recommended that the reader refer to all parts of the AS/NZS 1269 series to better understand all relevant terminology and objectives of occupational noise management.

The full series of Standards is as follows:

AS/NZS
1269 Occupational noise management
1269.0 Part 0: Overview
1269.1 Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure
1269.2 Part 2: Noise control management
1269.3 Part 3: Hearing protector program
1269.4 Part 4: Auditory assessment

The objective of this Part is to provide an overview to the series of Standards on occupational noise management and to give guidance on adopting an integrated approach to occupational noise management.

Since its introduction as an Australian Standard in 1976, AS 1269 has undergone revisions in 1979, 1983 and 1989. The major change from the 1989 edition is the splitting of the Standard into five Parts, with each Part of the series being an expansion of a relevant section in the 1989 edition. The series reflects changes in technology and where applicable, follows guidance and techniques given in relevant International Standards. The series also reflects the change from the concept of a ‘noise dose’ to that of ‘noise exposure’. Exposure has an absolute value which is independent of the noise exposure criterion.

Other changes are the expansion of the noise reduction section to emphasize noise control as the primary goal of an occupational noise management program, the provision of more detailed guidance on the implementation and management of noise control and hearing protector programs, the improvement of procedures for auditory assessment and the publication of the series as Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand documents.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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1 SCOPE  This Standard provides an overview to the AS/NZS 1269 series on occupational noise management. This series of Standards deals with noise as it affects hearing, but does not deal with other effects of noise. It also provides an integrated approach to establishing, implementing and evaluating an occupational noise management program.

It excludes the setting of occupational noise criteria. Such criteria are set by regulations or organizational policy, not by Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand. Exposure standards may be found in the occupational health and safety or related regulations that are applicable for the workplace under assessment. Criteria lower than these exposure standards may be set by the organization’s noise policy.

NOTE: Noise constitutes only one of many relevant workplace issues which should be considered for assessment as a component of an occupational health and safety survey. The AS/NZS 1269 series addresses the most relevant issues associated with occupational noise management. It does not deal with associated issues such as community noise and general environmental noise. Further advice on those issues should be sought from the Standards that deal with these issues.

In undertaking an overall occupational health and safety survey, the program should be carefully planned to ensure that the need for assessment of all other pertinent occupational health and safety issues is considered.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS  The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS
1270  Acoustics—Hearing protectors

AS/NZS
1269  Occupational noise management
1269.1 Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure
1269.2 Part 2: Noise control management
1269.3 Part 3: Hearing protector program
1269.4 Part 4: Auditory assessment

3 DEFINITIONS  For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

3.1 Emission—the radiation of sound from a sound source.

NOTE: See Paragraph A2 of Appendix A.

3.2 Excessive noise—noise above the noise exposure criteria as set by the relevant statutory authorities or by the organization’s noise policy, whichever is the lower.

3.3 Exposure—the presence of a person at a point of immission.

NOTE: See Paragraph A4 of Appendix A.

3.4 Hazard—anything that may result in harm to the hearing of a person.

3.5 Immission—the influx of sound at a point.

NOTE: See Paragraph A3 of Appendix A.
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