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**Acoustics — Recommended practice  
for the design of low-noise workplaces  
containing machinery —**

**Part 2:  
Noise control measures**

*Acoustique — Pratique recommandée pour la conception de lieux de  
travail à bruit réduit contenant des machines —*

*Partie 2: Moyens de maîtrise du bruit*



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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Technical aspects of noise control</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Noise control at source</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1 General	3
5.2 Noise control at source by design	3
5.3 Information on noise emission	4
5.4 Use of low-noise machines	4
5.5 Modification or replacement of machine components	7
5.6 Low noise working and production technologies	8
5.7 Maintenance of machines and noise control devices	8
<b>6 Noise control on the transmission path</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 Noise control by means of a proper spatial arrangement of the noise sources	8
6.2 Use of noise control devices	8
6.3 Noise control by use of sound-absorbing materials	8
6.4 Sound propagation in structures and noise control measures	11
<b>7 Noise control at the work station</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8 Verification methods</b>	<b>12</b>
8.1 General	12
8.2 Sound sources	12
8.3 Noise control devices	12
8.4 Workroom	12
8.5 Specified positions, work stations	12
<b>9 New technologies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Modification or replacement of machine components</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Arrangement of sound sources</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Enclosures</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Annex D (informative) Silencers</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Annex E (informative) Noise barriers and screens in rooms</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Annex F (informative) Acoustical treatment of surfaces</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex G (informative) Structure-borne sound insulation</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex H (informative) Airborne sound insulation of partitions</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Annex I (informative) Noise control at the work station</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Annex J (informative) Example of a new technology</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>29</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Noise*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 211, *Acoustics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11690-2:1996), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are editorial.

A list of all parts in the ISO 11690 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Several standards specify methods for measurement and/or evaluation of noise. The final objective of the ISO 11690 series is noise reduction.

A number of noise control measures are offered. However, in order to be effective, the most appropriate noise control measure(s) should be chosen for a given situation.

It is important when non-acoustic engineers are involved in noise control practice for these engineers to have a basic knowledge of noise emission and propagation characteristics and to understand the basic principles of noise control.

To assist in the development of noise control in the workplace, it is essential that the information contained in these recommended practices is disseminated through International Standards.

In order to reduce noise as a hazard in the workplace, individual countries have produced national legislation. Generally, such national legislation requires noise control measures to be carried out in order to achieve the lowest reasonable levels of noise emission, noise immission and noise exposure, taking into account:

- known available measures;
- the state of the art regarding technical progress;
- the treatment of noise at source;
- appropriate planning, procurement and installation of machines and equipment.

This document, together with the two other parts in the series, outlines procedures to be considered when dealing with noise control at workplaces, within workrooms and in the open. These recommended practices give in relatively simple terms the basic information necessary for all parties involved in noise control in workplaces and in the design of low-noise workplaces to promote the understanding of the desired noise control requirements.

The purpose of the ISO 11690 series is to bridge the gap between existing literature on noise control and the practical implementation of noise control measures. In principle, the series applies to all workplaces and its main functions are:

- to provide simple, brief information on some aspects of noise control in workplaces;
- to act as a guide to help in the understanding of requirements in standards, directives, textbooks, manuals, reports and other specialized technical documents;
- to provide assistance in decision making when assessing the various measures available.

The ISO 11690 series should be useful to persons such as plant personnel, health and safety officers, engineers, managers, staff in planning and purchasing departments, architects and suppliers of plants, machines and equipment. However, the above-mentioned parties should keep in mind that adherence to the recommendations of the ISO 11690 series is not all that is necessary to create a safe workplace.

The effects of noise on health, well-being and human activity are many. By giving guidelines for noise control strategies and measures, the ISO 11690 series aims at a reduction of the impact of noise on human beings at workplaces. Assessment of the impact of noise on human beings is dealt with in other documents.



# Acoustics — Recommended practice for the design of low-noise workplaces containing machinery —

## Part 2: Noise control measures

### 1 Scope

This document deals with the technical aspects of noise control in workplaces. The various technical measures are stated, the related acoustical quantities described, the magnitude of noise reduction discussed, and the verification methods outlined.

This document deals only with audible sound.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such 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.

ISO 11690-1:2020, *Acoustics — Recommended practice for the design of low-noise workplaces containing machinery — Part 1: Noise control strategies*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11690-1 apply.

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 4 Technical aspects of noise control

Noise reduction measures can be applied at source (emission), between the source and the receiver (transmission path), and at the work station (receiver) (see [Figure 1](#)).

When dealing with the noise emission of a machine, an installation or a production process, etc., all possible noise reduction measures should be considered (see [Clause 5](#) and ISO 11690-1). To determine whether noise emission is the lowest level feasible, it is necessary to consider noise emission quantities; these are given in the noise emission declaration (see ISO 11690-1:2020, Clause 8) or determined by measurements (carried out in compliance with the relevant standard).

An assessment of noise control devices such as enclosures, partial enclosures, barriers and screens, silencers, etc. can be carried out by using, for example, the insertion loss data (see [6.2](#)).

The acoustic quality of workrooms and buildings is assessed with reference to the sound insulation regarding airborne and structure-borne sound (see [6.4](#)), and that of workrooms with reference to sound propagation parameters (see [6.3](#)).