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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Wind turbines –  
Part 11: Acoustic noise measurement techniques**

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	5
INTRODUCTION .....	7
1 Scope .....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms and definitions .....	9
4 Symbols and units .....	12
5 Outline of method .....	13
6 Instrumentation .....	14
6.1 Acoustic instruments .....	14
6.1.1 General .....	14
6.1.2 Equipment for the determination of the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level .....	14
6.1.3 Equipment for the determination of A-weighted 1/3-octave band spectra .....	14
6.1.4 Equipment for the determination of narrow band spectra .....	14
6.1.5 Microphone with measurement board and windscreen .....	14
6.1.6 Acoustical calibrator .....	16
6.1.7 Data recording/playback systems .....	16
6.2 Non-acoustic Instruments .....	16
6.2.1 General .....	16
6.2.2 Anemometers .....	16
6.2.3 Electric power transducer .....	17
6.2.4 Other instrumentation .....	17
6.3 Traceable calibration .....	17
7 Acoustic measurements and measurement procedures .....	17
7.1 Acoustic measurement positions .....	17
7.2 Acoustic measurements .....	20
7.2.1 General .....	20
7.2.2 Acoustic measurement requirements .....	20
7.2.3 A-weighted sound pressure level .....	21
7.2.4 A-weighted 1/3-octave band measurements .....	21
7.2.5 A-weighted narrow band measurements .....	21
7.2.6 Optional acoustic measurements at positions 2, 3 and 4 .....	21
7.2.7 Other optional measurements .....	21
8 Non-acoustic measurements .....	21
8.1 General .....	21
8.2 Wind speed measurements .....	22
8.2.1 Determination of the wind speed during wind turbine operation .....	22
8.2.2 Wind speed measurements during background noise measurements .....	23
8.3 Downwind direction .....	24
8.4 Other atmospheric conditions .....	24
8.5 Rotor speed and pitch angle measurement .....	24
9 Data reduction procedures .....	24
9.1 General methodology for sound power levels and 1/3-octave band levels .....	24
9.2 Calculation of sound pressure levels .....	27

9.2.1	General .....	27
9.2.2	Calculation of average sound spectra and uncertainty per bin .....	27
9.2.3	Calculation of average wind speed and uncertainty per bin .....	29
9.2.4	Calculation of noise levels at bin centres including uncertainty .....	30
9.3	Apparent sound power levels .....	31
9.4	Apparent sound power levels with reference to wind speed in 10 m height .....	32
9.5	Tonal audibility .....	33
9.5.1	General methodology for tonality .....	33
9.5.2	Identifying possible tones .....	34
9.5.3	Classification of spectral lines within the critical band .....	34
9.5.4	Identified tone .....	37
9.5.5	Determination of the tone level .....	37
9.5.6	Determination of the masking noise level .....	37
9.5.7	Determination of tonality .....	37
9.5.8	Determination of audibility .....	38
9.5.9	Background noise .....	38
10	Information to be reported .....	39
10.1	General .....	39
10.2	Characterisation of the wind turbine .....	39
10.3	Physical environment .....	39
10.4	Instrumentation .....	40
10.5	Acoustic data .....	40
10.6	Non-acoustic data .....	41
10.7	Uncertainty .....	41
Annex A (informative)	Other possible characteristics of wind turbine noise emission and their quantification .....	42
Annex B (informative)	Assessment of turbulence intensity .....	44
Annex C (informative)	Assessment of measurement uncertainty .....	45
Annex D (informative)	Apparent roughness length .....	47
Annex E (informative)	Characterization of a secondary wind screen .....	49
Annex F (normative)	Small wind turbines .....	53
Annex G (informative)	Air absorption .....	57
Bibliography .....	58	
Figure 1 – Mounting of the microphone .....	15	
Figure 2 – Picture of microphone and measurement board .....	16	
Figure 3 – Standard pattern for microphone measurement positions (plan view) .....	18	
Figure 4 – Illustration of the definitions of $R_0$ and slant distance $R_1$ .....	19	
Figure 5 – Acceptable meteorological mast position (hatched area) .....	22	
Figure 6 – Flowchart showing the data reduction procedure .....	26	
Figure 7 – Flowchart for determining tonal audibility for each wind speed bin .....	33	
Figure 8 – Illustration of $L_{70\%}$ level in the critical band .....	35	
Figure 9 – Illustration of lines below the $L_{70\%} + 6$ dB criterion .....	36	
Figure 10 – Illustration of $L_{pn,avg}$ level and lines classified as masking .....	36	
Figure 11 – Illustration of classifying all spectral lines .....	37	
Figure E.1 – Example 1 of a secondary wind screen .....	50	

Figure E.2 – Example 2 of secondary wind screen .....	51
Figure E.3 – Example on insertion loss from Table E.1 .....	52
Figure F.1 – Allowable region for meteorological mast position as a function of $\beta$ – Plan view .....	54
Figure F.2 – Example immission noise map .....	56
Figure G.1 – Example of 1/3-octave spectrum.....	57
Table C.1 – Examples of possible values of type B uncertainty components relevant for apparent sound power spectra .....	46
Table C.2 – Examples of possible values of type B uncertainty components for wind speed determination relevant for apparent sound power spectra .....	46
Table D.1 – Roughness length .....	47
Table E.1 – Example on reporting of insertion loss.....	51

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

## WIND TURBINES –

## Part 11: Acoustic noise measurement techniques

## FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61400-11 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 88: Wind turbines.

This third edition of IEC 61400-11 cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2002 and its Amendment 1 (2006). It constitutes a technical revision, introducing new principles for data reduction procedures.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
88/436/FDIS	88/440/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61400 series, under the general title *Wind turbines*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual edition of this document may be issued at a later date.

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this part of IEC 61400 is to provide a uniform methodology that will ensure consistency and accuracy in the measurement and analysis of acoustical emissions by wind turbine generator systems. This International Standard has been prepared with the anticipation that it would be applied by:

- wind turbine manufacturers striving to meet well defined acoustic emission performance requirements and/or a possible declaration system (e.g. IEC/TS 61400-14);
- wind turbine purchasers for specifying performance requirements;
- wind turbine operators who may be required to verify that stated, or required, acoustic performance specifications are met for new or refurbished units;
- wind turbine planners or regulators who must be able to accurately and fairly define acoustical emission characteristics of a wind turbine in response to environmental regulations or permit requirements for new or modified installations.

This standard provides guidance in the measurement, analysis and reporting of complex acoustic emissions from wind turbine generator systems. The standard will benefit those parties involved in the manufacture, installation, planning and permitting, operation, utilization, and regulation of wind turbines. The measurement and analysis techniques recommended in this document should be applied by all parties to ensure that continuing development and operation of wind turbines is carried out in an atmosphere of consistent and accurate communication relative to environmental concerns. This standard presents measurement and reporting procedures expected to provide accurate results that can be replicated by others.

## WIND TURBINES –

### Part 11: Acoustic noise measurement techniques

#### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 61400 presents measurement procedures that enable noise emissions of a wind turbine to be characterised. This involves using measurement methods appropriate to noise emission assessment at locations close to the machine, in order to avoid errors due to sound propagation, but far away enough to allow for the finite source size. The procedures described are different in some respects from those that would be adopted for noise assessment in community noise studies. They are intended to facilitate characterisation of wind turbine noise with respect to a range of wind speeds and directions. Standardisation of measurement procedures will also facilitate comparisons between different wind turbines.

The procedures present methodologies that will enable the noise emissions of a single wind turbine to be characterised in a consistent and accurate manner. These procedures include the following:

- location of acoustic measurement positions;
- requirements for the acquisition of acoustic, meteorological, and associated wind turbine operational data;
- analysis of the data obtained and the content for the data report; and
- definition of specific acoustic emission parameters, and associated descriptors which are used for making environmental assessments.

This International Standard is not restricted to wind turbines of a particular size or type. The procedures described in this standard allow for the thorough description of the noise emission from a wind turbine. A method for small wind turbines is described in Annex F.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60688, *Electrical measuring transducers for converting a.c. electrical quantities to analogue or digital signals*

IEC 60942:2003, *Electroacoustics – Sound calibrators*

IEC 61260:1995, *Electroacoustics – Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters*

IEC 61400-12-1:2005, *Wind turbines – Part 12-1: Power performance measurements of electricity producing wind turbines*

IEC 61400-12-2, *Wind turbines – Part 12-2: Power performance verification of electricity producing wind turbines*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> To be published.

IEC 61672 (all parts), *Electroacoustics – Sound level meters*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement – Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*