



International
Standard

ISO 9613-2

**Acoustics — Attenuation of sound
during propagation outdoors —
Part 2:
Engineering method for the
prediction of sound pressure levels
outdoors**

*Acoustique — Atténuation du son lors de sa propagation à l'air
libre —*

*Partie 2: Méthode d'ingénierie pour la prédiction des niveaux de
pression acoustique en extérieur*

**Second edition
2024-01**



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2024

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and units	2
3.1 Terms and definitions	2
3.2 Symbols and units	3
4 Source description	4
5 Meteorological conditions	6
6 Basic formulae	7
7 Calculation of the attenuation terms	8
7.1 Geometric divergence, A_{div}	8
7.2 Atmospheric absorption, A_{atm}	9
7.3 Ground attenuation, A_{gr}	9
7.3.1 General method of calculation	9
7.3.2 Simplified method of calculation for A-weighted sound pressure levels	12
7.4 Screening, A_{bar}	13
7.4.1 General method of calculation	13
7.4.2 Alternative method to calculate the path length difference z with one edge or with more parallel edges	17
7.4.3 Lateral diffraction around vertical edges	19
7.4.4 Combining vertical and lateral diffractions and limitations	20
7.5 Reflections	20
7.5.1 General	20
7.5.2 Single reflection at a flat surface – conditions and calculation	20
7.5.3 Multi-reflection up to higher orders	21
7.5.4 Reflections at cylindrical surfaces	22
8 Meteorological correction, C_{met}	23
9 Accuracy and limitations of the method	25
Annex A (informative) Additional types of attenuation, A_{misc}	27
Annex B (informative) Directivity correction, D_c, for chimney stacks	34
Annex C (informative) Meteorological correction due to the dependency of C_0 from the angular wind distribution	38
Annex D (informative) Calculation of sound pressure levels caused by wind turbines	42
Bibliography	45

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 43, *Acoustics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Noise*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9613-2:1996), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- subdivision of extended sources improved (more detailed to decrease uncertainty with software implementations);
- improved classification of the source-directivity;
- improved and more detail specified in the determination of the ground factor G (projection to horizontal plane);
- integration of a correction for A_{gr} to account for the decreasing ground effect for small values of distance/height – harmonizing the General method [7.3.1](#) and the Simplified method [7.3.2](#);
- modified definition of the mean height h_m for the application of the Simplified method [7.3.2](#);
- integration of the strategy to calculate screening as it was developed with ISO/TR 17534-3;
- modified specification of the barrier attenuation D_z and the correction for meteorological effects K_{met} to eliminate well known shortcomings with low barriers and large source-to-receiver distances;
- inclusion of clear specifications on how to combine vertical and lateral diffraction (from ISO/TR 17534-3);
- improved specification of the minimal extension (width or height) of a reflecting surface;
- multi-reflections up to higher orders (in accordance with ISO/TR 17534-3);
- reflections at vertical cylindrical surfaces;

ISO 9613-2:2024(en)

- additional to the simple method for the attenuation of foliage without any parameter dependencies of the old version ISO 9613-2:1996, A.2.2, a new and more detailed method including the influence of forestal parameters (see A.2.3);
- the directivity correction D_c for chimney stacks (see [Annex B](#));
- proposal for a meteorological correction derived from the local wind-climatology (see [Annex C](#));
- calculation of sound pressure levels caused by wind turbines (see [Annex D](#)).

A list of all parts in the ISO 9613 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The ISO 1996 series^{[1][2][3]} of standards specifies methods for the description of noise outdoors in community environments. Other standards specify methods for determining the sound power levels emitted by various noise sources, such as machinery and specified equipment (ISO 3740 series^[4]), or industrial plants (ISO 8297^[5]). This document is intended to bridge the gap between these two types of standards, to enable noise levels in the community to be predicted from sources of known sound emission. The method described in this document is general in the sense that it may be applied to a wide variety of noise sources and covers most of the major mechanisms of attenuation. There are, however, constraints on its use, which arise principally from the description of environmental noise in the ISO 1996 series.

This version includes the modifications developed for reasons of quality assurance if the method is implemented in software as described in ISO 17534-1^[6] and ISO/TR 17534-3^[7] and some improvements to make the applied strategy fit for broad software-based application.

Acoustics — Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors —

Part 2: Engineering method for the prediction of sound pressure levels outdoors

1 Scope

This document specifies an engineering method for calculating the attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors in order to predict the levels of environmental noise at a distance from a variety of sources. The method predicts the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level (as described in ISO 1996-series) under meteorological conditions favourable to propagation from sources of known sound emission.

These conditions are for downwind propagation or, equivalently, propagation under a well-developed moderate ground-based temperature inversion, such as commonly occurs in clear, calm nights. Inversion conditions over extended water surfaces are not covered and may result in higher sound pressure levels than predicted from this document (see e.g. References [11] and [12]).

The method also predicts a long-term average A-weighted sound pressure level as specified in ISO 1996-1 and ISO 1996-2. The long-term average A-weighted sound pressure level encompasses levels for a wide variety of meteorological conditions.

Guidance has been provided to derive a meteorological correction based on the angular wind distribution relevant for the reference or long-term time interval as specified in ISO 1996-1:2016, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2. Examples for reference time intervals are day, night, or the hour of the night with the largest value of the sound pressure level. Long-term time intervals over which the sound of a series of reference time intervals is averaged or assessed representing a significant fraction of a year (e.g. 3 months, 6 months or 1 year).

The method specified in this document consists specifically of octave band algorithms (with nominal mid-band frequencies from 63 Hz to 8 kHz) for calculating the attenuation of sound which originates from a point sound source, or an assembly of point sources. The source (or sources) may be moving or stationary. Specific terms are provided in the algorithms for the following physical effects:

- geometrical divergence;
- atmospheric absorption;
- ground effect;
- reflection from surfaces;
- screening by obstacles.

Additional information concerning propagation through foliage, industrial sites and housing is given in [Annex A](#). The directivity of chimney-stacks to support the sound predictions for industrial sites has been included with [Annex B](#). An example how the far-distance meteorological correction C_0 can be determined from the local wind-climatology is given in [Annex C](#). Experiences of the last decades how to predict the sound pressure levels caused by wind turbines is summarized in [Annex D](#).

The method is applicable in practice to a great variety of noise sources and environments. It is applicable, directly, or indirectly, to most situations concerning road or rail traffic, industrial noise sources, construction