
**Acoustics — Measurements of sound
pressure level emitted by stationary
road vehicles**

*Acoustique — Mesurages du niveau de pression acoustique émis par
les véhicules routiers en stationnement*

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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 documents 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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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 third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 5130:2007) which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 5130:2007/Amd.1:2012. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- In the scope, it has been clarified that this document applies only to vehicles of categories L, M and N equipped with internal combustion engines, and furthermore that vehicles with an internal combustion engine which cannot operate when the vehicle is operated at stationary are outside the scope of this document.
- The microphone position to be used, depending on the location of the exhaust outlets, has been modified to include new variations of exhaust outlet design. New and updated figures have been added to clarify the position of microphone to be used.

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

This sound pressure level measurement procedure has been developed for use in the engineering evaluation of the sound pressure level performance of road vehicles in the vicinity of the exhaust systems. The method is intended to check vehicles in use and also to determine variations in the exhaust sound pressure level that can result from

- the wear, maladjustment or modification of particular components, when the defect does not appear by visual inspection;
- the partial or complete removal of devices increasing the emission of certain sound pressure levels.

It is possible to determine some of these variations by comparing the measurements with reference measurements made under similar conditions, for example during the type approval of the vehicle, using the same method. Other variations can be detected only when the engine is operated at a realistic load.

The document incorporates certain provisions of SAE J1492:2008-10^[1] for measuring the sound pressure levels of exhaust systems of passenger cars and light trucks.

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Acoustics — Measurements of sound pressure level emitted by stationary road vehicles

1 Scope

This document specifies a test procedure, environment and instrumentation for measuring the exterior sound pressure levels from road vehicles under stationary conditions, providing a continuous measure of the sound pressure level over a range of engine speeds.

This document applies only to road vehicles of categories L, M, and N equipped with internal combustion engines. Vehicles where an internal combustion engine cannot operate when the vehicle is at stationary conditions are outside the scope of this document.

The method is designed to meet the requirements of simplicity as far as they are consistent with reproducibility of results under the operating conditions of the vehicle.

It is within the scope of this document to measure the stationary A-weighted sound pressure level during

- type approval measurements of vehicle;
- measurements at the manufacturing stage;
- measurements at official testing stations;
- measurements at roadside testing.

This document specifies a test method to determine a reference sound level which is unique for the vehicle and therefore not suitable to compare against a general limit, as test condition, microphone condition location relative to the sound sources can vary significantly. The test conditions in proximity and at engine speeds significantly higher compared to real operation conditions in traffic are deliberately chosen to enable in-use tests at higher background conditions, which are typical for roadside checks.

Technical background information is given in [Annex A](#).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 26101:2017, *Acoustics — Test methods for the qualification of free-field environments*

IEC 60942:2017, *Electroacoustics — Sound calibrators*

IEC 61183, *Electroacoustics — Random-incidence and diffuse-field calibration of sound level meters*

IEC 61260-1, *Electroacoustics — Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters — Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61260-3, *Electroacoustics — Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters — Part 3: Periodic tests*

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 rated engine speed

S

engine speed at which the engine develops its rated maximum net power as stated by the manufacturer

Note 1 to entry: If the rated maximum net power is reached at several engine speeds, the rated engine speed *S* used in this document is the highest engine speed at which the rated maximum net power is reached.

Note 2 to entry: ISO 80000-2^[2] defines this term as “rated engine rotational frequency”. The term “rated engine speed” was retained due to its common understanding by practitioners and use in government regulations.

3.2 Vehicle categories

3.2.1 category L

motor vehicles with fewer than four wheels

Note 1 to entry: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) document TRANS/WP.29/78/Rev.6 (11 July 2017)^[3] extended the L category to four-wheeled vehicles as defined by L6 and L7 in ISO 362-1:2015^[4], 3.4.1.5 and 3.4.1.6.

3.2.2 category M

power-driven vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of passengers

3.2.3 category N

power-driven vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of goods

4 Instrumentation

4.1 Instrumentation for acoustical measurement

4.1.1 General

The instruments for measuring sound pressure levels, including microphone(s) as well as cable(s), windscreen(s), recording devices and other accessories, if used, shall meet the requirements for a class 1 instrument according to IEC 61672-1 for free field or random incidence application, as appropriate. Filters shall meet the requirements for a class 1 instrument according to IEC 61260-1.

The measurements shall be made using the frequency-weighting A and the time-weighting F.

4.1.2 Operational check

At the beginning and at the end of every measurement session, the entire sound pressure level measuring system shall be checked at one or more frequencies by means of a sound calibrator meeting the requirements for a class 1 instrument according to IEC 60942. Without any further adjustment, the

difference between the readings of two consecutive checks shall be less than or equal to 0,5 dB. If this value is exceeded, the results of measurements obtained after the previous satisfactory check shall be discarded.

In connection with each measurement session and at least at the beginning and the end of each measurement day, where possible, check the impact of residual sound levels on measured results to determine their potential impact on the measurement results.

4.1.3 Verification

Conformance of the sound pressure level measuring instrument including microphone, the filters and the sound calibrator with the relevant requirements of IEC 61672-1, IEC 61260-1 and IEC 60942, respectively, shall be verified by the existence of a valid certificate of conformance from the manufacturer. Conformance testing in accordance with IEC 61672-3, IEC 61260-3 and IEC 60942:2017, Annex B, respectively, is required for verification. If applicable, random incidence response of the microphone shall be verified by a procedure from IEC 61183.

All conformance testing shall be conducted by a laboratory meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and the maximum-permitted uncertainty defined in IEC 61672-1, IEC 61260-1 and IEC 60942.

The sound calibrator should be calibrated at intervals not exceeding one year, the conformance of the instrumentation system with the requirements of IEC 61672-1 should be verified at intervals not exceeding two years, and the conformance of analog filters with the requirements of IEC 61260-1 should be verified at intervals not exceeding two years.

NOTE Testing in accordance with IEC 61672-3 does not fully verify conformance with the requirements of IEC 61672-1, unless it has been pattern approved in accordance with IEC 61672-2^[5].

4.2 Instrumentation for engine-speed measurement

The rotational speed of the engine shall be measured with an instrument meeting the specification limits of at least ± 2 % or better at the engine speeds required for the measurements being performed.

5 Acoustical environment, meteorological conditions and background noise

5.1 Test site

A suitable test site shall be outdoors and consist of a flat surface of level concrete, dense asphalt with no appreciable level of porosity or similar hard material surface. It shall be free from snow, grass, loose soil, ashes or other sound-absorbing material. It shall be in an open space free from large reflecting surfaces, such as parked vehicles, buildings, billboards, trees, shrubbery, parallel walls, people, etc., within a 3 m radius from the microphone location and any point of the vehicle.

As an alternative to outdoor testing, a hemi-anechoic chamber may be used. The hemi-anechoic chamber shall fulfill the acoustical requirements given above. In addition to the 3 m distance criteria described above, the testing facilities shall have a cut-off frequency below:

- one-third-octave band below the lowest fundamental frequency of the engine during test, or
- 100 Hz (whichever is the lower).

For a source located at the projection of the reference point on the reflecting plane, the broadband qualification criteria given in ISO 26101:2017, Annex A shall be met within a volume having a radius of at least 3 m.

In addition, the radius of the qualified volume, and the height of the hemi-anechoic chamber shall be at least two times the height of the measurement reference point.

NOTE The noise performance of indoor testing facilities is specified in terms of the cut-off frequency (Hz). This is the frequency above which the room can be assumed to act as a hemi-anechoic space.

5.2 Meteorological conditions

The tests shall not be carried out if the wind speed, including gusts, exceeds 5 m/s during the sound-measurement interval. Tests shall not be carried out during periods of precipitation.

5.3 Background noise

Readings on the measuring instruments produced by ambient noise and wind shall be at least 10 dB below the A-weighted sound pressure level to be measured. A suitable windscreen may be fitted to the microphone, provided that account is taken of its effect on the sensitivity of the sound level meter.

6 Test procedure

6.1 General comments

It is essential that persons technically trained and experienced in current sound measurement techniques select the test instrumentation and conduct the test.

Variations in measured sound pressure levels can occur due to variations in test sites, atmospheric conditions and test equipment; see [Annex B](#).

Instrument manufacturers' specification for orientation of the microphone relative to the sound source and the location of the observer relative to the microphone shall be followed. The test may be performed with a hand-held sound level meter. However, the sound level meter or microphone should be mounted on a stand or fixture for stability. When possible, a microphone extension cable should be used and measurement or recording devices should be located away from the microphone.

CAUTION — Caution should be exercised when measuring rear- and mid-engine vehicles because engine and cooling-fan noise can prevent accurate measurement of exhaust noise.

6.2 Positioning and preparation of the vehicle

The vehicle transmission shall be in neutral position and the clutch engaged, or in parking position for automatic transmission, and the parking brake applied for safety.

The vehicle air conditioner, if equipped, shall be turned off.

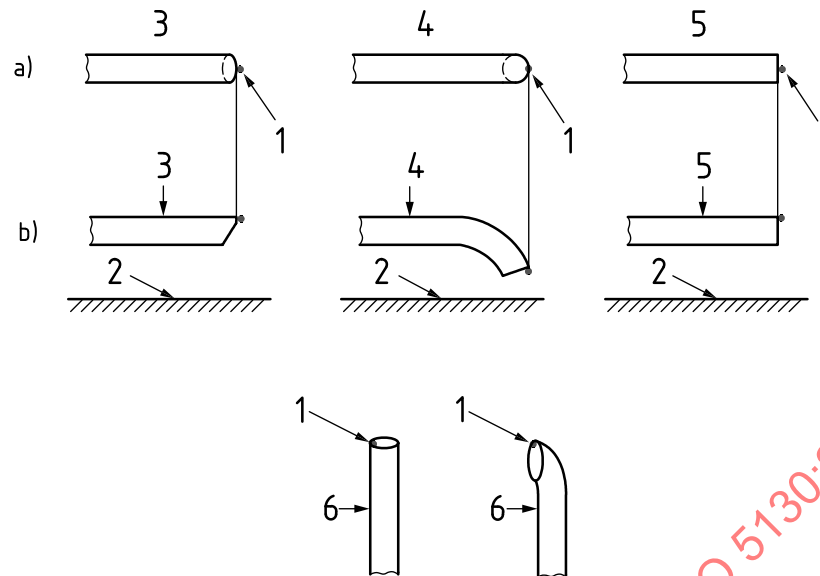
If the vehicle is fitted with fan(s) having an automatic actuating mechanism, this system shall not be interfered with during the sound pressure level measurements.

The engine hood or compartment cover shall be closed.

Before each series of measurements, the engine shall be brought to its normal operating temperature, as specified by the manufacturer.

In case of a two-wheeled motor-driven vehicle having no neutral gear position, measurements shall be carried out with the rear wheel raised off the ground so that the wheel can rotate freely.

If it is necessary to raise a two-wheeled vehicle off the ground to perform the test, the microphone measurement position shall be adjusted to achieve the specified distance from the reference point of the exhaust pipe; see [Figure 1](#) for the location of the reference points.



Key

- a) top view
- b) side view
- 1 reference point
- 2 road surface
- 3 mitered pipe
- 4 bent down pipe
- 5 straight pipe
- 6 vertical pipe

Figure 1 — Reference point

6.3 Microphone position

The microphone shall be located at a distance of $0,5 \text{ m} \pm 0,01 \text{ m}$ from the reference point of the exhaust pipe defined in [Figure 1](#) and at an angle of $45^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ to the vertical plane containing the flow axis of the pipe termination. The microphone shall be at the height of the reference point, but not less than $0,2 \text{ m}$ from the ground surface. The reference axis of the microphone shall lie in a plane parallel to the ground surface and shall be directed towards the reference point on the exhaust outlet.

If two microphone positions are possible, the location furthest laterally from the vehicle longitudinal centreline shall be used.

If the flow axis of the exhaust outlet pipe is at 90° to the vehicle longitudinal centreline, the microphone shall be located at the point that is furthest from the engine.

If a vehicle has two or more exhaust outlets spaced less than or equal to $0,3 \text{ m}$ apart and connected to a single silencer, only one set of measurements shall be made. The microphone shall be located relative to the outlet furthest from the vehicle's longitudinal centreline, or, when such outlet does not exist, to the outlet that is highest above the ground.

For vehicles having an exhaust provided with outlets spaced more than $0,3 \text{ m}$ apart or more than one silencer, one set of measurements shall be made for each outlet.

For vehicles with a vertical exhaust (e.g. commercial vehicles), the microphone shall be placed at the height of the exhaust outlet. Its axis shall be vertical and oriented upwards. It shall be placed at a distance of $0,5 \text{ m} \pm 0,01 \text{ m}$ from the exhaust-pipe reference point as defined in [Figure 1](#), but never less than $0,2 \text{ m}$ from the side of the vehicle nearest to the exhaust.

For vehicles for which the reference point of the exhaust pipe is not accessible or located under the vehicle body, as shown in [Figure 2](#) c) and d), because of the presence of obstacles that form part of the vehicle (e.g. spare wheel, fuel tank, battery compartment), the microphone shall be located at least 0,2 m from the nearest obstacle, including the vehicle body, and shall not be located under the vehicle. Its axis of maximum sensitivity shall face the exhaust outlet from the position least concealed by the above-mentioned obstacles.

In case the distance from the exhaust outlet to the outer side of the vehicle is larger than 0,2 m [[Figure 2](#) c), d) and e)], the following distances of d_1 or d_2 shall be chosen, see [Figure 2](#) d):

— **Case 1:**

- d_1 shall be equal to 0,5 m and the distance from the side (outer border of the vehicle) shall be at least 0,2 m.
- d_2 shall be equal to 0,5 m and the distance from the side (outer border of the vehicle) shall be at least 0,2 m.

— **Case 2 (if Case 1 is not fulfilled):**

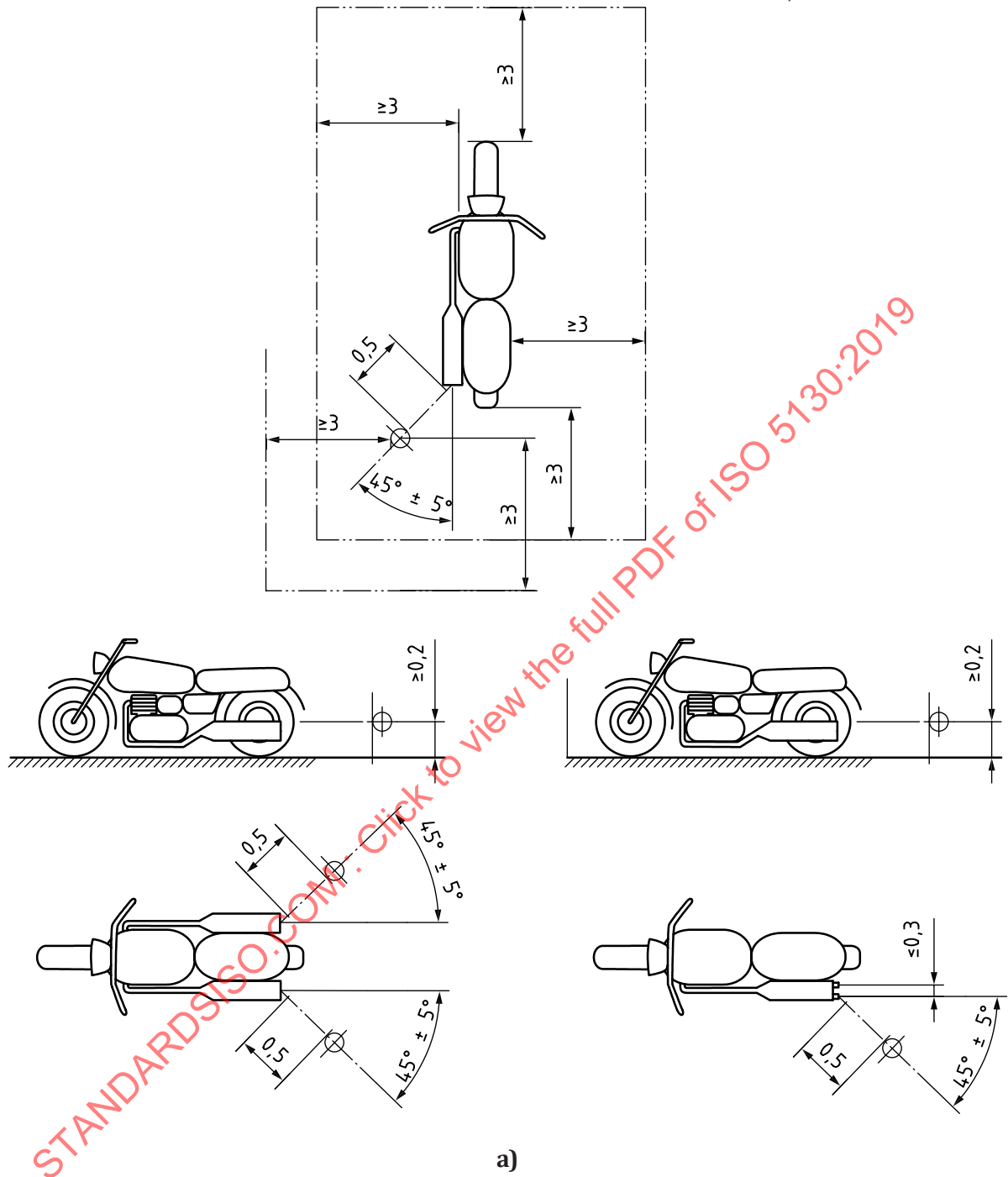
- d_1 shall be at least 0,5 m and the distance from the side (outer border of the vehicle) shall be equal to 0,2 m.
- d_2 shall be at least 0,5 m and the distance from the side (outer border of the vehicle) shall be equal to 0,2 m.

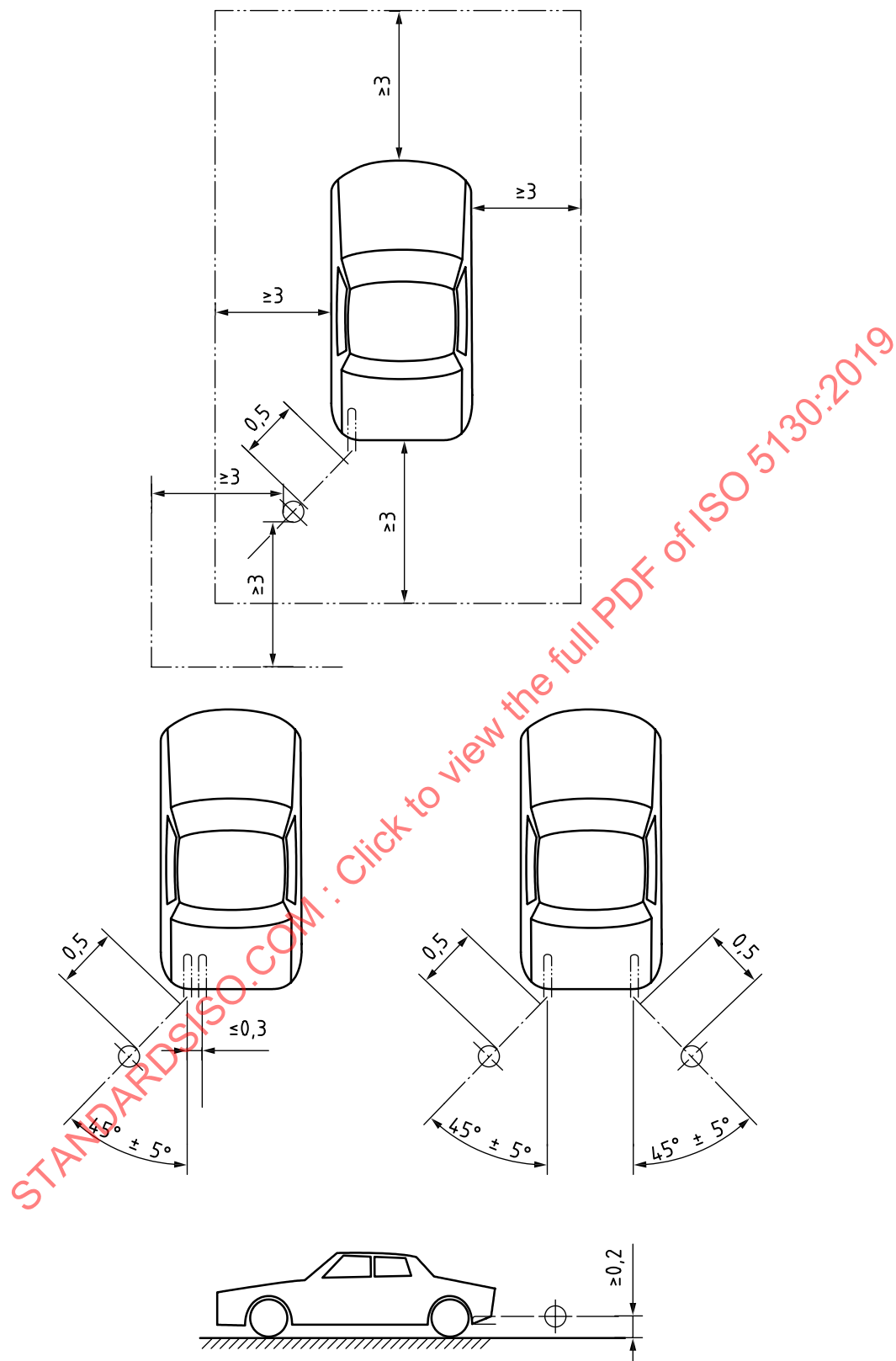
When several positions are possible, as shown in [Figure 2](#) d), the microphone position giving the lowest value of d_1 or d_2 shall be used.

[Figure 2](#) a) to e) shows examples of the position of the microphone, depending on the location of the exhaust pipe.

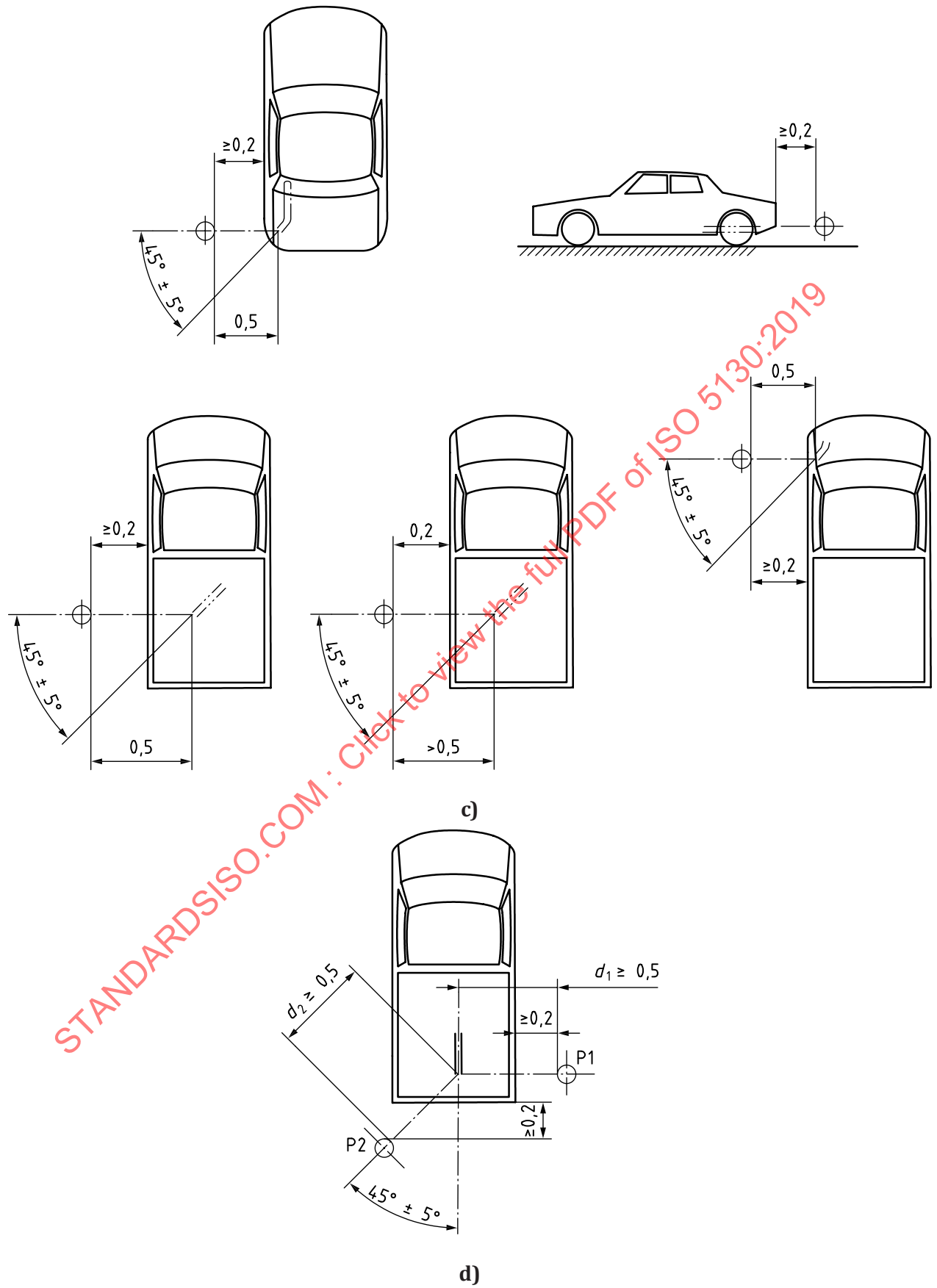
For the purpose of roadside checking, the reference point may be moved to the outer surface of the vehicle body.

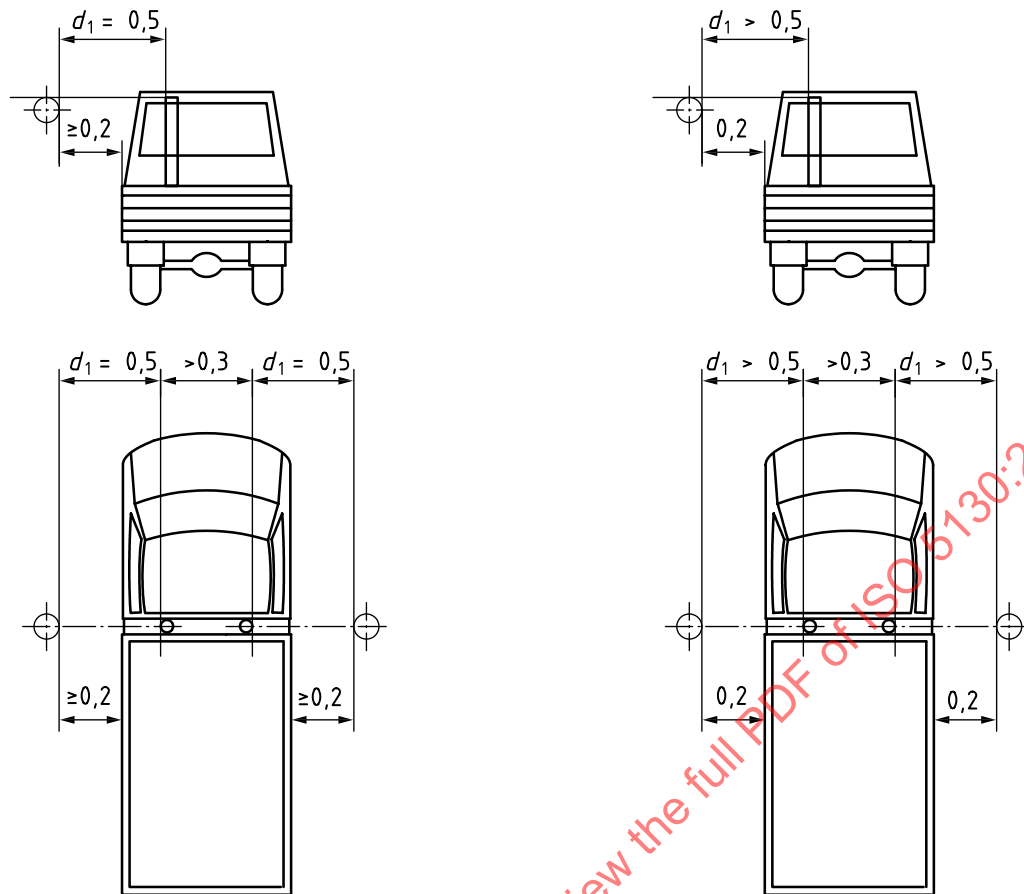
Dimensions in metres, unless otherwise indicated





b)





Key

- P1, P2 microphone positions 1 and 2, respectively
 d_1, d_2 distances from the exhaust pipe to P1 and P2, respectively

Figure 2 — Examples of microphone positions for various exhaust locations

6.4 Target engine speed

6.4.1 General

If the vehicle cannot reach the engine speed as stated in 6.4.2 and 6.4.3, the target engine speed shall be 5 % below the maximum possible engine speed for the stationary test.

6.4.2 Vehicles of category L

The target engine speed shall be

- 75 % of the rated engine speed, S , for vehicles with $S \leq 5\,000\text{ min}^{-1}$,
- 50 % of the rated engine speed, S , for vehicles with $S > 5\,000\text{ min}^{-1}$,

with a tolerance of $\pm 5\%$.

6.4.3 Vehicles of category M, N

The target engine speed shall be:

- 75 % of the rated engine speed, S , for vehicles with $S \leq 5\,000 \text{ min}^{-1}$,
- 3750 min^{-1} for vehicles with a rated engine speed $5\,000 < S < 7\,500 \text{ min}^{-1}$,
- 50 % of the rated engine speed, S , for vehicles with $S \geq 7\,500 \text{ min}^{-1}$.

If the vehicle cannot reach the engine speed as stated above, the target engine speed shall be 5 % below the maximum possible engine speed for that stationary test.

For vehicles for which the engine speed is a fixed value (for example, but not limited to, series hybrids) either above or below the target engine speed and cannot be adjusted by the accelerator, the test shall be carried out at the fixed engine speed.

6.5 Engine operating conditions

The engine speed shall be gradually increased from idle to the target engine speed, not exceeding the tolerance band as given in 6.4.2 and/or 6.4.3 and held constant. Then the throttle control shall be rapidly released, and the engine speed shall be returned to idle. The sound pressure level shall be measured during a period consisting of constant engine speed of at least 1 s and throughout the entire deceleration period. The maximum sound level meter reading shall be taken as the test value.

The measurement shall be regarded as valid if the test engine speed during the constant engine speed phase does not deviate from the target engine speed by more than the tolerances given in 6.4.2 and 6.4.3, for at least 1 s.

6.6 Multi-mode exhaust system

For vehicles equipped with a multi-mode exhaust system and having manual driver selectable modes which influence the sound emission of the vehicle, the stationary sound shall be tested in all modes.

7 Measurements

Measurements shall be made according to the microphone location(s) described in 6.3. At least three measurements for each test position (outlet) shall be made.

The maximum A-weighted sound pressure level indicated during the test shall be noted, mathematically rounded to the first significant digit before the decimal place (e.g. 92,4 shall be rounded to 92 while 92,5 shall be rounded to 93).

The test shall be repeated until three consecutive measurements that are within 2 dB of each other are obtained at each outlet.

The result for a given outlet is the arithmetic average of the three valid measurements, mathematically rounded as given above, and shall be reported as the A-weighted sound pressure level, L_{Arep} , as given by Formula (1):

$$L_{Arep} = \frac{L_{Ameas,1} + L_{Ameas,2} + L_{Ameas,3}}{3} \quad (1)$$

For vehicles equipped with multiple exhaust outlets, the sound pressure level reported, L_{Arep} , shall be for the outlet having the highest average sound pressure level.

For vehicles equipped with a multi-mode exhaust system and driver selectable modes according to 6.6, the reported sound pressure level, L_{Arep} , shall be for the mode having the highest average sound pressure level.

8 Interpretation of results

The result of testing a vehicle in use may be interpreted by comparison with the results of the reference test in which the vehicle was tested using the same method, for instance during type approval.

9 Measurement uncertainty

The measurement procedure described in the preceding clauses is affected by several parameters that lead to variations in the resulting level observed for the same subject. The source and nature of these perturbations are not completely known and sometimes affect the end result in a non-predictable way. The uncertainty of results obtained from measurements according to this document can be evaluated by the procedure given in ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, or by inter-laboratory comparisons in accordance with ISO 5725 (all parts)^[6]. Since extensive inter- and intra-laboratory data are not yet available, the procedure given in ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 was followed to estimate the uncertainty associated with this document. The uncertainties given below are based on existing statistical data, analysis of tolerances stated in this document and engineering judgment. The uncertainties so determined are grouped as follows:

- a) variations expected within the same test laboratory and slight variations in ambient conditions found within a single test series (run-to-run);
- b) variations expected within the same test laboratory but with a variation in ambient conditions and equipment properties that can normally be expected during the year (day-to-day);
- c) variations between test laboratories where, apart from ambient conditions, also equipment, staff and road surface conditions are different (site-to-site).

If reported, the expanded uncertainty, together with the corresponding coverage factor for the stated coverage probability of 95 % as defined in ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, shall be given. Information on the determination of the expanded uncertainty is given in [Annex B](#).

NOTE [Annex B](#) gives a framework for an analysis based on ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 that can be used to conduct future research on measurement uncertainty for this document.

[Table 1](#) gives the variability of measurement results for a coverage probability of 95 %. The data express the variability of results for a certain measurement object and do not cover product variation.

Table 1 — Variability of measurement results for a coverage probability of 95 %

Run-to-run	Day-to-day	Site-to-site
dB	dB	dB
1,2	1,8	2,9

Until more specific knowledge is available, the data for site-to-site variability can be used in test reports to state the expanded measurement uncertainty for a coverage probability of 95 %.

Due to the uncertainty influence, differences between the sound pressure level of the vehicle in use and that in corresponding reference tests should not be considered significant unless they are equal to or larger than 5 dB.

The variations in the sound pressure level of identical units of a production process are outside the scope of this document. Such variation is within the scope of the quality control systems of the manufacturer.

10 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) reference to this document, i.e. ISO 5130:2019;

- b) test site, ground conditions and weather conditions;
- c) type of measuring equipment, including the windscreen;
- d) A-weighted sound pressure level typical of the background noise;
- e) identification of the vehicle, its engine and its transmission system;
- f) general description of the location of the engine and exhaust outlet;
- g) location and orientation of the microphone;
- h) engine operating speed used for the test;
- i) selectable engine and/or exhaust operating mode;
- j) A-weighted sound pressure level, L_{Arep} , determined by the test.

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Annex A **(informative)**

Technical background information

There were several technical reasons behind the revision of ISO 5130:2007 and its Amendment ISO 5130:2007/Amd.1:2012. Since the last revision of this procedure, there has been continuous development of vehicle technology, including the reduction of exhaust noise and the design of vehicle exhaust systems. Active sound devices, such as multi-mode exhaust systems, active sound enhancement systems or active sound effects such as “backfire” have been introduced.

The original scope of the procedure was to provide a simple method for use in roadside checks of exhaust systems, e.g. by the police or road authorities, to verify proper functioning of the original system or check for manipulation. In some countries/regions, a general noise limit for different categories of vehicles has been introduced and control is performed to check for faults in the exhaust system. This application of the procedure causes inaccuracies for vehicles with rear- or mid-engine, as the engine noise can be the dominating noise source, thereby interfering with the intent of the measurement. In such cases, flexible shields are necessary to separate the different noise sources during the test, adding complexity and measurement variability.

Investigations have shown that the present method is not particularly suited to check the exhaust system against a general noise limit, because of the influence of other vehicle-noise sources at the position of the microphone. The extent to which other noise sources can contribute to the stationary measurement is vehicle-design dependent. These investigations also show that the noise close to the exhaust pipe is very much dependent on engine speed and can vary as much as 20 dB over a typical range of operating engine speeds. Because a vehicle exhaust system is an acoustic-tuning element, levels of noise do not necessarily increase in a linear fashion with increasing engine speed. Thus, it seemed prudent to revise ISO 5130:2007 and ISO 5130:2007/Amd.1:2012 in order to more clearly define the scope of the document and enhance the accuracy of the measurement method.

In several countries, for example the Member States of the European Union and Norway, a system has been introduced such that the stationary level of noise (measured during type approval or when imported as a used vehicle) is labelled in the vehicle-registration documents, which are kept with the vehicle. This concept provides a more efficient basis for spot checks of the performance of vehicles using a stationary test. Comparison of results of the level of noise obtained from a roadside, or periodic technical inspection, to the baseline level of noise obtained during type approval gives a more accurate measure of the performance of any given vehicle. This method could be added to the scope of this procedure to improve the validity of its application.