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# Acoustics — Application of new measurement methods in building and room acoustics

Acoustique — Application de nouvelles méthodes de mesurage dans l'acoustique des bâtiments et des salles



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## Contents

Forewordiv		
Introduction		v
1	Scope	1
2	Normative references	1
3 3.1 3.2	Terms definitions and abbreviated terms Terms and definitions Abbreviated terms	1 1 2
4	Designations	2
4.1 4.2	Maximum length sequence method (MLS) Swept-sine method (SS)	2 2
5	Theory	2
5.1 5.2	General	2 3
5.3	Sound transmission between two rooms	5
5.4	Using the frequency response function	6
6	Measurement of the impulse response	7
6.1 6.2	General	7 7
6.3	Measurement of the response	9
7	Measurement of the frequency response function	14
8	Precision	14
9	Test report	15
Annex	A (normative) Maximum length sequence method	16
Annex	Annex B (normative) Swept-sine method	
Bibliog	Bibliography	

### 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.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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ISO 18233 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, Acoustics, Subcommittee SC 2, Building acoustics.

#### Introduction

Stochastic signal analysis methods for the measurement of sound transmission phenomena started to be developed around 1960, but lack of available computing power excluded the use of these methods outside the best equipped research laboratories.

The development of digitizing circuitry, powerful personal computers and the use of digital signal processing components in sound measuring equipment for field use, have made the application of measuring equipment based on extended digital signal analysis readily available. Dedicated instruments, as well as specialized software used on general computers, currently apply such methods and are already widely used.

The new methods bring a number of advantages compared to the well-established classical methods, such as suppression of background noise and extended measurement range. However, there is also risk of unreliable results if certain guidelines are not followed. The new methods may demonstrate larger sensitivity to time-variations and change in the environmental conditions than the classical methods.

This International Standard is developed to give requirements and guidelines for the use of new measurement methods in building and room acoustic measurements, but can also be used in the construction of measuring equipment for the implementation of the methods.

As even an experienced user of equipment based on classical methods may be unaware of the difficulties and limitations for some applications of the new methods, the user is encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of the theoretical bases for the new methods. Instrument manufacturers are also encouraged to give further guidelines for applications and to make it an objective to design instruments that give warnings when results are not reliable.

This International Standard gives guidelines and requirements for the application of new methods for the measurement of sound insulation in buildings and building elements and for the measurement of reverberation time and related quantities. Reference is made to the standards for the classical methods regarding what to measure, the number and the selection of measurement points, and the conditions for measurements.