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**Acoustics — Measurement of sound  
absorption properties of road surfaces  
in situ —**

**Part 1:  
Extended surface method**

*Acoustique — Mesurage in situ des propriétés d'absorption  
acoustique des revêtements de chaussées —*

*Partie 1: Méthode de la surface étendue*



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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 Summary of the method</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 General principle	3
4.2 Signal separation technique	4
4.3 Test method	5
<b>5 Test system</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 Components of the test system	6
5.2 Sound source	6
5.3 Test signal	6
<b>6 Data processing</b>	<b>6</b>
6.1 Calibration	6
6.2 Sampling frequency	7
6.3 Temporal separation of the signals	7
<b>7 Positioning of the equipment</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1 Maximum sampled area	8
7.2 Positioning of the measuring equipment	8
7.3 Reflecting objects	9
7.4 Background noise	9
7.5 Safety considerations	10
<b>8 Road surface and meteorological conditions</b>	<b>10</b>
8.1 Condition of the road surface	10
8.2 Wind	11
8.3 Temperature	11
<b>9 Measurement procedure</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10 Measurement uncertainty</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>11 Test report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex A (normative) Radius of the maximum sampled area</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Annex B (normative) Reference measurement and correction procedure</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Physical principle of the measurement</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Annex D (informative) Example of a test report</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Annex E (informative) Sound absorption coefficient at non-normal incidence</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Annex F (normative) Correction of small time shifts in the direct impulse response between the free-field measurement and the reflected measurement</b>	<b>25</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*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13472-1:2002), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Reference to IEC 60651 has been replaced with reference to IEC 61672-1;
- Reference to ISO 18233 has been added, in order to have a standardized description of MLS and ESS signals. Two references on ESS have been added to the Bibliography;
- Requirements of a precision  $\pm 0,005$  m on the source-microphone distance has been released to  $\pm 0,01$  m due to the correcting capability offered by the accurate alignment procedure in the new [Annex F](#);
- A procedure, taken from ISO 11819-2, to check the road surface dryness has been specified in [8.1](#);
- Specifications of the time window have been improved;
- Former [Annex D](#) on MLS signals has been deleted (replaced by a reference to ISO 18233);
- Former Annex G on correction of small time shifts has been replaced with the new [Annex F](#), specifying an accurate alignment procedure; [Annex F](#) is now normative.

A list of all parts in the ISO 13472 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

This document describes a test method for measuring, in situ, the sound absorption coefficient of road surfaces as a function of frequency under normal incidence.

This method provides a means of evaluating the sound absorption characteristics of a road surface without damaging the surface. It is intended to be used during road construction, road maintenance and other traffic noise studies. It may also be used to qualify the absorption characteristics of road surfaces used for vehicle and tyre testing. However, the standard uncertainty is limited to 0,05.

This method is based on free-field propagation of the test signal from the source to the road surface and back to the receiver, and covers an area of approximately 3 m<sup>2</sup> and a frequency range, in one-third-octave bands, from 250 Hz to 4 kHz (see IEC 61260).

To complement this method, a spot method (see ISO 13472-2) is available. This method is based on the transmission of the test signal from the source to the road surface and back to the receiver inside a tube and covers an area of approximately 0,1 m<sup>2</sup> and a frequency range, in one-third-octave bands, from 315 Hz to 2 kHz.

Both methods should give the same results in the frequency range from 315 Hz to 2 kHz.

They are both applicable also to acoustic materials other than road surfaces.

The measurement results of this method are comparable with the results of impedance tube methods, performed on bore cores taken from the surface (e.g. ISO 10534-1 and ISO 10534-2).

The measurement results of this method are in general not comparable with the results of the reverberation room method (see ISO 354), because the method described in this document uses a directional sound field, while the reverberation room method assumes a diffuse sound field.

See [Annex E](#) for information about sound absorption coefficient under non-normal incidence.



# Acoustics — Measurement of sound absorption properties of road surfaces in situ —

## Part 1: Extended surface method

### 1 Scope

This document describes a test method for measuring in situ the sound absorption coefficient of road surfaces as a function of frequency in the range from 250 Hz to 4 kHz.

Normal incidence is assumed. However, the test method can be applied at oblique incidence although with some limitations (see [Annex F](#)). The test method is intended for the following applications:

- determination of the sound absorption properties of road surfaces in actual use;
- comparison of sound absorption design specifications of road surfaces with actual performance data of the surface after completion of the construction work.

The complex reflection factor can also be determined by this method.

### 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.

ISO 10534-1, *Acoustics — Determination of sound absorption coefficient and impedance in impedance tubes — Part 1: Method using standing wave ratio*

ISO 10534-2, *Acoustics — Determination of sound absorption coefficient and impedance in impedance tubes — Part 2: Transfer-function method*

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters – Part 1: Specifications*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement — Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

#### 3.1

##### angle of incidence

angle between the normal to the surface under test and the direction of the sound wave impinging on the test surface