



NSAI
Standards

Irish Standard
I.S. EN 352-1:2020&LC:2021

Hearing protectors - General requirements - Part 1: Earmuffs

I.S. EN 352-1:2020&LC:2021

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:

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National Foreword

I.S. EN 352-1:2020&LC:2021 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN 352-1:2020, Hearing protectors - General requirements - Part 1: Earmuffs

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Correction Notice

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Please include the following minor editorial correction(s) in the document related to:

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- ☒ English
- ☒ French
- ☐ German

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- ☐ PQ/UQ
- ☐ Enquiry
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- ☐ 2nd Parallel Formal Vote
- ☐ UAP
- ☐ TC Approval
- ☐ 2nd TC Approval
- ☒ Publication
- ☐ Parallel Publication

It has been brought to our attention that this document, issued on 2020-11-18, requires modification.

Correction of the dates in the title pages and in the XML.

There is no modification to the text itself.

Please find enclosed the updated English and French version.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD
NORME EUROPÉENNE
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EN 352-1

November 2020

ICS 13.340.20

Supersedes EN 352-1:2002

English Version

**Hearing protectors - General requirements - Part 1:
Earmuffs**

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Exigences
générales - Partie 1 : Serre-tête

Gehörschützer - Allgemeine Anforderungen - Teil 1:
Kapselgehörschützer

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 24 February 2020.

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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 352-1:2020) 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 May 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2023.

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 will supersede EN 352-1:2002.

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

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.

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, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

EN 352-1:2020 (E)

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 352-1 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 EN 352-10, 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 earmuffs.

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

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

A maximum variability in insertion loss, measured objectively after a series of performance tests, is specified. The objective test method only facilitates the making of comparative measurements, and the insertion loss values obtained will differ from the measured sound attenuation values. The method to determine the sound attenuation values, which requires the earmuffs to be tested whilst being worn by human test subjects, is regarded as providing the reference test method for the measurement of the acoustic performance of hearing protectors.

EN 352-1:2020 (E)

1 Scope

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

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

The document does not apply to earmuffs outside the size range of headsizes as defined in this document.

This document does not apply to earmuffs for attachment to head protection and/or face protection devices.

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, *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 <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://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.

3.1.2

cup

hollow component which is mounted on the equivalent headband and to which a cushion and a liner are usually fitted

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