

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Occupational noise management**

**Part 4: Auditory assessment**



#### **AS/NZS 1269.4:2014**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee AV-003, Acoustics Human Effects. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 February 2014 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 7 February 2014.  
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The following are represented on Committee AV-003:

Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand  
Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants  
Australian Acoustical Society  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Council of Trade Unions  
Department of Commerce, WorkSafe Division, Western Australia  
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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS/NZS 1269.4.*

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## Occupational noise management

### Part 4: Auditory assessment

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee AV-003, Acoustics, Human Effects, to supersede AS/NZS 1269.4.

This is Part 4 in a series of Standards as follows:

### AS/NZS

- 1269 Occupational noise management
- 1269.0 Part 0: Overview and general requirements
- 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)

The objective of this series of Standards 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.

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 as follows:

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

The procedures in this Standard are not sufficient to diagnose the cause of an individual's hearing threshold loss 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.

The main changes from the 2005 edition of the Standard are replacement of the table of maximum acceptable ambient noise levels for particular makes and models of earphones/enclosure combinations with a method to calculate the maximum permissible ambient noise levels for any earphone/enclosure combination (Appendix C) and deletion of the informative appendix on otoacoustic emissions. The purpose of the change to Appendix C is to replace the device-based specification with a performance-based approach.

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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