



BSI Standards Publication

**Electroacoustics — Hearing aids — Method for measuring electroacoustic performance up to 16 kHz**

**National foreword**

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# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION



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**Electroacoustics – Hearing aids – Method for measuring electroacoustic performance up to 16 kHz**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references.....	8
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms.....	8
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	8
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	9
4 Mechanical design of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler.....	9
4.1 General.....	10
4.2 Cavity dimensions.....	10
4.2.1 Critical dimensions.....	10
4.2.2 Effective coupler volume.....	10
4.2.3 Diameter of the coupler cavity.....	11
4.3 Verification procedure of the effective coupler volume.....	11
4.3.1 General.....	11
4.3.2 Test set-up.....	11
4.3.3 Effective volume of the coupler under test.....	11
4.4 Measuring microphone.....	12
4.4.1 General.....	12
4.4.2 Preferred microphone.....	12
4.4.3 Alternative microphones.....	12
4.5 Static pressure equalisation vent.....	12
5 Calibration.....	12
5.1 Reference environmental condition.....	12
5.2 Calibration procedure.....	13
6 Coupling of receivers and hearing aids to the coupler.....	13
6.1 Coupling to a hearing aid receiver by means of tubing.....	13
6.2 Coupling to a hearing aid embedded in or connected to an earmould.....	13
6.3 Coupling to a receiver in the canal (RIC hearing aid).....	14
6.4 Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with 2 mm continuous internal diameter tubing.....	15
6.5 Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with earmould simulator.....	16
6.6 Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with thin tubing.....	17
7 Transfer impedance of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler.....	18
8 Comparison of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> , the 2 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler and the occluded-ear simulator.....	19
8.1 Sound pressure level frequency response curves.....	19
8.2 Comparison of the coupler impedance with typical source impedances.....	20
8.3 Influence of sound source impedance on measured level difference between the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler and the 2 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler.....	21
9 Maximum permitted expanded uncertainty for coupler conformance testing.....	22
10 Measurements using the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler.....	23
10.1 General.....	23
10.2 Test enclosure and test equipment.....	23
10.3 Extended frequency range for total harmonic distortion measurements.....	23
10.4 Presentation of data.....	24
10.4.1 General.....	24

10.4.2	Presentation as 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler data .....	24
10.4.3	Presentation as normalised to 2 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler data .....	24
10.5	Maximum permitted expanded uncertainty of measurements performed using the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler .....	24
Annex A (informative) Response transforms between the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler and the occluded-ear simulator .....		26
A.1	General .....	26
A.2	Simulation model of the human ear and approximation of $\lambda/2$ resonances .....	26
A.3	Measured and simulated transform responses of a standard-fitting .....	28
A.4	Transform curves for CIC-fitting and deep-insertion-fitting .....	29
Annex B (informative) Measurement and modelling of the transfer impedance of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler .....		30
B.1	Measurement procedure .....	33
B.1.1	Transfer impedance .....	33
B.1.2	Calibration of the volume velocity source at 250 Hz .....	33
B.1.3	Calibration of the volume velocity source over the frequency range from 100 Hz to 60 kHz .....	34
B.1.4	Test set-up for measuring the coupler transfer impedance .....	34
B.2	Measurement of the coupler transfer impedance .....	35
B.3	Electrical analogue representation of the coupler as a tube model .....	38
Bibliography .....		41
Figure 1 – Mechanical design of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler, shown with removable coupling plate with a nipple for the attachment of coupling tubing .....		10
Figure 2 – Coupling to a hearing aid receiver by means of coupling tubing .....		13
Figure 3 – Coupling to an ITE hearing aid .....		14
Figure 4 – Coupling to a receiver in the canal (RIC hearing aid) .....		15
Figure 5 – Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with 2 mm continuous internal diameter tubing .....		16
Figure 6 – Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with earmould simulator .....		17
Figure 7 – Coupling to a BTE hearing aid with thin coupling tubing .....		18
Figure 8 – Magnitude frequency response of the transfer impedance $\times$ frequency and the related equivalent volume .....		19
Figure 9 – Comparative measurement of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler, the 2 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler and the occluded-ear simulator frequency responses .....		20
Figure 10 – Magnitude frequency responses of acoustic impedance of the 2 cm <sup>3</sup> , the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler and various hearing aid types .....		21
Figure 11 – Deviation from the normalized coupler volume ratio as a function of the effective volume of the sound source $V_s$ .....		22
Figure A.1 – Electrical analogue model of the human ear .....		27
Figure A.2 – Measured transform response of a standard-fitting .....		28
Figure A.3 – Comparison between the measured and the simulated standard-fitting transform response .....		29
Figure A.4 – Transform responses for (a) standard-fitting, b) CIC-fitting and (c) deep-insertion-fitting .....		30
Figure B.1 – Test set-up for measuring the coupler transfer impedance .....		35
Figure B.2 – Average frequency response of 8 coupler measurements .....		35
Figure B.3 – Average transfer impedance of the 0,4 cm <sup>3</sup> coupler .....		36

Figure B.4 – Transfer impedance times frequency re $1 \text{ Pa/m}^3$ in dB and as equivalent volume in $\text{mm}^3$ in the frequency range 100 Hz to 60 kHz .....	36
Figure B.5 – Electrical analogue model based on a tube model .....	39
Figure B.6 – Comparison between the measured (solid line) and the simulated (dashed line) transfer impedance .....	39
Figure B.7 – Frequency responses of simulated $0,4 \text{ cm}^3$ coupler input and transfer impedances .....	40
Table 1 – Values of $U_{\text{max}}$ for basic measurements .....	23
Table 2 – Distortion test frequencies and input sound pressure levels .....	24
Table 3 – Values of $U_{\text{max}}$ for basic measurements .....	25
Table A.1 – Transform data for standard-fitting (fitting at reference plane), CIC-fitting and deep-insertion-fitting .....	31
Table B.1 – Transfer impedance of the $0,4 \text{ cm}^3$ coupler in the frequency range from 100 Hz to 60 kHz .....	37

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ELECTROACOUSTICS – HEARING AIDS –  
METHOD FOR MEASURING ELECTROACOUSTIC  
PERFORMANCE UP TO 16 kHz**

## FOREWORD

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Technical Specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC TS 62886, which is a Technical Specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 29: Electroacoustics.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
29/897/DTS	29/902A/RVC

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

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- transformed into an International standard,
- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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## INTRODUCTION

Advancement in hearing aid design makes it possible to increase the bandwidth of hearing aids up to 16 kHz. Accordingly, there is a need for an accurate and yet robust measurement method for the transducer (receiver, earphone) designer, the hearing aid designer, and the fitter of hearing aids.

The 2 cm<sup>3</sup> coupler as described in IEC 60318-5 is only suitable for measurements up to 8 kHz. The limitation is caused by unfavourable acoustic modes of the coupler.

The occluded-ear simulator as described in IEC 60318-4 simulates the average human external ear up to 8 kHz, and can be used as a test coupler up to 16 kHz. The occluded ear simulator is designed for a specific insertion depth of the earmould, which is associated with half-wavelength  $\lambda/2$  resonance at about 13,5 kHz. This half-wavelength resonance degrades the reproducibility of measurement results in that frequency range and harmonic distortion measurements made at corresponding multiples of the resonance frequency. Also, this resonance represents a complex load to the hearing aid transducer, which makes it more difficult to differentiate between transducer and load related effects.

The effective internal volume of the coupler described in this Technical Specification is 0,4 cm<sup>3</sup>, which is small enough not to produce any resonance in the frequency range below 16 kHz. The frequency response of the magnitude of acoustic impedance follows a pattern of a capacitive load up to about 30 kHz. With a sufficiently high source impedance and a sufficiently small coupling volume, the 0,4 cm<sup>3</sup> coupler provides an approximately 14 dB higher output at 1 kHz in comparison to data obtained with the 2 cm<sup>3</sup> coupler.

The coupler described in this document will allow the characterisation of hearing aids and transducers, including the verification of simulation models, up to 16 kHz.

0,4 cm<sup>3</sup> is also approximately the residual volume of the ear canal when fitted with a CIC hearing aid (completely-in-the-canal) hearing aid, making this coupler particularly useful for this application.

In combination with an appropriate ear-in-ear probe microphone measurement, the 0,4 cm<sup>3</sup> coupler will enable the derivation of real-ear to coupler difference (RECD) up to 16 kHz.

# ELECTROACOUSTICS – HEARING AIDS – METHOD FOR MEASURING ELECTROACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE UP TO 16 kHz

## 1 Scope

IEC TS 62886, which is a Technical Specification, describes a coupler and measurement methods to characterise the electroacoustic performance of hearing aids and insert earphones primarily in the range of 8 kHz to 16 kHz.

## 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. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60118-0, *Electroacoustics – Hearing aids – Part 0: Measurement of the performance characteristics of hearing aids*

IEC 60318-4, *Electroacoustics – Simulators of human head and ear – Part 4: Occluded-ear simulator for the measurement of earphones coupled to the ear by means of ear inserts*

IEC 60318-5, *Electroacoustics – Simulators of human head and ear – Part 5: 2 cm<sup>3</sup> coupler for the measurement of hearing aids and earphones coupled to the ear by means of ear inserts*

IEC 61094-4, *Measurement microphones – Part 4: Specifications for working standard microphones*

IEC 60263, *Scales and sizes for plotting frequency characteristics and polar diagrams*

## 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

– IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

– ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

#### 3.1.1

##### reference cavity

simple cylindrical cavity with the same nominal diameter and height as the coupler under test, establishing a volume that can be measured using precision dimensional metrology

Note 1 to entry: In the context of this document, the reference cavity is 400 mm<sup>3</sup> ± 3 mm<sup>3</sup>, with a diameter of 9,45 mm ± 0,02 mm and a height of 5,70 mm ± 0,02 mm.