



BSI Standards Publication

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

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 3744:2026. It is identical to ISO 3744:2025. It supersedes BS EN ISO 3744:2010, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/1/4, Machinery noise.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

The UK committee would like to advise users that the means for the determination of sound energy levels is not in scope for this 2026 revision of BS EN ISO 3744. Users who have been guided to this standard by another standard's undated reference to BS EN ISO 3744 on the topic of sound energy levels are advised that this content can still be found in the now superseded BS EN ISO 3744:2010.

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For the Great Britain market (England, Scotland and Wales), if UK Government has designated this publication for conformity with UKCA marking (or similar) legislation, it may contain an additional National Annex. Where such a National Annex exists, it shows the correlation between this publication and the relevant UK legislation. If there is no National Annex of this kind, the relevant Annex ZA or ZZ in the body of the European text will indicate the relationship to UK regulation applicable in Great Britain. References to EU legislation may need to be read in accordance with the UK designation and the applicable UK law. Further information on designated standards can be found at www.bsigroup.com/standardsandregulation.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2026

ISBN 978 0 539 16907 2

ICS 17.140.01

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 March 2026.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

| Date | Text affected |
|------|---------------|
|------|---------------|

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EUROPÄISCHE NORM

March 2026

ICS 17.140.01

Supersedes EN ISO 3744:2010

English Version

Acoustics - Determination of sound power levels of noise sources using sound pressure - Engineering methods for an essentially free field over a reflecting plane (ISO 3744:2025, including corrected version 2026-01)

Acoustique - Détermination des niveaux de puissance acoustique et des niveaux d'énergie acoustique émis par les sources de bruit à partir de la pression acoustique - Méthodes d'expertise pour des conditions approchant celles du champ libre sur plan réfléchissant (ISO 3744:2025, y compris version corrigée 2026-01)

Akustik - Bestimmung der Schalleistungspegel von Geräuschquellen aus Schalldruckmessungen - Hüllflächenverfahren der Genauigkeitsklasse 2 für ein im Wesentlichen freies Schallfeld über einer reflektierenden Ebene (ISO 3744:2025, korrigierte Fassung 2026-01)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 October 2024.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 3744:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43 "Acoustics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 211 "Acoustics" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 3744:2010.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

For the relationship with EU Legislation, see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 3744:2025, including corrected version 2026-01 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 3744:2026 without any modification.

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(informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the essential requirements of Directive 2006/42/EC aimed to be covered

This European Standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardization request "M/396 Mandate CEN and CENELEC for Standardisation in the field of machinery" to provide one voluntary means of conforming to essential requirements of Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (recast)

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Directive, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZA.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding essential requirements of that Directive, and associated EFTA regulations.

Table ZA.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex I of Directive 2006/42/EC

| The relevant Essential Requirements of Directive 2006/42/EC | Clause(s)/sub-clause(s) of this EN | Remarks/Notes |
|---|---|--|
| 1.5.8 Noise 1.7.4.2 u) and 1.7.4.3 | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I | The sound power level, determined according to this document, is one of two quantities needed to address EHSR 1.5.8 about noise reduction at design stage, EHSR 1.7.4.2 u) and EHSR 1.7.4.3 which, in turn, support the "Sell & Buy Quiet" strategy. |

Table ZA.2 — Applicable standards to confer presumption of conformity as described in this Annex ZA

| Column 1 Reference in Clause 2 | Column 2 International Standard edition | Column 3 Title | Column 4 Corresponding European Standard edition |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| ISO 6926 | ISO 6926:2016 | Acoustics — Requirements for the performance and calibration of reference sound sources used for the determination of sound power levels | EN ISO 6926:2016 |
| ISO 26101-1 | ISO 26101-1:2021 | Acoustics — Test methods for the qualification of the acoustic environment — Part 1: Qualification of free- | EN ISO 26101-1:2022 |

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| Column 1 Reference in Clause 2 | Column 2 International Standard edition | Column 3 Title | Column 4 Corresponding European Standard edition |
|---|--|---|---|
| | | field environments | |
| ISO 26101-2 | ISO 26101-2:2024 | Acoustics — Test methods for the qualification of the acoustic environment— Part 2: Determination of the environmental correction | EN ISO 26101-2:2024 |
| ISO 12001 | ISO 12001:1996 | Acoustics — Noise emitted by machinery and equipment — Rules for the drafting and presentation of a noise test code | EN ISO 12001:2009 |
| IEC 61260-3 | IEC 61260-3:2016 | Electroacoustics – Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters – Part 3: Periodic tests | EN 61260-3:2016 |
| IEC 61260-2 | IEC 61260-2:2016 | Electroacoustics - Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters - Part 2: Pattern-evaluation tests | EN 61260-2:2016 |
| IEC 61672-1 | IEC 61672-1:2013 | Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications | EN 61672-1:2013 |
| IEC 61672-3 | IEC 61672-3:2013 | Electroacoustics - Sound level meters - Part 3: Periodic tests | EN 61672-3:2013 |
| ISO/IEC 17025 | ISO/IEC 17025:2017 | General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories | EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 |

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~~This document, nor are indispensable for its application. The achievement of the presumption of conformity is subject to the application of the edition of Standards as listed in Column 4 or, if no European Standard Edition exists, the International Standard Edition given in Column 2 of [Table ZA.2](#).~~

WARNING 1 Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 Other Union legislation may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.

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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 document 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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Noise*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 211, *Acoustics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition of ISO 3744 cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3744:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- removed sound energy level determination due to lack of use and because it was highly duplicative of other text in the method,
- moved many of the special case measurement conditions and measurement parameters into Annexes to simplify the main body of the standard to focus on the basic sound power level determination method for typical sources and test environments,
- removed absolute background noise criteria and replaced with new criteria for conformity with background noise requirements,
- removed the estimation methods for K_2 from an estimation of the equivalent sound absorption area,
- instrumentation requirements revised to accommodate modern modular computerized instrumentation systems,
- requirements for the cylinder were updated to be consistent with ISO 7779,
- qualification methods for the test environment, other than the absolute comparison test, removed and moved to ISO 26101-2,
- new [Annex I](#) specifies procedures that testing laboratories can apply to reduce measurement uncertainties associated with the test method,
- measurements using a cylindrical measurement surface were clarified.

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conducted in accordance with the main body of this revision remains the same as in the 2010 version. Measurements conducted in accordance with the 2010 version are expected to be equivalent to those obtained using this revision, unless the ISO 3744:2010 measurements were conducted in a test environment that was qualified using a K_2 that was calculated from an estimation of the equivalent sound absorption area, since this way to determine K_2 was removed from this revision of the document.

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.

This corrected version of ISO 3744:2025 incorporates the following corrections:

- Correction of formulae in [Figures C.3](#) and [C.4](#).

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This document is one of the series ISO 3741 to ISO 3747^{[2]to[6]} which specify various methods for determining the sound power levels of noise sources including machinery, equipment and their sub-assemblies. General guidelines to assist in the selection are provided in ISO 3740^[1]. The selection depends on the available test environment and on the precision of the sound power level values required. A noise test code can be established (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^[2] to ISO 3747^[6] series, and to give requirements on test unit mounting, loading and operating conditions under which the sound power 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 methods specified in this document permit the determination of the A-weighted sound power level and optionally the sound power level in octave or 1/3-octave frequency bands.

The main body of this document specifies test environment qualification criteria, testing procedures and the associated measurement uncertainties for basic compliance with the method. [Annex I](#) specifies additional requirements that may be applied by testing laboratories to reduce measurement uncertainty. For applications where even greater accuracy is required, reference can be made to ISO 3745, ISO 3741^[2] or ISO 9614^{[9][10][11]}. If the relevant criteria for the measurement environment specified in this document are not met, it might be possible to refer to another standard from this series, or to ISO 9614^{[9][10][11]}.

This document specifies 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 specified to account for undesired reflections from nearby objects, walls and ceiling, and for background noises.

This test method was originally issued as ISO 4872 in 1978. It was first released as ISO 3744 in 1994. A brief history of the technical requirements associated with the revisions of this test method follows.

ISO 3744:1994 required a test environment with a $K_{2f} \leq 2$ dB in all frequency bands of interest and required measurements to be conducted in octave or one-third octave bands, with A-weighted levels being calculated from the band level data over the frequency range of interest.

ISO 3744:2010 relaxed the requirements on the test environment to require $K_{2A} \leq 4$ dB and allowed A-weighted levels to be determined either by calculation from frequency band level measurements or by direct measurement using an A-weighted filter. These changes to the requirements for the test environment and instrumentation were made to facilitate in-situ and field sound power level determinations using equipment without proportional octave band filtering for evaluation of compliance with regulatory requirements. Round robin studies were conducted to verify that the stated measurement uncertainties associated with the method could be maintained using these requirements^[18].

In addition, the 2010 revision added methods for sound energy level determination of short duration transient events, several special case sound power level determination conditions to the main body of the standard and several new measurement parameters.

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

1 Scope

1.1 General

This document specifies methods for determining the sound power 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 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 which are accounted for in the uncertainty associated with this test method. 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 document are suitable for all types of noise (steady, non-steady, and fluctuating) as defined in ISO 12001, except for short duration, impulsive events.

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

NOTE It is possible that the conditions for measurements given in this document 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 document 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. [Annex A](#) or ISO 26101-2 specifies methods for determining the adequacy of the test environment and for determination of corrections to be applied to account for the effect of the test environment.

1.4 Measurement uncertainty

Information is given on the uncertainty of the sound power levels determined in accordance with this document, for measurements made in limited bands of frequency and with frequency A-weighting applied. [Annex I](#) specifies procedures for testing laboratories that can be used to reduce measurement uncertainty. The uncertainty conforms to ISO 12001, accuracy grade 2 (engineering grade). General information on measurement uncertainty is provided in this document and additional information can be found in ISO 5114-1^[8].