

**ANSI/ASA S12.54-2011 / ISO 3744:2010**  
(a revision of ANSI S12.54-1999 / ISO 3744:1994)

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## AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

### **Acoustics – Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure – Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane**

(a Nationally Adopted International Standard)

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ANSI/ASA S12.54-2011 / ISO 3744:2010

Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise

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Standards Secretariat  
Acoustical Society of America  
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**ANSI/ASA S12.54-2011 / ISO 3744:2010**

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**

**Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane**

**(a nationally adopted international standard)**

**Secretariat:**

**Acoustical Society of America**

**Approved March 1, 2011 by:**

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

**Abstract**

This American National Standard specifies methods for determining the sound power level or sound energy level of a noise source from sound pressure levels measured on a surface enveloping the noise source (machinery or equipment) in an environment that approximates to an acoustic free field near one or more reflecting planes. The sound power level (or, in the case of noise bursts or transient noise emission, the sound energy level) produced by the noise source, in frequency bands or with A-weighting applied, is calculated using those measurements.

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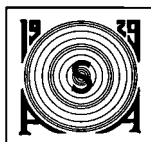
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## Foreword

*[This Foreword is for information only, and is not a part of the American National Standard ANSI/ASA S12.54-2011 / ISO 3744:2010 American National Standard Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane.]*

This standard comprises a part of a group of definitions, standards, and specifications for use in noise. It was developed and approved by Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise, under its approved operating procedures. Those procedures have been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Scope of Accredited Standards Committee S12 is as follows:

*Standards, specifications, and terminology in the field of acoustical noise pertaining to methods of measurement, evaluation, and control, including biological safety, tolerance, and comfort, and physical acoustics as related to environmental and occupational noise.*

This standard is a revision of ANSI S12.54-1999 / ISO 3744:1994, which has been technically revised.

This Standard is identical to International Standard ISO 3744, Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane, which was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43 Subcommittee SC 1, Noise. However, in conformance with ANSI and ISO rules, the words "American National Standard" replace the words "International Standard" where they appear in the ISO document, decimal points were substituted in place of the decimal commas used in ISO documents, and American English spelling is used in place of British English spelling.

The ANSI or ANSI/ASA equivalents for the ISO standards in the ISO 3740 series and other referenced nationally adopted standards are given below:

- ANSI S12.5 / ISO 6926 is an identical national adoption of ISO 6926;
- ANSI/ASA S12.50/ISO 3740 is an identical national adoption of ISO 3740;
- ANSI/ASA S12.51/ISO 3741 is an identical national adoption of ISO 3741;
- ANSI/ASA S12.53/Part 1/ISO 3743-1 is an identical national adoption of ISO 3743-1;
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- ANSI S12.56/ISO 3746 is an identical national adoption of ISO 3746; and
- ANSI/ASA S12.57/ISO 3747 is an identical national adoption of ISO 3747.

At the time this Standard was submitted to Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise for approval, the membership was as follows:

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Suggestions for improvements of this standard will be welcomed. They should be sent to Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise, in care of the Standards Secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America, 35 Pinelawn Road, Suite 114E, Melville, New York 11747-3177. Telephone: 631-390-0215; FAX: 631-390-0217; E-mail: [asastds@aip.org](mailto:asastds@aip.org).

## Introduction

This American National Standard is a national adoption of one of the series ISO 3741<sup>[2]</sup> to ISO 3747<sup>[6]</sup>, which specify various methods for determining the sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources including machinery, equipment and their sub-assemblies. General guidelines to assist in the selection are provided in ISO 3740<sup>[1]</sup>. The selection depends on the environment of the available test facility and on the precision of the sound power level or sound energy level values required. It may be necessary to establish a noise test code (see ISO 12001) for the individual noise source in order to select the appropriate sound measurement surface and microphone array from among those allowed in each member of the ISO 3741<sup>[2]</sup> to ISO 3747<sup>[6]</sup> series, and to give requirements on test unit mounting, loading and operating conditions under which the sound power levels or sound energy levels are to be obtained. The sound power emitted by a given source into the test environment is calculated from the mean square sound pressure that is measured over a hypothetical measurement surface enclosing the source, and the area of that surface. The sound energy for a single sound event is calculated from this sound power and the time over which it existed.

The methods specified in this American National Standard permit the determination of the sound power level and the sound energy level in frequency bands optionally with frequency A-weighting applied.

For applications where greater accuracy is required, reference can be made to ISO 3745, ISO 3741<sup>[2]</sup> or ISO 9614<sup>[13]-[15]</sup>. If the relevant criteria for the measurement environment specified in this American National Standard are not met, it might be possible to refer to another standard from this series, or to ISO 9614<sup>[13]-[15]</sup>.

This American National Standard describes methods of accuracy grade 2 (engineering grade) as defined in ISO 12001, when the measurements are performed in a space that approximates an acoustically free field over a reflecting plane. Such an environment can be found in a specially designed room, or within industrial buildings or outdoors. Ideally, the test source should be mounted on a sound-reflecting plane located in a large open space. For sources normally installed on the floor of machine rooms, corrections are defined to account for undesired reflections from nearby objects, walls and the ceiling, and for the residual background noises that occur there.

This is a preview of "ANSI/ASA S12.54-2011...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

American National Standard

# Acoustics — Determination of sound power levels and sound energy levels of noise sources using sound pressure — Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane

## 1 Scope

### 1.1 General

This American National Standard specifies methods for determining the sound power level or sound energy level of a noise source from sound pressure levels measured on a surface enveloping the noise source (machinery or equipment) in an environment that approximates to an acoustic free field near one or more reflecting planes. The sound power level (or, in the case of noise bursts or transient noise emission, the sound energy level) produced by the noise source, in frequency bands or with A-weighting applied, is calculated using those measurements.

NOTE Differently shaped measurement surfaces can yield differing estimates of the sound power level of a given noise source and an appropriately drafted noise test code (see ISO 12001) gives detailed information on the selection of the surface.

### 1.2 Types of noise and noise sources

The methods specified in this American National Standard are suitable for all types of noise (steady, non-steady, fluctuating, isolated bursts of sound energy, etc.) defined in ISO 12001.

This American National Standard is applicable to all types and sizes of noise source (e.g. stationary or slowly moving plant, installation, machine, component or sub-assembly), provided the conditions for the measurements can be met.

NOTE It is possible that the conditions for measurements given in this American National Standard are impracticable for very tall or very long sources such as chimneys, ducts, conveyors and multi-source industrial plants. A noise test code for the determination of noise emission of specific sources can provide alternative methods in such cases.

### 1.3 Test environment

The test environments that are applicable for measurements made in accordance with this American National Standard can be located indoors or outdoors, with one or more sound-reflecting planes present on or near which the noise source under test is mounted. The ideal environment is a completely open space with no bounding or reflecting surfaces other than the reflecting plane(s) (such as that provided by a qualified hemi-anechoic chamber), but procedures are given for applying corrections (within limits that are specified) in the case of environments that are less than ideal.