

AS/NZS 1269.3:1998

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Occupational noise management

Part 3: Hearing protector program

AS/NZS 1269.3:1998

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee AV/3, Acoustics, 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 and 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 3 in a series of Standards whose objective 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

The objective of this Part is to give requirements and guidance to all people who supply, purchase or wear hearing protectors and to encourage the use of effective criteria in their selection, use, care and maintenance.

Hearing protectors are items of personal protection which, as a result of their sound attenuation properties, reduce the effects of noise on hearing in order to avoid hearing damage. In order that the protection offered by hearing protectors be effectively realized, hearing protectors should be used all the time that the user is in a potentially excessive noise environment. In the selection of hearing protectors, attention is therefore drawn to the importance of considering factors which may influence comfort and acceptance.

In occupational noise management programs, measures other than personal hearing protection such as the identification of noise areas, and the assessment of personal noise exposure and noise control, require attention as priorities.

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 the preparation of this document cognizance was taken of prEN 458: *Hearing Protectors—Recommendations for the selection, use, care and maintenance*.

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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