

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Hearing aids**

**Part 2: Hearing aids with automatic gain  
control circuits**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee AV-003, Acoustics—Human Effects. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 3 November 2006. This Standard was published on 20 February 2007.

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  - Association of Consulting Engineers Australia
  - Audiological Society of Australia
  - Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine
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  - The Australian Society of Otolaryngological Head and Neck Surgery
  - Victorian WorkCover Authority
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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Hearing aids

### Part 2: Hearing aids with automatic gain control circuits

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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 1088.2—1987.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to specify dynamic and static performance characteristics of hearing aids with AGC circuits together with the relevant methods of measurement for these characteristics.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from IEC 60118-2, Ed. 2.0 (1983), *Hearing aids – Part 2: Hearing aids with automatic gain control circuits* including its Amendment 1:1993 and Amendment 2:1997, which have been incorporated into the source text.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown only on the cover and title page.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian Standard</i>	
IEC		AS	
60118	Hearing aids	60118	
60118-0	Part 0: Measurement of electroacoustical characteristics (including its Amendment 1:1994)	60118.0	Part 0: Measurement of electroacoustical characteristics
60118-1	Part 1: Hearing aids with induction pick-up coil input	60118.1	Part 1: Hearing aids with induction pick-up coil input
60118-6	Part 6: Characteristics of electrical input circuits for hearing aids	60118.6	Part 6: Characteristics of electrical input circuits for hearing aids
60263	Scales and sizes for plotting frequency characteristics and polar diagrams	—	
60268	Sound system equipment		
60268-8	Part 8: Automatic gain control devices	—	
60711	Occluded-ear simulator for the measurement of earphones coupled to the ear by ear inserts	2928	Occluded-ear simulator for the measurement of earphones coupled to the ear by ear inserts
		AS/NZS	
61260	Electroacoustics—Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters	4476	Acoustics—Octave-band and fractional-octave-band-filters

An informative annex is only for information and guidance.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 Scope .....	1
2 Object .....	1
3 Conditions .....	2
3.1 General conditions .....	2
4 Explanation of terms .....	2
4.1 Automatic gain control (AGC) .....	2
4.2 Steady-state input/output graph .....	2
4.3 Lower AGC limit or AGC threshold .....	2
4.4 Compression ratio (between specified input sound pressure level values) .....	2
4.5 Dynamic output characteristics .....	2
4.6 Attack time .....	2
4.7 Recovery time .....	3
4.8 AGC activated frequency response .....	3
4.9 Operating frequency range of the AGC .....	3
4.10 Overall root-mean-square sound pressure level (overall r.m.s. SPL) .....	3
4.11 One-third-octave band level .....	3
4.12 Auto-spectrum (power spectrum) .....	3
4.13 Cross-spectrum ( $G_{AB}$ ) .....	3
4.14 Coherence .....	4
4.15 Synchronous analysis .....	4
5 Steady-state input/output graph .....	4
6 Dynamic output characteristics .....	4
6.1 Characteristics to be measured .....	4
6.2 Methods of measurement .....	5
7 Non-linear distortion .....	5
7.1 Transients .....	5
7.2 Harmonic distortion .....	5
7.3 Intermodulation distortion .....	6
8 Effect on steady-state and dynamic performance with respect to variation in battery or supply voltage .....	6
9 AGC activated frequency response of hearing aids with a single channel AGC circuit in operation using pure tone signals .....	6
9.1 Introduction .....	6
9.2 General conditions .....	6
9.3 Test equipment .....	6
9.4 Test conditions .....	7
9.5 Measurement .....	7
9.6 Frequency response recording chart .....	8
10 Frequency response of hearing aids with AGC circuits in operation using steady-state broad-band input signals .....	8
10.1 General .....	8
10.2 Test enclosure .....	9
10.3 Test conditions .....	9
10.4 Test equipment .....	10

10.5 Measurements of frequency responses .....	11
10.6 Frequency response recording chart .....	12
Annex A (informative) Examples of measuring systems .....	13
Annex B (informative) Smoothed data presentation .....	16
Annex C (informative) Bibliography .....	17

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIAN

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**Australian Standard****Hearing aids****Part 2: Hearing aids with automatic gain control circuits**

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**1 Scope**

**1.1** This standard applies to the hearing aids of any type with automatic gain control (AGC) circuits.

This standard gives uniform methods for specifying dynamic and static performance characteristics of hearing aids with AGC circuits together with the relevant methods of measurement for these characteristics.

This standard is confined to a description of the different characteristics and the relevant methods of measurement. It does not attempt to specify performance requirements.

**1.2** This standard includes devices which have compression and/or limiting properties with respect to the envelope of the input signal. Devices which control the long-term average output level are also included.

- a) AGC is employed to obtain compression, or the reduction of the dynamic range of the sound at the output, with the object of preserving the integrity of the input waveform.
- b) AGC circuits instead of clipping devices are often used for limiting purposes.

A limiting effect occurs when the input/output characteristic flattens out at higher input levels. Limiting action is mainly used as a means of preventing excessive output sound from the hearing aid from reaching the listener's ear.

**1.3** This standard does not include:

- a) Expanders.
- b) Clipping devices, which cut off the signal peaks above a certain level; such devices differ basically from AGC circuits, which, in a steady state, tend to preserve the waveform of the input signal.

Note - An AGC circuit with very short recovery time may cause considerable distortion, especially in the low-frequency range. This should be given special attention.

**2 Object**

**2.1** The purpose of this standard is to facilitate measurements of certain characteristics of hearing aids with AGC circuits that are not described elsewhere in IEC 60118-0: *Hearing aids, Part 0: Measurement of electroacoustical characteristics*, and which are considered necessary for a physical description of the function of the automatic gain control.

**2.2** In general, the methods of measurement recommended are those which are considered to be the most directly related to the characteristics. This does not exclude the use of other stated methods which will give equivalent results.