



Acoustical Society of America

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New Hearing Protector Rating Standard Approved

(September 24, 2007) The Acoustical Society of America announced the publication today of **ANSI/ASA S12.68-2007 American National Standard Methods of Estimating Effective A-Weighted Sound Pressure Levels When Hearing Protectors are Worn.**

This standard will be valuable to managers, industrial hygienists and hearing conservation professionals responsible for selecting and assigning hearing protectors for noise-exposed workers: military and law-enforcement personnel; manufacturers of hearing protectors; hearing protection testing laboratories; acoustic consultants; and regulatory agencies. Though rating and computational methods have been previously described in the literature, and governmental publications and regulations, this is the first time that an American National Standard specifies such procedures.

This standard specifies three methods, in ascending order of complexity of use and potential accuracy, for the estimation of the sound pressure levels that are effective when a hearing protector is worn. The simplest of the methods is similar to the well-known NRR, but diverges in two key aspects: namely it can be used with A-weighted sound pressure levels instead of requiring the use of C-weighted levels, and instead of specifying a single number at the 98th percentile, it provides values for the 80th and 20th percentiles. This standard is accompanied by an informational spreadsheet programmed to perform the calculations specified in the standard itself.

This Standard was developed by Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise, under operating procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These procedures assure that the Standard represents the consensus of opinion among those with a direct and material interest in the subject matter. The standard was drafted by a working group comprising experts from all segments of the hearing conservation community.

This standard and many other national and international noise standards can be obtained from the Acoustical Society of America Online Store at:

<http://asa.aip.org>

Or, order by phone, fax or mail from:

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ASA offers the full catalog of **ISO/TC108**, **ISO/TC43**, and **IEC/TC29** standards, as well as a wide range of **American National Standards** on the topics of **Acoustics**, **Mechanical Vibration and Shock**, **Bioacoustics** and **Noise**.

The American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) is the national coordinator of voluntary standards development and the clearinghouse in the USA for information on national and international standards.

The Acoustical Society of America is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1929. It is the premier international scientific society in acoustics, dedicated to increasing and diffusing the knowledge of acoustics and promoting its practical applications.