

# New Impulsive Noise Assessment Method

ISO PAS 1996-3, just published, describes how to categorize impulsive noise sources

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Last week, the ISO PAS 1996-3 “Objective method for the measurement of prominence of impulsive sounds and for adjustment of LAeq” was published. This is the result of several years work to get agreement on a method to categorise sources of impulsive noise for use in environmental noise assessments. The refined and documented method is now ready for use in determining how impulsive noise affects communities.

Douglas Manvell states *“I am proud to see the publication of ISO PAS 1996-3 concerning the assessment of impulsive noise sources in the environment. As convenor of the involved Working Group 45, I would like to thank all the members who developed this method and supported getting international consensus on it.”*

As prominent impulsive sound increases annoyance in communities, an adjustment is added to the measured levels if it is present. In the ISO 1996 standard, three categories of impulsive sound have been found to correlate best with community response, and adjustments are given for each. However, not all sources are listed so, using ISO PAS 1996-3, the prominence of impulsive sound relative to residual sound can be objectively measured, enabling a correct assessment of all sources. The amount of research on annoyance from impulsive sound is relatively limited while the impact of the adjustment can be significant. Therefore, the method is published as a Publicly Available Specification enable widespread use of the method and includes recommendations of further research to help develop insight into this area.

ISO Acoustics deals with standardization all aspects of acoustics while ISO Noise deals with measurement of noise emission from sources, assessment of the effects of sound on humans, and with noise control.

To purchase the Specification or for more information about standardization within acoustics and noise, contact your national standardization organization. To hear more about the method, get in touch with DMdB:

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