INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

IEC 61672-1

First edition
2002-05

Electroacoustics – Sound level meters –

Part 1: Specifications

*This **English-language** version is derived from the original **bilingual** publication by leaving out all French-language pages. Missing page numbers correspond to the French-language pages.*

Reference number
IEC 61672-1:2002(E)

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International Electrotechnical Commission
Международная Электротехническая Комиссия

PRICE CODE X

For price, see current catalogue

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ELECTROACOUSTICS – SOUND LEVEL METERS –

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FOREWORD

1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international cooperation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to Technical Committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each Technical Committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
3) The documents produced have the form of recommendations for international use and are published in the form of standards, technical specifications, technical reports, or guides and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.
4) In order to promote international unification, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC International Standards transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional standards. Any divergence between the IEC Standard and the corresponding national or regional standard shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) The IEC provides no marking procedure to indicate its approval and cannot be rendered responsible for any equipment declared to be in conformity with one of its standards.
6) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. The IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 61672-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 29: Electroacoustics, in cooperation with the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

This standard, in conjunction with IEC 61672-2, cancels and replaces IEC 60651, *Sound level meters*, and IEC 60804, *Integrating-averaging sound level meters*.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
29/507/FDIS	29/515/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report of voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Annex A forms an integral part of this standard.

Annexes B and C are for information only.

At the time of publication of this standard, the IEC 61672 series was scheduled to consist at least of the following parts: IEC 61672-1: *Specifications*, IEC 61672-2: *Pattern evaluation tests*, and IEC 61672-3: *Periodic tests*.

The committee has decided that the contents of IEC 61672-1 will remain unchanged until 2005. At this date, the publication will be:

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

ELECTROACOUSTICS – SOUND LEVEL METERS –

Part 1: Specifications

1 Scope

1.1 This standard gives electroacoustical performance specifications for three kinds of sound measuring instruments:

– a conventional sound level meter that measures exponential time-weighted sound level;

– an integrating-averaging sound level meter that measures time-average sound level; and

– an integrating sound level meter that measures sound exposure level.

A single instrument may make any, or all, of the three kinds of measurements. Additional performance specifications are given for the measurement of maximum time-weighted sound level and peak C sound level. Frequency-weighting A is mandatory for all sound level meters specified in this standard.

1.2 Sound level meters conforming to the requirements of this standard have a specified frequency response for sound incident on the microphone from one principal direction in an acoustic free field or from random directions.

1.3 Sound level meters specified in this standard are intended to measure sounds generally in the range of human hearing.

NOTE For measurement of audible sound in the presence of ultrasound, the AU weighting, specified in IEC 61012 [1], may be applied.[1]

1.4 Two performance categories, class 1 and class 2, are specified in this standard. In general, specifications for class 1 and class 2 sound level meters have the same design goals and differ mainly in the tolerance limits and the range of operational temperatures. Tolerance limits for class 2 specifications are greater than, or equal to, those for class 1 specifications.

1.5 This standard is applicable to a range of designs for sound level meters. A sound level meter may be a self-contained hand-held instrument with an attached microphone and a built-in display device. A sound level meter may be comprised of separate components in one or more enclosures and may be capable of displaying a variety of acoustical signal levels. Sound level meters may include extensive analogue or digital signal processing, separately or in combination, with multiple analogue and digital outputs. Sound level meters may include general-purpose computers, recorders, printers, and other devices that form a necessary part of the complete instrument.

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[1] Numbers in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

1.6 Sound level meters may be designed for use with an operator present or for automatic and continuous measurements of sound level without an operator present. Specifications in this standard for the response to sound waves apply without an operator present in the sound field.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

CISPR[2] 16-1:1999, *Specification for radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus and methods – Part 1: Radio disturbance and immunity measuring apparatus*

IEC 60050(801), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Chapter 801: Acoustics and electroacoustics*

IEC 60942, *Electroacoustics – Sound calibrators*

IEC 61000-4-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques – Section 2: Electrostatic discharge immunity test*, Basic EMC Publication

IEC 61000-6-2:1999, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-2: Generic standards – Immunity for industrial environments*

ISO/IEC GUIDE EXPRES:1995, Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement

ISO Publication, ISBN 92-67-01075-1, *International vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology*

2 In English, CISPR stands for International Special Committee on Radio Interference.