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Standard Terminology Relating to Building and Environmental Acoustics¹

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INTRODUCTION

In some of the entries, those that are measures of physical quantities, the term is followed by three items: symbol, dimensions, and unit. The symbol, in italics, stands for the magnitude of the quantity in mathematical expressions. The dimensions of a quantity express its measure in terms of three fundamental quantities: M for mass, L for length, and T for time. Speed, for instance, is the quotient obtained when the distance an object moves is divided by the time involved. The dimensions are [LT⁻¹], the negative exponent indicating division. The unit is consistently in SI, Le Système International d'Unités. Those still using the cgs (centimetre-gram-second) or the inchpound system of units are referred for most of the conversion factors to IEEE/ ASTM SI 10. A few conversion factors are listed in Section 4 of this terminology.

The dimensions of a quantity are the same regardless of the units in which the quantity is measured. Speed has the dimensions $[LT^{-1}]$ whether it is measured in miles per hour, feet per second, or metres per second. Quantities with different dimensions are not the same. Flow resistance and specific flow resistance, for instance, are quantities of different kinds even though the names are similar. On the other hand, quantities with the same dimensions are not necessarily of the same kind. Sound energy density, for instance, has the same dimensions as sound pressure, $[ML^{-1}T^{-2}]$, but it is not a kind of sound pressure. Nor is absorption with the dimensions $[L^2]$ a kind of area.

1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers terms and definitions related to environmental acoustics. Only definitions common to two or more standards under the jurisdiction of Committee E33 are listed here. The purpose of this terminology is to promote uniformity of key definitions. Definitions pertinent to only one standard and exceptions to the definitions listed below are contained in the individual standards and should be used when following those standards.

2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 ASTM Standards: ²
- C 423 Test Method for Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients by the Reverberation Room Method
 C 367 Test Methods for Strength Properties of Prefabricated
- Architectural Acoustical Tile or Lay-In Ceiling Panels

- C 384 Test Method for Impedance and Absorption of Acoustical Materials by Impedance Tube Method
- C 522 Test Method for Airflow Resistance of Acoustical Materials
- C 635 Specification for the Manufacture, Performance, and Testing of Metal Suspension Systems for Acoustical Tile and Lay-in Panel Ceilings
- C 636 Practice for Installation of Metal Ceiling Suspension Systems for Acoustical Tile and Lay-In Panels
- C 667 Specification for Prefabricated Reflective Insulation Systems for Equipment and Pipe Operating at Temperatures above Ambient Air
- C 871 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Thermal Insulation Materials for Leachable Chloride, Fluoride, Silicate, and Sodium Ions
- E 90 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Airborne Sound Transmission Loss of Building Partitions and Elements
- E 336 Test Method for Measurement of Airborne Sound Attenuation between Rooms in Buildings
- E 413 Classification for Rating Sound Insulation
- E 477 Test Method for Measuring Acoustical and Airflow Performance of Duct Liner Materials and Prefabricated Silencers
- E 492 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Impact Sound Transmission Through Floor-Ceiling Assemblies

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- Using the Tapping Machine
- E 497 Practice for Installing Sound-Isolating Lightweight Partitions³
- E 557 Guide for The Installation of Operable Partitions
- E 596 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Noise Reduction of Sound-Isolating Enclosures
- E 756 Test Method for Measuring Vibration-Damping Properties of Materials
- E 795 Practices for Mounting Test Specimens During Sound Absorption Tests
- E 966 Guide for Field Measurements of Airborne Sound Insulation of Building Facades and Facade Elements
- E 989 Classification for Determination of Impact Insulation Class (IIC)
- E 1007 Test Method for Field Measurement of Tapping Machine Impact Sound Transmission Through Floor-Ceiling Assemblies and Associated Support Structures
- E 1014 Guide for Measurement of Outdoor A-Weighted Sound Levels
- E 1042 Classification for Acoustically Absorptive Materials Applied by Trowel or Spray
- E 1050 Test Method for Impedance and Absorption of Acoustical Materials Using A Tube, Two Microphones and A Digital Frequency Analysis System
- E 1110 Classification for Determination of Articulation Class
- E 1111 Test Method for Measuring the Interzone Attenuation of Open Office Components
- E 1123 Practices for Mounting Test Specimens for Sound Transmission Loss Testing of Naval and Marine Ship Bulkhead Treatment Materials
- E 1124 Test Method for Field Measurement of Sound Power Level by the Two-Surface Method
- E 1130 Test Method for Objective Measurement of Speech Privacy in Open Plan Spaces Using Articulation Index
- E 1179 Specification for Sound Sources Used for Testing Open Office Components and Systems
- E 1222 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of the Insertion Loss of Pipe Lagging Systems
- E 1265 Test Method for Measuring Insertion Loss of Pneumatic Exhaust Silencers
- E 1289 Specification for Reference Specimen for Sound Transmission Loss
- E 1332 Classification for Determination of Outdoor-Indoor Transmission Class
- E 1374 Guide for Open Office Acoustics and Applicable ASTM Standards
- E 1408 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of the Sound Transmission Loss of Door Panels and Door Systems
- E 1414 Test Method for Airborne Sound Attenuation Between Rooms Sharing a Common Ceiling Plenum
- E 1433 Guide for Selection of Standards on Environmental Acoustics

- E 1503 Test Method for Conducting Outdoor Sound Measurements Using a Digital Statistical Sound Analysis System
- E 1573 Test Method for Evaluating Masking Sound in Open Offices Using A-Weighted and One-Third Octave Band Sound Pressure Levels
- E 1574 Test Method for Measurement of Sound in Residential Spaces
- E 1686 Guide for Selection of Environmental Noise Measurements and Criteria
- E 1704 Guide for Specifying Acoustical Performance of Sound-Isolating Enclosures
- E 1779 Guide for Preparing a Measurement Plan for Conducting Outdoor Sound Measurements
- E 1780 Guide for Measuring Outdoor Sound Received from a Nearby Fixed Source
- E 2179 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of the Effectiveness of Floor Coverings in Reducing Impact Sound Transmission Through Concrete Floors
- E 2202 Practice for Measurement of Equipment-Generated Continuous Noise for Assessment of Health Hazards
- E 2235 Test Method for Determination of Decay Rates for Use in Sound Insulation Test Methods
- E 2249 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Airborne Transmission Loss of Building Partitions and Elements Using Sound Intensity
- E 2459 Guide for Measurement of In-Duct Sound Pressure Levels from Large Industrial Gas Turbines and Fans
- IEEE/ ASTM SI 10 Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System 2.2 ANSI Standard:
- ANSI S1.4 Specification for Sound Level Meters⁴
- ANSI S1.6 Preferred Frequencies, Frequency Levels, and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements
- ANSI S1.11 Octave-Band and Fractional Octave-Band Analog and Digital Filters, Specifications for

3. Terminology

- 3.1 If the term sought by the user cannot be found in 3.2, it may be found in 4.1.
 - 3.2 Terms and Definitions:
- **acoustic impedance,** Z = R + jX; [ML⁻⁴T⁻¹]; mks acoustic ohm (Pa·s/m³)—of a surface, for a given frequency, the complex quotient obtained when the sound pressure averaged over the surface is divided by the volume velocity through the surface. The real and imaginary components are called, respectively, **acoustic resistance** and **acoustic reactance**.
- acoustical barrier—contiguous objects such as solid walls, buildings, or earthen berms that substantially block the direct path of sound between a source and receiver, and which, if they have an open edge or edges allowing diffraction around them, are sufficiently wide and high to cause significant reduction of the sound traveling from the source to the receiver.

³ Withdrawn.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

acoustical material—any material considered in terms of its acoustical properties. *Commonly and especially*, a material designed to absorb sound.

admittance ratio, $y\rho c \equiv g\rho c - jb\rho c$; [dimensionless]—the reciprocal of the impedance ratio. The real and imaginary components are called, respectively, conductance ratio and susceptance ratio.

airborne sound—sound that arrives at the point of interest, such as one side of a partition, by propagation through air.

airflow resistance, R; [ML⁻⁴T⁻¹]; mks acoustic ohm (Pa·s/m³)—the quotient of the air pressure difference across a specimen divided by the volume velocity of airflow through the specimen. The pressure difference and the volume velocity may be either steady or alternating.

airflow resistivity, r_o ; [ML⁻³T⁻¹]; mks rayl/m (Pa·s/m²)—of a homogeneous material, the quotient of its specific airflow resistance divided by its thickness.

ambient noise—the composite of airborne sound from many sources near and far associated with a given environment. No particular sound is singled out for interest.

arithmetic mean sound pressure level—of several related sound pressure levels measured at different positions or different times, or both, in a specified frequency band, the sum of the sound pressure levels divided by the number of levels.

DISCUSSION—The arithmetic mean sound pressure level is sometimes used to approximate the **average sound pressure level**. The accuracy of this approximation depends upon the range of sound pressure levels.

average sound pressure level—of several related sound pressure levels measured at different positions or different times, or both, in a specified frequency band, ten times the common logarithm of the arithmetic mean of the squared pressure ratios from which the individual levels were derived.

Discussion—1—An average sound pressure level obtained by averaging the A-weighted sound level continuously over a specified period is called the **time-average sound level**.

Discussion—2—Since, by definition, a squared pressure ratio, p_i^2/p_0^2 , is equal to $10^{L/I0}$, average sound pressure level is calculated from the expression:

$$\bar{L}_i = 10 \log \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10^{L_i/10} \right)$$

where:

 L_p = average sound pressure level, dB,

n =number of individual sound pressure levels,

 p_i = rms pressure at an individual position or time, or both,

 $p_0 = 20 \,\mu\text{Pa}$, reference sound pressure, and $L_i = \text{an individual sound pressure level, dB.}$

If conditions warrant, an integral expression may be used:

$$\bar{L}_p = 10 \log \left(\frac{1}{T} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (p^2(t)/p_0^2) dt \right)$$

where:

 \bar{L}_p = average sound pressure level during a specified time interval, dB,

 $T = t_2 - t_1 = a$ specified time interval, s, min, h, or day,

p(t) = instantaneous sound pressure, Pa, and

 p_0 = 20 µPa, reference sound pressure.

background noise—noise from all sources unrelated to a particular sound that is the object of interest. Background noise may include airborne, structureborne, and instrument noise.

cutoff frequency—of an anechoic wedge or set of wedges, the lowest frequency above which the normal incidence sound absorption coefficient is at least 0.990.

damp—to cause a loss or dissipation of the oscillatory or vibrational energy of an electrical or mechanical system.

decay rate, *d;* [T⁻¹]; **dB**/s—for airborne sound, the rate of decrease of sound pressure level after the source of sound has stopped; for vibration, the rate of decrease of vibratory acceleration, velocity, or displacement level after the excitation has stopped.

decibel, dB—the term used to identify ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of two like quantities proportional to power or energy. (See **level, sound transmission loss.**) Thus, one decibel corresponds to a power ratio of $10^{0.1}$ and n decibels corresponds to a power ratio of $(10^{0.1})^n$.

Discussion—Since the decibel expresses the ratio of two like quantities, it has no dimensions. It is, however, common practice to treat "decibel" as a unit as, for example, in the sentence, "The average sound pressure level in the room is 45 decibels."

diffraction—a change in the direction of propagation of sound energy in the neighborhood of a boundary discontinuity, such as the edge of a reflective or absorptive surface.

diffuse sound field—the sound in a region where the intensity is the same in all directions and at every point.

direct sound field—the sound that arrives directly from a source without reflection.

dummy microphone—a microphone substitute which has electrical characteristics identical to a functional microphone, but which has essentially no sensitivity to incident sound pressure.

field sound transmission class, FSTC—sound transmission class calculated in accordance with Classification E 413 using values of field transmission loss.

field transmission loss, FTL—sound transmission loss measured in accordance with Annex A1 of Test Method E 336.

flanking transmission—transmission of sound from the source to a receiving location by a path other than that under consideration.

impact insulation class, IIC—a single-number rating derived from measured values of normalized impact sound pressure levels in accordance with Annex A1 of Test Method E 492. It provides an estimate of the impact sound insulating performance of a floor-ceiling assembly.

impedance ratio, $z/\rho c \equiv r/\rho c + jx/\rho c$; [dimensionless]—the ratio of the specific normal acoustic impedance at a surface to the characteristic impedance of the medium. The real and imaginary components are called, respectively, **resistance ratio** and **reactance ratio**.

impulsive sound, *n*—a brief, intrusive sound, such as that associated with a tire blowout, operation of a punch press, the discharge of a firearm, a door slam, or a shout, usually

characterized by a rapid rise time in the initial pressure pulse of less than a few milliseconds, and by a decay time of less than a few seconds.

Discussion—No mathematical description exists to unequivocally define the presence of impulsive sound.

insertion loss, IL—of a silencer or other sound-reducing element, in a specified frequency band, the decrease in sound power level, measured at the location of the receiver, when a sound insulator or a sound attenuator is inserted in the transmission path between the source and the receiver.

interference, *n*—any activity or event that could produce anomalous measurements.

level, *L*—ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of a quantity proportional to power or energy to a reference quantity of the same kind. (See **sound power level, sound pressure level.**) The quantity so obtained is expressed in decibels.

level reduction, *LR*—in a specified frequency band, the decrease in sound pressure level, measured at the location of the receiver, when a barrier or other sound-reducing element is placed between the source and the receiver.

Discussion—Level reduction is a useful measure in circumstances when measures of transmission loss, insertion loss, or noise reduction are not possible.

maximum sound level, $L_{AFmax}[nd]$, (dB) n—Ten times the common logarithm of the square of the ratio of the largest frequency-weighted and exponential-time-weighted (or other wise time-averaged) sound pressure during the measurement period to the square of the reference-sound-pressure of 20 micro pascals. The subscripts designate the frequency weighting (A or C), and time the weighting or averaging (F for fast, S for slow, I for impulse, or a number with proper units to indicate time interval).

DISCUSSION—The time weighting or averaging time must be specified. The frequency weighting should be specified; otherwise, A-weighting will be understood.

measurement plan, *n*—a document formally describing the specific steps to be taken during a measurement, including any unique requirements.

measurement set, *n*—the set of acoustical measurements and related data obtained at a single measurement location during a specified time interval.

DISCUSSION—The specified time interval may include brief documented periods during which data recording or analysis are paused for the purpose of eliminating the effects of interference.

metric sabin, [L²]—the unit of measure of sound absorption in the metre-kilogram-second system of units.

noise isolation class, NIC—a single-number rating calculated in accordance with Classification E 413 using measured values of noise reduction. It provides an estimate of the sound isolation between two enclosed spaces that are acoustically connected by one or more paths.

noise reduction, NR—in a specified frequency band, the difference between the average sound pressure levels measured in two enclosed spaces or rooms due to one or more sound sources in one of them.

Discussion—It is implied that in each room there is a meaningful average level; that is, that in each room the individual observations are randomly distributed about the average value, with no systematic variation with position within the permissible measurement region. Noise reduction becomes meaningless and should not be used in situations where this condition is not met.

noise reduction coefficient, NRC—a single-number rating derived from measured values of sound absorption coefficients in accordance with 11.7 of Test Method C 423. It provides an estimate of the sound absorptive property of an acoustical material.

normal incidence sound absorption coefficient, α_n ; [dimensionless]— of a surface, at a specified frequency, the fraction of the perpendicularly incident sound power absorbed or otherwise not reflected.

normal mode—of a room, one of the possible ways in which the air in a room, considered as an elastic body, will vibrate naturally when subjected to an acoustical disturbance. With each normal mode is associated a resonance frequency and, in general, a group of wave propagation directions comprising a closed path.

normalized noise isolation class, NNIC—a single-number rating calculated in accordance with Classification E 413 using measured values of normalized noise reduction. (See normalized noise reduction.)

normalized noise reduction, *NNR*—between two rooms, in a specified frequency band, the value that the noise reduction in a given field test would have if the reverberation time in the receiving room were 0.5 s. NNR is calculated as follows:

 $NNR = NR + 10 \log (T/0.5)$

where:

NR = noise reduction, dB and

T = reverberation time in receiving room, s.

Discussion—The normalized noise reduction is intended to approximate the noise reduction that would exist between two ordinarily furnished rooms.

octave band, *n*—a band of sound frequencies for which the highest frequency in the range is (within 2%) twice the lowest frequency. The position of the band is identified by the rounded geometric mean of the highest frequency and the lowest frequency of the band. The nominal mid-band frequencies of "preferred" octave bands as defined in AN-SI S1.6 fall in the series 16, 31.5, 63, 125, 250, 500, 1000 Hz

octave band sound pressure level, OBSPL—Lpl/lf where f indicates the nominal center frequency of a specific band if applicable, [nd], (dB), n—sound pressure level for sound filtered using an octave-band filter meeting the requirements of ANSI S1.11.

outdoor-indoor transmission loss, *OITL—of a building fa-cade, in a specified frequency band,* ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the airborne sound power incident on the exterior of the facade to the sound power transmitted by the facade and radiated to the interior. The quantity so obtained is expressed in decibels.

particle velocity, u; [LT⁻¹]; m/s—a fluctuating velocity superimposed by the presence of sound on the other velocities the

particles of the medium may have. In analogy with alternating voltage its magnitude can be expressed in several ways, such as instantaneous particle velocity or peak particle velocity, but the unqualified term means root-mean-square particle velocity. In air, the other velocities are those due to thermal agitation and wind currents.

peak sound pressure level, L_{PK} [nd], (dB), n—ten times the common logarithm of the square of the ratio of the largest absolute value of the instantaneous sound pressure in a stated frequency band during a specified time interval to the reference sound pressure of 20 micropascals.

percentile level*Lx* [*nd*], (dB), *n—of a time varying level*,the level exceeded × percent of the time during the stated measurement period.

DISCUSSION—Percentile levels are affected by measurement parameters such as bandwidth, frequency weighting, time weighting, and sampling rate that must be explicitly stated.

pink noise—noise with a continuous frequency spectrum and with equal power per constant percentage bandwidth. For example, equal power in any one-third octave band.

receiving room—in architectural acoustical measurements, the room in which the sound transmitted from the source room is measured.

reverberant sound field—the sound in an enclosed or partially enclosed space that has been reflected repeatedly or continuously from the boundaries.

reverberation—the persistence of sound in an enclosed or partially enclosed space after the source of sound has stopped; *by extension*, in some contexts, the sound that so persists.

reverberation room—a room so designed that the reverberant sound field closely approximates a diffuse sound field, both in the steady state when the sound source is on, and during decay after the source of sound has stopped.

sabin, [L²]—the unit of measure of sound absorption in the inch-pound system.

self-noise, *n*—extraneous non-acoustical signals, generated or induced in a measurement system.

sound absorption—(1) the process of dissipating sound energy. (2) the property possessed by materials, objects and structures such as rooms of absorbing sound energy. (3) A; [L ²]; metric sabin—in a specified frequency band, the measure of the magnitude of the absorptive property of a material, an object, or a structure such as a room.

Discussion—Sound energy passing through a wall or opening may be regarded as being absorbed in certain calculations.

sound absorption coefficient, α; [dimensionless]; metric sabin/m²— of a surface, in a specified frequency band, the measure of the absorptive property of a material as approximated by the method of Test Method C 423. *Ideally*, the fraction of the randomly incident sound power absorbed or otherwise not reflected.

sound attenuation—the reduction of the intensity of sound as it travels from the source to a receiving location. Sound absorption is often involved as, for instance, in a lined duct. Spherical spreading and scattering are other attenuation mechanisms.

sound energy, *E*; [ML ²T⁻²]; J—energy added to an elastic medium by the presence of sound, consisting of potential energy in the form of deviations from static pressure and of kinetic energy in the form of particle velocity.

sound insulation—the capacity of a structure to prevent sound from reaching a receiving location. Sound energy is not necessarily absorbed; impedance mismatch, or reflection back toward the source, is often the principal mechanism.

Discussion—Sound insulation is a matter of degree. No partition is a perfect insulator of sound.

sound intensity, *I*; [MT⁻³]; W/m²—the quotient obtained when the average rate of energy flow in a specified direction and sense is divided by the area, perpendicular to that direction, through or toward which it flows. The intensity at a point is the limit of that quotient as the area that includes the point approaches zero.

sound isolation—the degree of acoustical separation between two locations, especially adjacent rooms.

Discussion—This qualitative term may be used in lieu of the more quantitative term **noise reduction**. Sound isolation is achieved by using sound-insulating or sound-attenuating elements.

sound level, L_{AF}—where the A designates the frequency weighting and the F designates fast exponential time weighting (the A is replaced by C to designate C-weighting, and the F by either S or I to designate slow or impulse time weighting), [nd], (dB), n- of airborne sound, a sound pressure level obtained using a signal to which a standard frequency-weighting and exponential time weighting has been applied.

Note 1—Standard frequency-weightings designated A and C, and exponential time weightings designated fast, slow, and impulses, are defined in ANSI S1.4, Specification for Sound Level Meters.⁴

Note 2—The frequency-weighting and exponential time weighting must be specified unless made clear from the context.

Note 3—The frequency-weighting modifies the amplitude of the signal as a function of frequency to adjust for differences in perception of sound at different frequencies.

Note 4—In symbols, A-weighted sound level $L_{AF},\, at \, running \, time \, t$ is

$$L_{AF}(t) = 10 \log \{ [1/0.125) \int_{-\infty}^{t} P_A^{2}(v)^{-(t-v)/0.125} dv] / Po^{2}$$

where 0.125 is the time constant in seconds for fast time weighting (1.0 for slow time weighting), v is a dummy variable of integration, $P_A^2(v)$ is the squared, instantaneous, time varying, A-weighted sound pressure in Pascals, and P_0 is the reference sound pressure of 20 μ Pa.

sound power, W; [ML ²T⁻³]; W— in a specified frequency band, the rate at which acoustic energy is radiated from a source. In general, the rate of flow of sound energy, whether from a source, through an area, or into an absorber.

sound power level, L_W —of airborne sound, ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the sound power under consideration to the standard reference power of 1 pW. The quantity so obtained is expressed in decibels.

sound pressure, *p*; [ML ⁻¹T⁻²]; Pa—a fluctuating pressure superimposed on the static pressure by the presence of sound. In analogy with alternating voltage its magnitude can be expressed in several ways, such as instantaneous sound pressure or peak sound pressure, but the unqualified term

means root-mean-square sound pressure. In air, the static pressure is barometric pressure.

sound pressure level, L_p —of airborne sound, ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the square of the sound pressure under consideration to the square of the standard reference pressure of 20 μ Pa. The quantity so obtained is expressed in decibels.

DISCUSSION—The pressures are squared because pressure squared, rather than pressure, is proportional to power or energy.

sound transmission class, STC—a single-number rating calculated in accordance with Classification E 413 using values of sound transmission loss. It provides an estimate of the performance of a partition in certain common sound insulation problems.

sound transmission coefficient, τ ; [dimensionless]—of a partition, in a specified frequency band, the fraction of the airborne sound power incident on the partition that is transmitted by the partition and radiated on the other side.

Discussion—Unless qualified, the term denotes the value obtained when the specimen is exposed to a diffuse sound field as approximated, for example, in reverberation rooms meeting the requirements of Test Method E 90.

sound transmission loss, *TL*—of a partition, in a specified frequency band, ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the airborne sound power incident on the partition to the sound power transmitted by the partition and radiated on the other side. The quantity so obtained is expressed in decibels.

DISCUSSION—Unless qualified, the term denotes the sound transmission loss obtained when the specimen is exposed to a diffuse sound field as approximated, for example, in reverberation rooms meeting the requirements of Test Method E 90.

source room—in architectural acoustical measurements, the room that contains the noise source or sources.

specific airflow resistance, r; [ML⁻²T⁻¹]; mks rayl (Pa·s/m)—
the product of the airflow resistance of a specimen and its
area. This is equivalent to the quotient of the air pressure
difference across the specimen divided by the linear velocity,
measured outside the specimen, of airflow through the
specimen.

specific normal acoustic impedance, $z \equiv r + jx$; [ML⁻²T⁻¹]; mks rayl (Pa·s/m)—at a surface, the complex quotient obtained when the sound pressure averaged over the surface is divided by the component of the particle velocity normal to the surface. The real and imaginary components of the specific normal acoustic impedance are called, respectively, specific normal acoustic resistance and specific normal acoustic reactance.

thermal insulation—a material or assembly of materials used primarily to provide resistance to heat flow.

time-average sound level, TAV—L_{AT} where T is the time of the interval of measurement, [nd], (dB), n—ten times the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of mean-square instantaneous A-weighted sound pressure, during a stated time interval T, to the square of the standard reference sound pressure.

Discussion— Time-average sound level is also termed equivalent sound level or equivalent continuous sound level with corresponding

abbreviation LEQ and symbol L_{AeqT} .

tonal, *adj*—*in reference to audible sound*, capable of exciting an auditory sensation having pitch.

unit—measurement, a precisely specified quantity in terms of which the magnitudes of other quantities of the same kind can be stated.

vibration isolation—a reduction, attained by the use of a resilient coupling, in the capacity of a system to vibrate in response to mechanical excitation.

white noise—noise with a continuous frequency spectrum and with equal power per unit bandwidth. For example, equal power in any band of 100-Hz width.

4. Compound Terms

4.1 The definitions of compound terms may be found in the alphabetical section under the word in boldface type as listed below.

A-weighted, sound level
absorption, sound
absorption coefficient, normal incidence sound
absorption coefficient, sound
acoustic admittance, specific normal
acoustic impedance, specific normal

acoustic reactance—see **acoustic** impedance acoustic resistance—see **acoustic** impedance

admittance, specific normal acoustic

airflow resistance, specific

attenuation, sound

C-weighted, sound level

class, field sound transmission

class, impact insulation

class, noise isolation

class, sound transmission

coefficient, noise reduction

coefficient, normal incidence sound absorption

coefficient, sound absorption

coefficient, sound transmission

conductance ratio—see admittance ratio

density, sound energy

energy, sound

energy density, sound

equivalent continuous sound level, see time-average sound

leve

equivalent sound level, see time-average sound level exponential time weighting—see sound level

fast, sound level

fast exponential time weighting—see sound level

field, diffuse sound

field, direct sound

field, reverberant sound

frequency, cutoff

frequency weighted, sound level

impedance, acoustic

impedance, specific normal acoustic

impedance of the medium, characteristic

impulse, sound level

impulse exponential time weighting—see sound level insulation, sound



insulation. thermal insulation class, impact intensity, sound isolation, sound isolation, vibration isolation class, noise level, arithmetic mean sound pressure level, sound level, sound power level, sound pressure loss, field transmission loss, insertion loss, soundtransmission material, acoustical mode, normal noise, ambient noise, background noise, pink noise, white noise isolation class, normalized noise reduction, normalized normal acoustic admittance, specific normal acoustic impedance, specific power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, arithmetic mean sound pressure level, average sound pressure level, equivalent sound—see average sound pressure level pressure level, **sound** rate, decay ratio, admittance ratio, conductance—see admittance ratio ratio, impedance ratio, reactance—see impedance ratio ratio, resistance—see impedance ratio ratio, susceptance—see admittance ratio reactance, acoustic-see acoustic impedance

reduction, level reduction, noise reduction, normalized noise reduction coefficient, noise resistance, acoustic—see acoustic impedance resistance, airflow resistance, **specific** airflow resistance ratio—see **impedance** ratio resistivity, airflow room, receiving room, reverberation room, source sabin, metric slow, sound level slow exponential time weighting—seesound level sound, airborne sound. structureborne sound absorption coefficient, normal incidence sound field, diffuse sound field, direct sound field, reverberant sound level, equivalent—see average sound pressure level sound transmission class, field susceptance ratio—see admittance ratio time weighting—see sound level transmission class, field sound transmission class, sound transmission coefficient, sound transmission, flanking transmission loss, field transmission loss, outdoor-indoor transmission loss, sound velocity, particle

5. Conversion Factors

5.1 Most factors for converting from measurements in other systems to the International System, SI, are listed in IEEE/ASTM SI 10. A few conversion factors that are not listed explicitly are listed in Table 1.

reactance ratio—see impedance ratio



TABLE 1 Conversion Factors

Quantity	to convert from	to	multiply by
acoustic impedance	cgs acoustic ohm	mks acoustic ohm (Pa·s/m³)	10 ⁵
specific acoustic impedance	cgs rayl	mks rayl (Pa·s/m)	10
airflow resistivity	cgs rayl/cm	mks rayl/m (Pa·s/ m²)	10 ³
absorption	sabin	metric sabin	0.0929

APPENDIXES

X1. TERMS FROM C 634 USED IN OTHER STANDARDS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF E33

X1.1 Table X1.1.



TABLE X1.1

Term **ASTM Standards** acoustic impedance C 384, E 1050 acoustical barrier E 90, E 557, E 1014, E 1110, E 1374, E 1704, E 1780 acoustical material C 367, C 384, C 522, C 635, C 636, E 497, E 557, E 1042, E 1050, E 1110, E 1130, E 1179, E 1414 admittance ratio E 1050 Airborne Sound E 90, E 336, E 413, E 477, E 492, E 497, E 557, E 1007, E 1110, E 1222, E 1289, E 1332, E 1374, E 1408, E 1414, E 1686, E 1704, E 1780, E 2179, E 2249, E 2459 Airflow Resistance C 384, C 522 Airflow Resistivity C 522 C 384, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1686, E 1704, E 2459 Ambient Noise arithmetic mean sound pressure level E 1130, E 1573 average sound pressure level E 90, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 1007, E 1124, E 1130, E 1222, E 1265, E 1408, E 1414, E 1573, E 1779, E 2179, E 2249, E 2459 background noise C 384, C 423, E 90, E 336, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 1007, E 1050, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1414, E 1503, E 1574, E 1780, E 2179, E 2202, E 2249 C 384 cutoff frequency damp E 90 C 423, E 90, E 336, E 492, E 2179 decay rate decibel E 90, E 336, E 477, E 492, E 1014, E 1050, E 1110, E 1111, E 1124 E 1130 E 1222, E 1265, E 1332, E 1414, E 1573 , E 1686, E 1704, E 1780, E 2202, E 2249, E 2459 diffraction C 423, E 90 diffuse sound field C 423, E 90, E 336, E 492, E 596, E 1007, E 1222, E 1414 direct sound field E 90, E 1124, E 1414 E 1503, E 1779, E 1780 dummy microphone E 336, E 413 field sound transmission class field transmission loss E 336 E 90, E 336, E 413, E 477, E 492, E 497, E 557, E 966, E 1007, flanking transmission E 1050, E 1222, E 1374, E 1408, E 1414, E 2249 impact insulation class E 492, E 989, E 1007, E 1332, E 2179 impedance ratio C 384, E 1050 impulsive sound E 1503, E 1686, E 1779, E 1780 insertion loss E 477, E 1222, E 1265E 1265, E 1704, E 2459 C 384, C 423, C 636, C 667, C 871, E 477, E 1014, E 1222,2 interference E 1408, E 1503, E 1686, E 1779, E 1780, E 2249, E 2459 level reduction E 966, E 1130, E 1332, E 1503, E 1686, E 1704, E 1780 E 966, E 1014, E 1686 maximum sound level measurement plan E 1503, E 1779, E 1780 E 1014, E 1503, E 1574, E 1779, E 1780 measurement set metric sabin E 492, E 596, E 1414

TABLE X1.1 Continued

ASTM Standards Term E 336, E 413, E 557, E 596, E 1704 noise isolation class C 423, E 336, E 413, E 497, E 596, E 966, E 1042, E 1414, noise reduction E 1704,E 1780, C 423, E 1042, E 1704,E 1780 noise reduction coefficient C 423. E 1042. E 1704 normal incidence sound absorption C 384, E 1050, E 1130, E 1179 coefficient normal incidence sound absorption C 384, E 1050, E 1130, E 1179 coefficient normal mode E 90, E 492 normalized noise isolation class E 336, E 413 octave band C 423, E 90, E 413, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 989, E 1007, E 1042, E 1110, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1289, E 1332, E 1374, E 1408, E 1414, E 1503, E 1573, E 1574, E 1686, E 1704, E 1779, E 1780, E 2179, E 2202, E 2249, E 2459 E 477, E 492, E 596, E 989, E 1007, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, octave band sound pressure level E 1374, E 1414, E 1573, E 1574, E 1686, E 1704 outdoor-indoor transmission loss F 966 particle velocity C 384, C 522, E 2249 peak sound pressure level E 1686 E 1686, E 1779 percentile level E 90, E 336, E 477, E 1179, E 2459 pink noise receiving room E 90, E 336, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 1007, E 1408, E 1414, E 2179, E 2249 C 423, E 90, E 492, E 966, E 1007, E 1414, E 1704, E 2249 reverberant sound field C 384, C 423, E 90, E 336, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 795, E 966, reverberation E 1042, E 1050, E 1110, E 1222, E 1265E 1265, E 1374, E 1414, E 1433, E 1704, E 2249 reverberation room C 384, C 423, E 90 E 336, E 477, E 492 E 596, E 795, E 966 E 1042, E 1050, E 1110 E 1222, E 1265, E 1374, E 1414, E 1433, E 1704 E 2249 sabin C 423, E 90, E 336, E 492, E 596, E 795, E 966, E 1007, E 1414, E 1503, E 1779, E 1780 self-noise C 367, C 384, C 423, C 522, E 90, E 336, E 477, E 492, E 596, sound absorption E 795, E 966, E 1007, E 1042, E 1050, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1374, E 1414, E 1433, E 1574, E 1704 sound absorption coefficient C 384, C 423, E 336, E 477, E 596, E 795, E 966, E 1042, E 1050, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1414, E 1433, E 1574, E 1704 sound attenuation C 384, C 636, E 90, E 413, E 1007, E 1050, E 1110, E 1374, E 1414, E 1573, E 1779, E 2179 C 384, E 90, E 1050, E 1289, E 1686, E 1704, E 1779, E 2249 sound energy sound insulation E 90, E 413, E 492, E 497, E 557, E 596, E 966, E 989, E 1007, E 1332, E 1408, E 1414, E 1686, E 1704, E 2179, E 2249 sound intensity E 492, E 966, E 1124, E 1408, E 2249 sound isolation E 90, E 413, E 497, E 557, E 596, E 1007, E 1414, E 1704, E 2179, E 2249

TABLE X1.1 Continued

Term	ASTM Standards
sound level	E 90, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 1007, E 1014, E 1110, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1265, E 1332, E 1374, E 1408, E 1414, E 1503, E 1573, E 1574, E 1686, E 1704, E 1779, E 1780, E 2202, E 2459
sound power	C 384, C 423, E 90, E 477, E 596, E 966, E 1007, E 1124, E 1222, E 1265, E 1408, E 1414, E 1704, E 2249
sound power level	C 423, E 90, E 477, E 596, E 966, E 1124, E 1222, E 1265, E 1704, E 2249, E 2459
sound pressure	C 384, C 423, E 90, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 989, E 1007, E 1050, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1265, E 1374, E 1408, E 1414, E 1503, E 1573, E 1574, E 1686,E 1704, E 1779, E 1780, E 2179, E 2249
sound pressure level	C 384, C 423, E 90, E 477, E 492, E 596, E 966, E 989, E 1007, E 1050, E 1124, E 1130, E 1179, E 1222, E 1265, E 1374, \ E 1408, E 1414, E 1503, E 1573, E 1574, E 1686, E 1704, E 1779, E 1780, E 2179, E 2249, E 2459
sound transmission class	E 90, E 413, E 497, E 557, E 1408 E 2249
sound transmission coefficient	E 90
sound transmission loss	C 423, E 90, E 413, E 477, E 492, E 557, E 596, E 966, E 1007, E 1110, E 1222, E 1289, E 1332, E 1408, E 1414, E 1574, E 1779, E 2179, E 2249
source room	E 90, E 492, E 1007, E 1110, E 1414, E 2179, E 2249
specific airflow resistance	C 522
specific normal acoustic impedance	C 384, E 1050
thermal insulation	E 2202
time-average sound level	E 1686, E 1779, E 1780,E 2202
tonal	E 1014, E 1503, E 1574, E 1779, E 1780
unit	C 423, C 635, E 90, E 492, E 966, E 1007, E 1686, E 2179, E 2202, E 2249
vibration isolation	E 596, E 756, E 1111, E 1265, E 1704, E 2235
white noise	E 1130, E 1222 , E 2459

X2. TERMS FROM C 634 USED IN OTHER STANDARDS UNDER THE JURIDICTION OF E33 (SORTED BY STANDARD)

X2.1 Table X2.1.



TABLE X2.1

Standard	Term
C 367	acoustical material, sound absorption
C 384	acoustic impedance, acoustical material, airflow resistance, ambient noise, background noise, cutoff frequency, impedance ratio, interference, normal incidence sound absorption coefficient, particle velocity, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound attenuation, sound energy, sound power, sound pressure, sound pressure level, specific normal acoustic impedance
C 423	background noise, decay rate, diffraction, diffuse sound field, interference, noise reduction, noise reduction coefficient, octave band, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, unit
C 522	acoustical material, airflow resistance, airflow resistivity, particle velocity, sound absorption, specific airflow resistance,
C 635	acoustical material, unit
C 636	acoustical material, interference, sound attenuation
E 90	acoustical barrier, airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, damp, decay rate, decibel, diffraction, diffuse sound field, direct sound field, flanking transmission, normal mode, octave band, pink noise, receiving room, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound attenuation, sound energy, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission class, sound transmission coefficient, sound transmission loss, source room, unit, sound insulation, sound isolation
E 336	airborne sound, background noise, decay rate, decibel, diffuse sound field, field sound transmission class, field transmission loss, flanking transmission, noise isolation class, noise reduction, normalized noise isolation class, pink noise, receiving room, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient
E 413	airborne sound, field sound transmission class, flanking transmission, noise isolation class, noise reduction, normalized noise isolation class, octave band, sound attenuation, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound transmission class, sound transmission loss
E 477	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, flanking transmission, insertion loss, interference, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, pink noise, receiving room, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss
E 492	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decay rate, decibel, diffuse sound field, flanking transmission, impact insulation class, metric sabin, normal mode, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, receiving room, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound insulation, sound intensity, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, source room, unit
E 497	acoustical material, airborne sound, flanking transmission, noise reduction, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound transmission class
E 557	acoustical barrier, acoustical material, airborne sound, flanking transmission, noise isolation class, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound transmission class, sound transmission loss



TABLE X2.1 Continued

	TABLE X2.1 Continued
Standard	Term
E 596	average sound pressure level, background noise, diffuse sound field, metric sabin, noise isolation class, noise reduction, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, receiving room, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, vibration isolation
E 756	vibration isolation
E 795	reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient
E 966	airborne sound, background noise, decibel, diffuse sound field, flanking transmission, interference, level reduction, maximum sound level, noise reduction, octave band, outdoor-indoor transmission loss, receiving room, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound insulation, sound intensity, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, unit
E 989	impact insulation class, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, sound insulation, sound pressure, sound pressure level
E 1007	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, diffuse sound field, flanking transmission, impact insulation class, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, receiving room, reverberant sound field, sabin, sound absorption, sound attenuation, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound level, sound power, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, source room, unit
E 1014	acoustical barrier, decibel, interference, maximum sound level, measurement set, sound level, tonal
E 1042	acoustical material, noise reduction, noise reduction coefficient, octave band, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient
E 1050	acoustic impedance, acoustical material, admittance ratio, background noise, decibel, flanking transmission, impedance ratio, normal incidence sound absorption coefficient, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound attenuation, sound energy, sound pressure, sound pressure level, specific normal acoustic impedance
E 1110	acoustical barrier, decibel, octave band, sound attenuation, sound level, decibel, vibration isolation
E 1111	
E 1123	acoustical material, airborne sound, reverberation, reverberation room, sound transmission loss, source room
E 1124	ambient noise, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, direct sound field, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, sound intensity, sound level sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level
E 1130	acoustical material, ambient noise, arithmetic mean sound pressure level, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, level reduction, normal incidence sound absorption coefficient, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, white noise
E 1179	acoustical material, ambient noise, background noise, normal incidence sound absorption coefficient, octave band , octave band sound pressure level, pink noise, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level



TABLE X2.1 Continued

TABLE X2.1 Continued		
Standard	Term	
E 1222	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, diffuse sound field, flanking transmission, insertion loss, interference, octave band, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, white noise	
E 1265	average sound pressure level, decibel, insertion loss, reverberation, reverberation room, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, vibration isolation	
E 1289	airborne sound, octave band, sound energy, sound transmission loss	
E 1332	airborne sound, decibel, impact insulation class, level reduction, octave band, sound insulation, sound level, sound transmission loss	
E 1374	acoustical barrier, airborne sound, flanking transmission, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound attenuation, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level	
E 1408	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, flanking transmission, interference, octave band, receiving room, sound insulation, sound intensity, sound level, sound power, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission class, sound transmission loss	
E 1414	acoustical material, airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, diffuse sound field, direct sound field, flanking transmission, metric sabin, noise reduction, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, receiving room, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound attenuation, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound level, sound power, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, source room, reverberation, reverberation room, sabin, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient	
E 1503	background noise, dummy microphone, impulsive sound, interference, level reduction, measurement plan, measurement set, octave band, self-noise, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, tonal	
E 1573	arithmetic mean sound pressure level, average sound pressure level, decibel, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, sound attenuation, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level	
E 1574	background noise, measurement set, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, tonal	
E 1686	airborne sound, ambient noise, decibel, impulsive sound interference, level reduction, maximum sound level, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, peak sound pressure level, percentile level, sound energy, sound insulation, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, time-average sound level, unit	
E 1704	acoustical barrier, airborne sound, ambient noise, decibel, insertion loss, level reduction, noise isolation class, noise reduction, noise reduction coefficient, octave band, octave band sound pressure level, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sound absorption, sound absorption coefficient, sound energy, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound level, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, vibration isolation	
E 1779	average sound pressure level, dummy microphone, impulsive sound, interference, measurement plan, measurement set, octave band, percentile level, self-noise, sound attenuation, sound energy, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, time-average sound level, tonal	



TABLE X2.1 Continued

Standard	Term
E 1780	acoustical Barrier, airborne Sound, background noise, decibel, dummy microphone, impulsive sound, interference, level reduction, measurement plan, measurement set, noise reduction, octave band, self-noise, sound level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, time-average sound level, tonal
E 2179	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decay rate, impact insulation class, octave band, receiving room, sound attenuation, sound insulation, sound isolation, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission loss, source room, unit
E 2202	background noise, decibel, octave band, sound level, thermal insulation, time-average sound level, unit
E 2235	vibration isolation
E 2249	airborne sound, average sound pressure level, background noise, decibel, flanking transmission, interference, octave band, particle velocity, receiving room, reverberant sound field, reverberation, reverberation room, sound energy, sound insulation, sound intensity, sound isolation, sound power, sound power level, sound pressure, sound pressure level, sound transmission class, sound transmission loss, source room, unit
E 2459	airborne sound, ambient noise, average sound pressure level, decibel, insertion loss, interference, octave band, pink noise, sound level, sound power level, sound pressure level, white noise

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