

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

IEC
268-17

First edition
1990-09

Sound system equipment

Part 17:
Standard volume indicators

*Equipements pour systèmes électroacoustiques -
Partie 17: Indicateurs de volume normalisés*



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Terminology, graphical and letter symbols

For general terminology, readers are referred to IEC 60050: *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (IEV).

For graphical symbols, and letter symbols and signs approved by the IEC for general use, readers are referred to publications IEC 60027: *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology*, IEC 60417: *Graphical symbols for use on equipment. Index, survey and compilation of the single sheets* and IEC 60617: *Graphical symbols for diagrams*.

* See web site address on title page.

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Publication 268-17 de la CEI
(Première édition - 1990)

Equipements pour systèmes
électroacoustiques

Partie 17: Indicateurs de volume normalisés

IEC Publication 268-17
(First edition - 1990)

Sound system equipment

Part 17: Standard volume indicators

C O R R I G E N D U M

Page 10

Figure 2

Under the figure 2, instead of:

T_{st} = start time
 T_{st} = stop time

read:

T_{st} = start time
 T_{sp} = stop time

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT *

Part 17: Standard volume indicators

FOREWORD

- 1) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters, prepared by Technical Committees on which all the National Committees having a special interest therein are represented, express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the subjects dealt with.
- 2) They have the form of recommendations for international use and they are accepted by the National Committees in that sense.
- 3) In order to promote international unification, the IEC expresses the wish that all National Committees should adopt the text of the IEC recommendation for their national rules in so far as national conditions will permit. Any divergence between the IEC recommendation and the corresponding national rules should, as far as possible, be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 4) The IEC has not laid down any procedure concerning marking as an indication of approval and has no responsibility when an item of equipment is declared to comply with one of its recommendations.

This standard has been prepared by Technical Committee No.84: Equipment and systems in the field of audio, video and audiovisual engineering.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

Six Months' Rule	Report on Voting
84(C0)63	84(C0)83

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the Voting Report indicated in the above table.

The following IEC publication is quoted in this standard:

Publication No. 268-10 (1991): Sound system equipment, Part 10: Peak programme level meters.

* A bilingual (French-English) version of this publication is also available.

SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT

Part 17: Standard volume indicators

1 Scope

This standard gives the characteristics to be specified, performance requirements and the relevant methods of measurement for electro-mechanical volume indicators. The concept of "volume" is a practical way of assigning a numerical value to the magnitude of electrical speech and music programme signals.

Since the response of the meter movement of such an indicator to the rapidly varying programme voltage is greatly dependent upon its dynamic characteristics, a standard for volume measurements shall therefore include a specification of these characteristics. The term "vu" (pronounced "vee-you" and written with lower case letters) is used to express volume in terms of vu above or below a specified reference level.

This standard does not deal with peak programme level meters which are the subject of IEC 268-10.

2 Definitions

2.1 "vu" is a quantitative expression of volume in an electrical circuit.

2.2 The standard volume indicator is a device for the indication of volume having the characteristics described in this standard.

A standard volume indicator (or vu-indicator) consists of three parts:

- an indicating meter with a full-wave rectifier;
- an attenuator (adjustable loss);
- a fixed series resistor (fixed loss).

The reading is obtained by the algebraic addition of the value indicated by the meter and the value indicated on the attenuator scale.

3 Reference indication

The reference indication is the meter scale point marked 0 or 100 % on the vu scale (see figure 3).