

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Occupational noise management

Part 3: Hearing protector program

AS/NZS 1269.3:2005

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
Australian Hearing
Department of Consumer & Employment Protection, WorkSafe Division, W.A.
Department of Labour, New Zealand
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Occupational noise management

Part 3: Hearing protector program

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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 1269.3:1998, *Occupational noise management, Part 3: Hearing protector program*.

This is Part 3 in a series of Standards as follows:

AS/NZS

1269	Occupational noise management
1269.0	Part 0: Overview and general requirements
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 (this Standard)
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 AS/NZS 1269 to better understand all relevant terminology and objectives of occupational noise management.

The objective of this Part is to give requirements and guidance to people who supply, purchase or wear hearing protectors and to encourage the use of effective criteria in their selection, use, care and maintenance.

The objective of this revision is to confirm the existing Standard with a few minor changes.

Hearing protectors are items of personal protection which, as a result of their sound attenuation properties, reduce the effects of noise on hearing in order to avoid hearing damage. In order that the protection offered by hearing protectors be effectively realized, hearing protectors should be used all the time that the user is in a potentially excessive noise environment. In the selection of hearing protectors, attention is therefore drawn to the importance of considering factors which may influence comfort and acceptance.

In occupational noise management programs, measures other than personal hearing protection such as the identification of noise areas, and the assessment of personal noise exposure and noise control, require attention as priorities.

In the preparation of this document cognizance was taken of EN 458, *Hearing protectors—Recommendations for the selection, use, care and maintenance*.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard
Occupational noise management

Part 3: Hearing protector program

1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies—

- (a) the administrative responsibilities associated with a hearing protector program;
- (b) the selection, use and maintenance of various types of hearing protectors; and
- (c) training and motivation in regard to hearing protector programs.

It excludes the setting of occupational noise criteria. 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.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1319 Safety signs for the occupational environment

AS/NZS

1269 Occupational noise management

1269.0 Part 0: Overview and general requirements

1269.1 Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise immission and exposure

1269.2 Part 2: Noise control management

1269.4 Part 4: Auditory assessment

1270 Acoustics—Hearing protectors

NOHSC

Worksafe Australia, *Noise Management at Work—Control Guide*, 2nd Edition. Sydney, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, 1991.

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS/NZS 1269.0, AS/NZS 1269.1 and those below apply.

3.1 Care

The day-to-day attention given by the wearer to the protector.

3.2 Criterion eight-hour equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level, $L(\text{crit})_{\text{Aeq,8h}}$

The eight-hour equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level above which the provision of hearing protectors is required by legislation or by the organization's noise policy, whichever is the lower.