



**BSI Standards Publication**

## **Hearing protectors — General requirements**

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Part 2: Earplugs

This is a preview of BS EN 352-2:2020+A1:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 352-2:2020+A1:2024. It supersedes BS EN 352-2:2020, which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to CEN text carry the number of the CEN amendment. For example, text altered by CEN amendment A1 is indicated by A1 A1.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/7, Hearing protectors.

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

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## EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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English Version

## Hearing protectors - General requirements - Part 2: Earplugs

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générales - Partie 2 : Bouchons d'oreille

Gehörschützer - Allgemeine Anforderungen - Teil 2:  
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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN 352-2:2020+A1:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 159 “Hearing protectors”, 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2024.

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 A1 EN 352-2:2020 A1.

This document includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 5 May 2024.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags A1 A1.

The technical changes between this document and the previous edition of this European Standard are listed in Annex A.

A1 The content of the changes added with Amendment A1 to EN 352-2:2020 refers only to banded earplugs. A1

This document has been prepared under a standardization request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Regulation(s).

For relationship with EU Regulation(s), see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

A1 Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website. A1

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations 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.

## Introduction

This document sets requirements for personal hearing protection devices in relation to Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment.

The particular requirement in relation to the ability of hearing protectors to reduce noise below limit levels is addressed in the standard by requiring the sound attenuation of the hearing protectors, measured in accordance with EN ISO 4869-1, to be not less than a specified minimum. Further, by requiring that the measured sound attenuation be declared, the selection of suitable hearing protectors for individual circumstances can be undertaken according to established practice.

EN 352-2 is part of a family of standards describing product requirements for hearing protectors:

- *EN 352-1, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 1: Earmuffs*
- *EN 352-2, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 2: Earplugs*
- *EN 352-3, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 3: Earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices*
- *EN 352-4, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 4: Level-dependent earmuffs*
- *EN 352-5, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 5: Active noise reduction earmuffs*
- *EN 352-6, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input*
- *EN 352-7, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 7: Level-dependent earplugs*
- *EN 352-8, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 8: Entertainment audio earmuffs*
- *EN 352-9, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 9: Earplugs with safety-related audio input*
- *EN 352-10, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 10: Entertainment audio earplugs*

Test methods for these requirements for all types of hearing protectors are described in the following standards:

- *EN 13819-1, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 1: Physical test methods*
- *EN 13819-2, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 2: Acoustic test methods*
- *EN 13819-3, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 3: Supplementary acoustic test methods*

An associated standard EN 458 covers selection, use, care and maintenance of hearing protection.

The parts of EN 352, other than parts 1, 2 and 3, cover the performance of functions additional to passive hearing protection. Hearing protectors which incorporate one or more of these functions are subject to the requirements and tests of each of the relevant parts of EN 352-4 to -10, in addition to that of parts 1, 2 or 3, as appropriate.

The requirements of this document are concerned primarily with the physical and acoustic performance of the earplugs. It covers disposable, re-usable, custom moulded and banded earplugs.

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In order to assist users to select the correct size(s) of earplugs, a nominal diameter, or range of diameters, of the earplugs is required to be declared (except for custom moulded and semi-aural earplugs).

In the case of banded earplugs, the standard specifies sizing requirements which enable the majority of the user population to be fitted satisfactorily by “medium size range” earplugs. Individuals with other sizes can be accommodated by “small size range” or “large size range” earplugs, which are required to be accompanied by information regarding the range of sizes which they are designed to fit.

The standard also calls for the values of sound attenuation provided by the earplugs (measured in accordance with EN ISO 4869-1) in order to assist users in selecting the most appropriate model of earplugs for their needs. Minimum values of sound attenuation are also specified.

## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements on construction, design, performance, marking and user information for earplugs.

In particular, it specifies requirements regarding the sound attenuation of the earplugs, measured in accordance with EN ISO 4869-1:2018.

This document applies to earplugs designed for users who are able to follow supplied instructions and understand the related risks, can fit the earplugs correctly and can give feedback on the performance.

Ergonomic aspects are addressed by taking into account, within the requirements, the interaction between the user, the device and where possible the working environment in which the device is likely to be used (see Annex ZA and EN 458).

## 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.

Ⓐ EN 13819-1:2020+A1:2024, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 1: Physical test methods* Ⓐ

EN 13819-2:2020, *Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 2: Acoustic test methods*

EN ISO 4869-2:2018, *Acoustics — Hearing protectors — Part 2: Estimation of effective A-weighted sound pressure levels when hearing protectors are worn (ISO 4869-2:2018)*

## 3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

#### 3.1.1

##### **passive hearing protection**

hearing protection that provides attenuation of external sounds not by means of electronics

Note 1 to entry: All hearing protectors have the characteristics of reducing noise by their design and type of material used. Devices that have only this function are called passive hearing protection.

[SOURCE: EN 352-1:2020, 3.1.1]