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Australian Standard 1270—1983

HEARING PROTECTION DEVICES



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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The following interests were represented on the committee responsible for the preparation of this standard:

Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian and New Zealand Pulp and Paper Industry Technical Association
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Defence
Department of Health, Vic.
Department of Productivity
Department of Public Health, S.A.
Department of Public Health, W.A.
Electricity Supply Association of Australia
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

HEARING PROTECTION DEVICES

AS 1272-1983

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PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Hearing Conservation to supersede AS 1270—1975. The standard specifies hearing protection devices of the type worn for the prevention of noise-induced hearing loss. The requirements of test sounds and the procedures for measuring real ear attenuation of hearing protection devices follow the recommendations of the National Acoustics Laboratories.

The standard specifies performance tests for hearing protection devices which also include a new test method for clamping force. It also takes into account experience with the test methods prescribed in AS 1270—1975. Recommended quality control tests are included in Appendix B.

The standard provides for the hearing protection devices to bear the certification mark of the Association in order to meet the needs of statutory authorities and other organizations requiring evidence from manufacturers that their products comply with this standard.

The committee responsible for this standard proposes to consider further aspects relating to selection of listeners and effect of plastics headbands and glasses including safety glasses on the SLC_{80} value obtained in the real-ear attenuation test. The results of the above will be taken into account in further revision to this standard.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
for
HEARING PROTECTION DEVICES

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE. This standard specifies the design, material and performance requirements, and test procedures for evaluating hearing protection devices.

1.2 APPLICATION. Hearing protection devices shall comply with the general requirements of Section 2 and with the physical requirements of Section 3. The real-ear attenuation shall be measured in accordance with Section 4.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1269 SAA Hearing Conservation Code
AS 2586 Audiometers

1.4 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

1.4.1 Hearing protection device—a device that is worn to reduce the effects of noise on the auditory system.

NOTE: To provide communication facilities, some protection devices are equipped with earphones. In such cases, the earphone is regarded as an integral part of the hearing protection device.

1.4.2 Disposable hearing protection device—a hearing protection device formed by packing a suitable material* into and around the ear canal. Disposable hearing protection devices are discarded after a single wearing.

1.4.3 Earplug—a hearing protection device, other than disposable hearing protection device, that is inserted into the ear canal.

1.4.4 Ear canal cap—a hearing protection device that covers the ear canal entrance and is held in place by a headband.

1.4.5 Earmuff—a hearing protection device that covers the entire ear and is held in place by a suspension system.

1.4.6 Helmet—a hearing protection device that covers the ears and an appreciable part of the head.

1.4.7 Suspension system—a device that holds the hearing protection device in proper position on the wearer's head. A suspension system may be a headband, a neckband or a safety helmet.

*See also relevant clause of AS 1269.