



**ASA/ANSI S2.72-2002/Part 1 / ISO  
2631-1:1997  
(formerly ANSI S3.18-2002 / ISO 2631-1:  
2001)**

**Reaffirmed by ANSI September 11, 2018**

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**

**Mechanical vibration and shock – Evaluation of  
human exposure to whole-body vibration – Part 1:  
General requirements  
(a nationally adopted international standard)**

**Secretariat:**

**Acoustical Society of America**

**Approved on 13 May 2002:**

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

**Abstract**

This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 defines methods for the measurement of periodic, random and transient whole-body vibration. It indicates the principal factors that combine to determine the degree to which a vibration exposure will be acceptable. Informative annexes indicate current opinion and provide guidance on the possible effects of vibration on health, comfort and perception and motion sickness. The frequency range considered is 0.5 Hz to 80 Hz for health, comfort and perception and 0.1 Hz to 0.5 Hz for motion sickness.

Although the potential effects on human performance are not covered, most of the guidance on whole-body vibration measurement also applies to this area. This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 also defines the principles of preferred methods of mounting transducers for determining human exposure. It does not apply to the evaluation of extreme-magnitude single shocks such as occur in vehicle accidents.

This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 is applicable to motions transmitted to the human body as a whole through the supporting surfaces: the feet of a standing person, the buttocks, back and feet of a seated person or the supporting area of a recumbent person. This type of vibration is found in vehicles, in machinery, in buildings and in the vicinity of working machinery.

Reaffirmed by ANSI  
on June 1, 2007

Reaffirmed by ANSI  
on August 6, 2012

Reaffirmed by ANSI  
September 11, 2018

ANSI S2.72-2002/Part 1 / ISO 2631-1:1997  
(formerly ANSI S3.18-2002 / ISO 2631-1: 2001)

---

---

---

## AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

# **Mechanical vibration and shock – Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration – Part 1: General requirements**

A Nationally Adopted International Standard

---

---

---

NAIS  
ANSI S2.72-2002/Part 1 /  
ISO 2631-1: 1997

Accredited Standards Committee S2, Mechanical Vibration and Shock

---

Standards Secretariat  
Acoustical Society of America  
35 Pinelawn Road, Suite 114 E  
Melville, NY 11747-3177

The American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) is the national coordinator of voluntary standards development and the clearinghouse in the U.S.A. for information on national and international standards.

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) is an organization of scientists and engineers formed in 1929 to increase and diffuse the knowledge of acoustics and to promote its practical applications.



**ANSI S2.72-2002/Part 1 / ISO 2631-1:1997  
(Formerly ANSI S3.18-2002 / ISO 2631-1:1997)**

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**

# **Mechanical vibration and shock — Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration — Part 1: General requirements**

**A Nationally Adopted International Standard**

**Secretariat**

**Acoustical Society of America (ASA)**

**Approved 13 May 2002**

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

## **Abstract**

This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 defines methods for the measurement of periodic, random and transient whole-body vibration. It indicates the principal factors that combine to determine the degree to which a vibration exposure will be acceptable. Informative annexes indicate current opinion and provide guidance on the possible effects of vibration on health, comfort and perception and motion sickness. The frequency range considered is

- 0.5 Hz to 80 Hz for health, comfort and perception and
- 0.1 Hz to 0.5 Hz for motion sickness.

Although the potential effects on human performance are not covered, most of the guidance on whole-body vibration measurement also applies to this area. This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 also defines the principles of preferred methods of mounting transducers for determining human exposure. It does not apply to the evaluation of extreme-magnitude single shocks such as occur in vehicle accidents.

This part of ANSI S2.72 / ISO 2631 is applicable to motions transmitted to the human body as a whole through the supporting surfaces: the feet of a standing person, the buttocks, back and feet of a seated person or the supporting area of a recumbent person. This type of vibration is found in vehicles, in machinery, in buildings and in the vicinity of working machinery.

## AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS ON ACOUSTICS

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) provides the Secretariat for Accredited Standards Committees S1 on Acoustics, S2 on Mechanical Vibration and Shock, S3 on Bioacoustics, and S12 on Noise. These committees have wide representation from the technical community (manufacturers, consumers, trade associations, general interest, and government representatives). The standards are published by the Acoustical Society of America through the American Institute of Physics as American National Standards after approval by their respective Standards Committees and the American National Standards Institute.

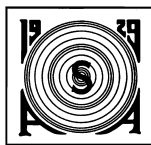
These standards are developed and published as a public service to provide standards useful to the public, industry, and consumers, and to Federal, State and local governments.

Each of the accredited Standards Committees [operating in accordance with procedures approved by American National Standards Institute (ANSI)] is responsible for developing, voting upon, and maintaining or revising its own Standards. The ASA Standards Secretariat administers Committee organization and activity, and provides liaison between the Accredited Standards Committees and ANSI. After the Standards have been produced and adopted by the Accredited Standards Committees, and approved as American National Standards by ANSI, the ASA Standards Secretariat arranges for their publication and distribution.

An American National Standard implies a consensus of those substantially concerned with its scope and provisions. Consensus is established when, in the judgment of the ANSI Board of Standards Review, substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. Substantial agreement means much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that a concerted effort be made towards their resolution.

The use of an American National Standard is completely voluntary. Their existence does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he has approved the standards or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standards.

NOTICE: This American National Standard may be revised or withdrawn at any time. The procedures of the American National Standards Institute require that action be taken periodically to reaffirm, revise, or withdraw a standard.



Standards Secretariat  
Acoustical Society of America  
35 Pinelawn Road, Suite 114 E  
Melville, NY 11747-3177  
USA  
Telephone: +1 631 390 0215  
Fax: +1 631 390 0217  
E-Mail: [asastds@aip.org](mailto:asastds@aip.org)

© 2002 by Acoustical Society of America. This standard may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form for sale, promotion, or any commercial purpose, or any purpose not falling within the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976, without prior written permission of the publisher. For permission, address a request to the Standards Secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America.

These materials are subject to copyright claims of ISO, IEC, ANSI, and ASA. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, including an electronic retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). All requests pertaining to this standard should be submitted to the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

## Contents

1	Scope .....	1
2	Normative references.....	1
3	Definitions .....	2
4	Symbols and subscripts.....	2
4.1	Symbols .....	2
4.2	Subscripts .....	2
5	Vibration measurement.....	3
5.1	General .....	3
5.2	Direction of measurement .....	3
5.3	Location of measurement.....	4
5.4	General requirements for signal conditioning.....	5
5.5	Duration of measurement .....	5
5.6	Reporting of vibration conditions .....	6
6	Vibration evaluation .....	6
6.1	Basic evaluation method using weighted root-mean-square acceleration.....	6
6.2	Applicability of the basic evaluation method.....	7
6.3	Additional evaluation of vibration when the basic evaluation method is not sufficient.....	7
6.4	Frequency weighting .....	11
6.5	Combining vibrations in more than one direction .....	14
6.6	Guide to the use of the vibration evaluation methods .....	14
7	Health.....	15
7.1	Application .....	15
7.2	Evaluation of the vibration .....	15
7.3	Guidance on the effects of vibration on health .....	16
8	Comfort and perception .....	16
8.1	Application .....	16
8.2	Comfort .....	16
8.3	Perception.....	18
8.4	Guidance on the effects of vibration on perception and comfort.....	19
9	Motion sickness .....	19
9.1	Application .....	19

9.2	Evaluation of the vibration .....	19
9.3	Guidance on the effects of vibration on the incidence of motion sickness.....	20
Annex A	Mathematical definition of the frequency weightings.....	21
Annex B	Guide to the effects of vibration on health.....	24
Annex C	Guide to the effects of vibration on comfort and perception .....	27
Annex D	Guide to the effects of vibration on the incidence of motion sickness .....	30
Annex E	Bibliography.....	32

## Tables

Table 1	— Guide for the application of frequency-weighting curves for principal weightings .....	2
Table 2	— Guide for the application of frequency-weighting curves for additional weighting factors .....	3
Table 3	—Principal frequency weightings in one-third octaves .....	7
Table 4	— Additional frequency weightings in one-third octaves .....	9
Table A.1	— Parameters of the transfer functions of the principal frequency weightings .....	21
Table A.2	— Parameters of the transfer functions of the additional frequency weightings .....	21

## Figures

Figure 1	—Basocentric axes of the human body .....	4
Figure 2	— Frequency weighting curves for principal weightings.....	12
Figure 3	— Frequency weighting curves for additional weightings.....	13
Figure B.1	— Health guidance caution zones.....	25

## Foreword

[This foreword is not part of the Nationally Adopted International Standard (NAIS), Mechanical vibration and shock – Evaluation of human exposure to whole body vibration – Part 1: General requirements, ANSI S2.72-2002/Part 1 / ISO 2631-1:1997 (formerly ANSI S3.18-2002 / ISO 2631-1:1997).]

This Nationally Adopted International Standard (NAIS) comprises a part of a group of definitions, standards, and specifications for use in work related to human exposure to mechanical vibration and shock. It has been adopted by the American National Standards Institute utilizing the Accredited Standards Committee Procedures, under the Secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America.

Accredited Standards Committee S3, Bioacoustics, under whose jurisdiction this NAIS was adopted, had the following scope at that time:

*Standards, specifications, methods of measurement and test, and terminology in the fields of psychological and physiological acoustics, including aspects of general acoustics, shock, and vibration which pertain to biological safety, tolerance and comfort.*

This Standard is identical to International Standard ISO 2631-1:1997, Mechanical vibration and shock – Evaluation of human exposure to whole body vibration, which was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 108, Mechanical vibration and shock, Subcommittee SC 4, Human exposure to Mechanical vibration and shock. However, in conformance with ANSI and ISO rules, decimal points were substituted in place of the commas used in ISO documents, the words "American National Standard" replace the words "International Standard" where they appear in the ISO document, and an informational footnote has been added on page 1.

In 2004, work related to human exposure to mechanical vibration and shock was transferred to Accredited Standards Committee S2, Mechanical Vibration and Shock. Five approved S3 standards were transferred to S2 at that time and were redesignated and republished as they each came up for reaffirmation in the normal standards cycle. This redesignation of ANSI S3.18-2002 / ISO 2631-1:1997 is taking place under this process. No substantive changes have been made to the approved 2002 text, except as noted in the preceding paragraph.

The ANSI equivalent for an ISO standard referenced herein is given below:

- ANSI S2.1-2000/ISO 2041:1990 is an identical national adoption of ISO 2041:1990.

At the time this NAIS was submitted to Accredited Standards Committee S3, Bioacoustics, for final approval, the membership was as follows:

R. F. Burkard, *Chairman*  
J. Franks, *Vice Chairman*  
S. B. Blaeser, *Secretary*

Acoustical Society of America ..... R. F. Burkard  
.....J. Franks (*Alt.*)  
American Academy of Audiology .....L. Shotland  
..... D. A. Fabry (*Alt.*)  
American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Inc. .... R. A. Dobie  
.....L. A. Michael (*Alt.*)

American Industrial Hygiene Association .....	J. Banach
.....	D. Driscoll ( <i>Alt.</i> )
American Otological Society .....	R. F. Naunton
American Speech-Hearing-Language Association (ASHA).....	G. Linn
.....	R. Levinson ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Audio Engineering Society .....	D. Queen
.....	M. R. Chial ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC).....	R. D. Bruce
.....	E. H. Berger ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Caterpillar, Inc. ....	D. Roley
.....	K. G. Meitl ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Hearing Industries Association.....	R. Scicluna
.....	C. M. Rogin ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Howard Leight Industries .....	V. Larson
.....	E. Woo ( <i>Alt.</i> )
International Safety Equipment Association.....	J. Birkner
.....	J. C. Bradley ( <i>Alt.</i> )
MAICO .....	S. Savre
.....	D. Speidel ( <i>Alt.</i> )
National Hearing Aid Society .....	R. Giles
National Institute of Standards and Technology.....	V. Nedzelitsky
.....	R. Wagner ( <i>Alt.</i> )
Power Tool Institute .....	S. Broadbent
.....	J. Nosko ( <i>Alt.</i> )
U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Lab .....	W. Ahroon
.....	D. Ostler ( <i>Alt.</i> )
U.S. Army CERL .....	L. Pater
U.S. Army Human Research & Engineering Directorate .....	T. R. Letowski
.....	J. Kalb ( <i>Alt.</i> )
U.S. Department of the Air Force.....	R. McKinley

Individual Experts of Accredited Standards Committee S3, Bioacoustics, were:

J. Bareham	K. D. Kryter	P. D. Schomer
R. Benson	R. McKinley	H. E. von Gierke
A. Brammer	C. W. Nixon	D. E. Wasserman
J. L. Fletcher	D. D. Reynolds	L. A. Wilber
T. A. Frank	J. D. Royster	W. A. Yost
R. S. Gales	L. H. Royster	R. W. Young
D. Johnson		

Working Group S3-39, Human Exposure to Mechanical Vibration and Shock, which assisted Accredited Standards Committee S3, Bioacoustics, in the preparation of this Standard, had the following membership:

D.D. Reynolds – Chair

N. Alem  
M. Cherniack  
R. Dong  
T. Jetzer  
W. Pielemeier  
J. Rescigno

D. Roley  
S.D. Smith  
E.D. Sussman  
D.E. Wasserman  
J. Wasserman  
D. Wilder

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard will be welcomed. They should be made in writing to the Standards Secretariat, Acoustical Society of America, 35 Pinelawn Road, Suite 114E, Melville, New York 11747-3177.

Telephone: 631-390-0215  
FAX: 631-390-0217  
E-mail: [asastds@aip.org](mailto:asastds@aip.org)



## American National Standard

# Mechanical vibration and shock — Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration — Part 1: General requirements

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 2631 defines methods for the measurement of periodic, random and transient whole-body vibration. It indicates the principal factors that combine to determine the degree to which a vibration exposure will be acceptable. Informative annexes indicate current opinion and provide guidance on the possible effects of vibration on health, comfort and perception and motion sickness. The frequency range considered is

- 0.5 Hz to 80 Hz for health, comfort and perception, and
- 0.1 Hz to 0.5 Hz for motion sickness.

Although the potential effects on human performance are not covered, most of the guidance on whole-body vibration measurement also applies to this area. This part of ISO 2631 also defines the principles of preferred methods of mounting transducers for determining human exposure. It does not apply to the evaluation of extreme-magnitude single shocks such as occur in vehicle accidents.

This part of ISO 2631 is applicable to motions transmitted to the human body as a whole through the supporting surfaces: the feet of a standing person, the buttocks, back and feet of a seated person or the supporting area of a recumbent person. This type of vibration is found in vehicles, in machinery, in buildings and in the vicinity of working machinery.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 2631. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 2631 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 2041:1990, *Vibration and shock — Vocabulary*.<sup>1</sup>

ISO 5805:1997, *Mechanical vibration and shock — Human exposure — Vocabulary*.

---

<sup>1</sup> (U.S. footnote. This note has been added to this American National Standard only for information and is not part of ISO 2631-1.) ISO 2041:1990 has been nationally adopted and is identical to ANSI S2.1-2000 / ISO 2041:1990.