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Australian STANDARD®

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Design for access and mobility

Part 5: Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired

AS 1428.5:2021

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Association of Consultants in Access Australia
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Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
Austroads
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Design for access and mobility

Part 5: Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee ME-064, Access for People with Disabilities, to supersede AS 1428.5:2010.

This Standard was formulated as part of the expanded suite of Standards that was conceived to provide a set of requirements to satisfy the Disability Discrimination Act (1992).

The objective of this Standard is to assist in the provision of an environment in which people who are deaf or who have a hearing impairment are included in public areas, transport buildings and terminals.

The objective of this revision is to update the document for the purpose of regulatory adoption.

The Standard deals with principles to consider when providing audio facilities for people who are deaf or hearing impaired. Factors affecting speech intelligibility and hearing augmentation are also considered, including electromagnetic interference to communication equipment.

The Standard sets out requirements for hearing augmentation systems, as well as defining numerous terms having previously caused confusion. Also included are emergency warning systems.

This Standard is part of a series that comprises the following:

AS 1428.1, *Design for access and mobility, Part 1: General requirements for access*

AS 1428.2, *Design for access and mobility, Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements — Buildings and facilities*

AS 1428.4.1, *Design for access and mobility. Part 4.1: Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment — Tactile ground surface indicators*

AS 1428.4.2, *Design for access and mobility, Part 4.2: Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment — Wayfinding signs*

AS 1428.5, *Design for access and mobility, Part 5: Hearing augmentation and emergency systems for people who are deaf or hearing impaired*

The terms "normative" and 'informative' are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A "normative" appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an "informative" appendix is only for information and guidance.

The use of notes in this Standard is for an advisory nature only. They provide explanations and guidance on recommended design considerations or technical procedures, as well as an informative cross-reference to other documents or publications.

Contents

Preface ii

Foreword vi

Section 1 Scope and general 1
1.1 Scope and application 1
1.1.1 Scope 1
1.1.2 Application 1
1.2 Normative references 1
1.3 Terms and definitions 2
1.4 Abbreviations 5

Section 2 Hearing augmentation system 7
2.1 General 7
2.2 Types 7
2.2.1 General 7
2.2.2 Terminology 7
2.2.3 Hearing loop system 8
2.2.4 Receiver system 8
2.3 Inbuilt amplification system — Definition 9
2.4 Emergency warning intercom system (EWIS) 10
2.5 Coverage and receiver quantities 10
2.5.1 Coverage 10
2.5.2 Hearing loop system coverage 11
2.6 Receivers 11
2.6.1 Battery 11
2.6.2 Attachments 11
2.7 Signal source 11
2.8 Power source 12
2.9 Loop listener 12
2.10 Technical specifications 12
2.11 Hearing augmentation system at counter 12
2.11.1 Type 12
2.11.2 Screen at a counter 12
2.11.3 Power source 13
2.11.4 Loop listener 14
2.12 Microphones 14
2.12.1 General 14

Section 3 Hearing loop system 15
3.1 Telecoil orientation 15
3.1.1 Blind zones 15
3.2 Specification 16
3.2.1 General 16
3.2.2 Type 16
3.2.3 Coverage area 16
3.2.4 Testing magnetic field strength 17
3.2.5 Background magnetic field strength noise level 18
3.2.6 Frequency response of magnetic field 18
3.2.7 Magnetic field strength 19
3.2.8 Distortion 19
3.2.9 Automatic level control 19
3.2.10 Functional testing 20
3.2.11 Magnetic field strength references 20
3.2.12 Signal source 20
3.2.13 Loop listener 20
3.2.14 Signage 21

3.2.15 Measurements 21
3.2.16 Certificate of conformance 21
3.2.17 Test report — Hearing loop system 21
3.3 Hearing augmentation system for counters 23
3.3.1 General 23
3.3.2 Type 23
3.3.3 Testing magnetic field strength 23
3.3.4 Background magnetic field strength noise level 24
3.3.5 Frequency response of magnetic field 24
3.3.6 Magnetic field strength 25
3.3.7 Distortion 25
3.3.8 Automatic level control 25
3.3.9 Functional testing 26
3.3.10 Magnetic field strength references 26
3.3.11 Power and signal source 26
3.3.12 Loop listener 26
3.3.13 Signage 27
3.3.14 Measurements 27
3.3.15 Certificate of conformance 27
3.3.16 Test report —Hearing augmentation system for counters 28

Section 4 Receiver systems — Modulated radio system 30
4.1 General 30
4.2 Specifications 30
4.2.1 Modulated radio system 30
4.2.2 Receivers 31
4.2.3 Receiver attachments 31
4.2.4 Battery life 32
4.2.5 Loop listener 32
4.2.6 Frequency response 32
4.2.7 Distortion 32
4.2.8 Automatic level control 32
4.2.9 Signage 33
4.2.10 Measurements 33
4.2.11 Calibration 33
4.3 Certificate of conformance 33
4.4 Test report 34

Section 5 Receiver system — Infrared 36
5.1 General 36
5.2 Specifications 36
5.2.1 Infrared system 36
5.2.2 Receiver 37
5.2.3 Receiver attachments 37
5.2.4 Battery life 37
5.2.5 Loop listener 37
5.2.6 Frequency response 38
5.2.7 Distortion 38
5.2.8 Automatic level control 38
5.2.9 Signage 38
5.2.10 Measurements 38
5.2.11 Calibration 38
5.3 Certificate of conformance 39
5.4 Test report 39

Section 6 Sound field amplification system 41
6.1 General 41
6.2 Requirements 41

Section 7 Signage 43

7.1 General 43
7.2 Hearing augmentation systems for counters 43

Section 8 Requirements for warning and alerting systems 45
8.1 General 45
8.2 Auditory 45
8.3 Visual warning devices 45

Appendix A (normative) **Additional Requirements for hearing augmentation systems not covered by the NCC** 46

Appendix B (informative) **Hearing loss** 50

Appendix C (informative) **Comparison of hearing augmentation systems** 52

Appendix D (informative) **Public –wi-fi — latency and attachments** 54

Appendix E (informative) **Spillover and privacy** 55

Appendix F (informative) **Infrared coverage patterns** 56

Appendix G (informative) **Sample test reports** 58

Appendix H (informative) **Vibrating alerts for warning and alerting systems** 64

Bibliography 65

Foreword

Persons with a hearing loss may or may not have a hearing device (such as a personal hearing aid, a cochlear implant, BAHA, brainstem implant or other hearing device) fitted. Using a hearing augmentation system may enable access to auditory communication, including speech, music and sound, by people with a hearing impairment who —

(a) are not wearing a hearing device; or

(b) have hearing device without a telecoil (also known as T-switch); or

(c) have hearing device with a telecoil (also known as T-switch),

while retaining the ability to lip read when in line of sight with the person speaking.

Australian Standard®

Design for access and mobility

Part 5: Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope and application

1.1.1 Scope

This Standard sets out requirements for the design, application of and measurements to be performed on hearing augmentation systems to enable access to auditory communication for people who have a hearing impairment or who are deaf.

This Standard sets out definition of and requirements for:

(a) Hearing augmentation systems, which include —

(i) audio frequency induction loop systems (AFILS), commonly called hearing loop systems;

(ii) systems requiring the use of receivers; and

(iii) systems for use at counters.

(b) Sound field amplification systems.

(c) Inbuilt amplification.

(d) Screens and barriers at counters.

(e) Warning and alerting systems.

NOTE 1 For information on comparison of hearing augmentation systems, see Appendix C.

NOTE 2 For information on hearing loss, see Appendix B.

NOTE 3 The locations where hearing augmentation systems are required is specified in the NCC.

1.1.2 Application

This document is intended for use by planners, designers, regulators, builders, facility managers and operators of buildings and terminals to choose appropriate design solutions and equipment for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of hearing augmentation, communication and warning systems.

1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE 1 Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS/NZS 1428.1, *Design for access and mobility, Part 1: General requirements for access*

AS 1603.17:2020, *Automatic fire detection and alarm systems, Part 17: Warning equipment for people with hearing impairment*