

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Occupational noise management

Part 0: Overview and general requirements

AS/NZS 1269.0:2005

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee AV-003, Acoustics, Human Effects. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 27 January 2005 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 February 2005.
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The following are represented on Committee AV-003:

Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants
Association of Consulting Engineers Australia
Australian Acoustical Society
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Department of Consumer & Employment Protection, WorkSafe Division, W.A.
Department of Labour, New Zealand
National Acoustic Laboratories
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee AV-003, Acoustics, Human Effects to supersede AS/NZS 1269.0:1998, *Occupational noise management, Part 0: Overview*.

This is Part 0 in a series of Standards as follows:

AS/NZS

1269	Occupational noise management
1269.0	Part 0: Overview and general requirements (this Standard)
1269.1	Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure
1269.2	Part 2: Noise control management
1269.3	Part 3: Hearing protector program
1269.4	Part 4: Auditory assessment

The objective of this series of Standards is to provide requirements and guidance on all facets of occupational noise management. It is recommended that the reader refer to all parts of the AS/NZS 1269 series to better understand all relevant terminology and objectives of occupational noise management.

The objective of this Part is to provide an overview to the series of Standards on occupational noise management and to give requirements and guidance on adopting an integrated approach to occupational noise management.

The main changes from the 1998 edition of the Standard are the inclusion of the informative appendices on ototoxic agents and acoustic shock. In addition, the key steps in a noise management program are set out as requirements.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

Exposure standards for occupational noise in Australia are declared in the *National Standard for Occupational Noise* [NOHSC:1007(2000)] which is published by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission. Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation provide the actual noise exposure standards in force in each jurisdiction. In New Zealand the *Health and Safety in Employment Act* (1992) and the *Health and Safety in Employment Regulations* (1995) Part 2: *Duties in relation to management of particular hazards* provide the relevant noise exposure standards.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard Occupational noise management

Part 0: Overview and general requirements

1 SCOPE

This Standard provides an overview of the AS/NZS 1269 series and general requirements on occupational noise management. The series deals with noise as it affects hearing, but does not deal with other effects of noise. It also provides an integrated approach to establishing, implementing and evaluating an occupational noise management program.

The setting of occupational noise criteria is not within the scope of this series of Standards. Such criteria are set by regulations or organizational policy, not by Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand. Exposure standards may be found in the occupational health and safety or related regulations that are applicable for the workplace under assessment. Criteria lower than these exposure standards may be set by the organization's noise policy.

NOTE: Noise constitutes only one of many relevant workplace issues which should be considered for assessment as a component of an occupational health and safety survey. The AS/NZS 1269 series addresses the most relevant issues associated with occupational noise management. It does not deal with associated issues such as community noise and general environmental noise. Further advice on those issues should be sought from the Standards that deal with these issues.

In undertaking an overall occupational health and safety survey, the program should be carefully planned to ensure that the need for assessment of all other pertinent occupational health and safety issues is considered.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS/NZS

- 1269 Occupational noise management
- 1269.1 Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure
- 1269.2 Part 2: Noise control management
- 1269.3 Part 3: Hearing protector program
- 1269.4 Part 4: Auditory assessment
- 1270 Acoustics—Hearing protectors

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

3.1 Emission

The radiation of sound from a sound source.

NOTE: See Paragraph A2 of Appendix A.

3.2 Excessive noise

Noise above the noise exposure criteria as set by the relevant statutory authorities or by the organization's noise policy, whichever is the lower.