

AS/NZS 1269.4:1998

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Occupational noise management

Part 4: Auditory assessment

AS/NZS 1269.4:1998

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee AV/3, Acoustic, Human Effects. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 December 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 15 January 1998. It was published on 5 March 1998.

The following interests are represented on Committee AV/3:

Acoustical Consulting Interests, New Zealand
Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants
Australian Acoustical Society
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Hearing Services
Australian & New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
Department of Bush Fire Services, New South Wales
Department of Labour, New Zealand
New South Wales Nurses Association
Royal Institution of Naval Architects, Australia
Safety Institute of Australia
The Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia
The Institute of Marine Engineers, Australian/New Zealand Division
Victorian WorkCover Authority
WorkCover N.S.W.
WorkSafe, Western Australia

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists
Compensation Court of New South Wales
Composites Institute of Australia
Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee AV/3, Acoustics, Human Effects, to supersede, in part, AS 1269—1989, *Acoustics—Hearing conservation*.

This is Part 4 in a series of Standards the objective of which is to provide requirements and guidance on all facets of occupational noise management. It is recommended that the reader refer to all Parts of [AS/NZS 1269](#) to better understand all relevant terminology and objectives of occupational noise management.

The full series of Standards is as follows:

AS/NZS

1269 Occupational noise management

[1269.0](#) Part 0: Overview

[1269.1](#) Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure

[1269.2](#) Part 2: Noise control management

[1269.3](#) Part 3: Hearing protector program

1269.4 Part 4: Auditory assessment

This Standard lays down requirements and procedures for conducting pure tone air conduction threshold audiometry that is used to monitor the hearing of individuals exposed to noise at work. Audiometric testing of persons exposed to excessive noise may be used for four distinct purposes—

- (a) the identification and documentation of existing hearing loss;
- (b) the early detection of deterioration of hearing in persons exposed to excessive noise;
- (c) the prompt direction of those individuals who are identified as having a hearing loss to an appropriate rehabilitation program; and
- (d) the supply of any special communication or warning system that may be required within the workplace for an individual with a hearing loss.

It is not sufficient to diagnose the cause of an individual's hearing threshold impairment or for the determination of percentage loss of hearing for compensation purposes. The Standard prescribes the conditions under which audiometry should be carried out, the form of the tests, and by whom the tests should be performed. It recommends the procedure for interpreting the test results and for comparison of a reference audiogram with follow-up (monitoring) audiograms, together with the course of action to be followed when deterioration of thresholds is detected.

Since its introduction as an Australian Standard in 1976, AS 1269 has undergone revisions in 1979, 1983 and 1989. The major change from the 1989 edition is the splitting of the Standard into five Parts, with each Part of the series being an expansion of a relevant section in the 1989 edition. The series reflects changes in technology and where applicable, follows guidance and techniques given in relevant International Standards. The series also reflects the change from the concept of a 'noise dose' to that of 'noise exposure'. Exposure has an absolute value which is independent of the noise exposure criterion.

Other changes are the expansion of the noise reduction section to emphasize noise control as the primary goal of an occupational noise management program, the provision of more detailed guidance on the implementation and management of noise control and hearing protector programs, the improvement of procedures for auditory assessment and the publication of the series as Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand documents.

In this Standard, cognizance is taken of ISO 6189, *Acoustics—Pure tone air conduction threshold audiometry for hearing conservation purposes* and Appendix A is based on a draft method for acoustic measurement of audiometric booths supplied by the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Commission (W.A.), Noise Induced Hearing Loss, Approved Procedures Working Party.

Where the number of an IEC Standard is provided in brackets after an Australian Standard number the IEC Standard applies to New Zealand only and the Australian Standard applies to Australia only.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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