

**DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPUTING THE PERCEIVED
NOISE LEVEL OF AIRCRAFT NOISE**

1. **INTRODUCTION:** The perceived noise level is a single number rating of aircraft noise, based upon objective acoustic measurements, which is related to the relative subjective response to aircraft noise. The perceived noise level, as defined in this standard, is based only on the noise spectra measured in the eight octave or 24 one-third octave frequency bands within the nominal range of 50 to 10,000 Hz. As such, it is considered an accurate method for rating the noisiness of broadband jet aircraft type sounds of similar time duration which do not contain strong discrete frequency components.

For rating the loudness of certain classes of noise (i.e., steady state), another procedure, defined in Ref. 1, and not unlike that specified herein, is also available. However, the measure, perceived noisiness, has become generally accepted for defining the noisiness of jet aircraft.

When the additional effects of duration of the time-varying aircraft noise signal and the presence of discrete frequency components are to be taken into account, the effective perceived noise level (EPNL), as defined in Refs. 2, 3, and 4, is the preferred measure.

2. **CALCULATION OF PERCEIVED NOISE LEVEL IN DECIBELS FROM MEASURED NOISE LEVELS:**

2.1 **Explanation of Terms:**

*This revision consists solely of editorial changes, deletion of obsolete material, or correction of minor errors in terminology. No changes have been made in the computation procedures contained in the revision, ARP 865A, dated 8-15-69.

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- 2.1.1 Perceived Noise Level in Decibels: Perceived noise level in decibels of a given sound is calculated as specified in paragraph 2.2.

NOTE: This procedure gives an approximation of the perceived noise level as determined by subjective experiment on a fundamental psychoacoustical basis: namely, that perceived noise level of a given sound is numerically equal to the sound pressure level of a reference sound that is judged by listeners to have the same perceived noisiness as the given sound, the reference sound being a band of random noise one octave in width centered on 1000 Hz.

- 2.1.2 Noy: A unit of perceived noisiness. The numerical value of the perceived noisiness of a sound within a given frequency band, in noys, is related to the band sound pressure level. This relationship is given in Table I. An alternative means of calculating the appropriate perceived noisiness is provided by the equations in Section 2.2 (Step 1). (These equations, in conjunction with Table II, may be the preferred method for computer computation of perceived noisiness values.)

NOTE 1: In order to avoid confusion, attention is drawn to the fact that values of perceived noisiness given herein are the same as given in Ref. 5 but differ from those given in Refs. 6, 7, 8, and 9. The differences between the values given here and those of Refs. 6 and 7 result from minor changes made to facilitate computer computations; the changes are not based on new psychoacoustic test data and are generally not large enough to necessitate re-calculation of perceived noise levels previously calculated by the tables given in Refs. 6 and 7.

NOTE 2: The data in Tables I and II may be used for calculating perceived noisiness for either octave or one-third octave bands. The difference in octave or one-third octave band computation arises in the summation described in Step 2 of Section 2.2.

NOTE 3: Tables I and II present information at one-third octave frequencies (Ref. 10).

2.2 Calculation Procedure: Perceived noise level (PNL) in decibels is calculated according to the following procedure:

Step 1 - The sound pressure level in each one-third octave frequency band (or full octave frequency band) is converted to a value of perceived noisiness, in noys, by reference to Table I, entering the Table at the appropriate band center frequency or by use of the following equations, and associated constants given in Table II, at the appropriate band center frequency.

The value of perceived noisiness (n) in noys, given in Table I for a particular frequency band, is related to the band sound pressure level, L , by the general basic equation:

$$n = A 10^{\frac{M_j (L - L_k)}{10}} \quad \text{for} \\ n \leq 0.1 \text{ and } L \leq 150$$

where M_j , L_k , and A depend upon the band center frequency and the magnitude of L . The values of M_j and L_k are tabulated in Table II.

For $L_1 \leq L \leq L_2$

$$n = 0.1 10^{\frac{M_1 (L - L_1)}{10}}; \quad 0.1 \leq n \leq 0.3$$

For $L_2 \leq L \leq L_3$

$$n = 10^{\frac{M_2 (L - L_3)}{10}}; \quad 0.3 \leq n \leq 1.0$$

For $L_3 \leq L \leq L_C$

$$n = 10^{\frac{M_3 (L - L_3)}{10}}; \quad 1.0 \leq n, L \leq 150$$

For $L_C \leq L \leq 150$

$$n = 10^{\frac{M_4 (L - L_4)}{10}}$$

Note that for frequency bands having center frequencies from 400 to 6300 Hz inclusive, $L_3 = L_4$ and $M_3 = M_4$ (i.e., one set of values of L_k and M_j suffice to define values of perceived noisiness for $n \geq 1$ and $L \leq 150$).

NOTE 1: Unless specifically designated otherwise, the calculated perceived noise level for any time period is to be computed from frequency band sound pressure levels observed over the same time period. Such a calculated perceived noise level should be referred to as simply the perceived noise level, abbreviated PNL with letter symbol L_{PN} . The maximum value of the instantaneous perceived noise level occurring in a set of perceived noise levels calculated during successive time intervals is designated the maximum perceived noise level, abbreviated PNLM with letter symbol $L_{PN \max}$. For evaluation of aircraft noise, the observation periods normally occur at consecutive one-half second time intervals as specified in Refs. 2, 3, and 4.

NOTE 2: For some applications, an aircraft flyover noise signal may be described by calculating the perceived noise level using the maximum sound pressure levels occurring in each octave (or one-third octave) frequency band, even though the maximum sound pressure levels in the frequency bands do not occur within the same time interval. The perceived noise level calculated from such maximum band levels should be designated as the composite perceived noise level, abbreviated PNLC with letter symbol L_{PNC} .

Step 2 - The calculated values of perceived noisiness found in Step 1 are combined in the manner described in the following formulas:

Octave bands:

$$\underline{N} = n_{\max} + 0.3 \left[\sum_{1}^8 n - n_{\max} \right]$$

One-third octave bands:

$$\underline{N} = n_{\max} + 0.15 \left[\sum_{1}^{24} n - n_{\max} \right]$$

where $n_{\max}$ is the value of the perceived noisiness, in noys, in the band having the greatest perceived noisiness, $\sum n$ is the sum of the perceived noisiness values, in noys, in all the bands, and $\underline{N}$ is the total perceived noisiness, in noys.

Step 3 - N is converted into the perceived noise level (PNL) in decibels by the following expression:

$$L_{PN} = 40 + 33.22 \log_{10} N$$

NOTE: For N values of 1.0 or greater, the PNL can be found from Table I by treating the quantity in the 1000 Hz column as the perceived noisiness value and reading SPL as PNL.

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References:

1. American National Standards Institute, "Procedure for the Computation of Loudness of Noise," ANSI S3.4-1980.
- 2.* Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 36, "Noise Standards: Aircraft Type and Airworthiness Certification, Appendix B, Aircraft Noise Evaluation Under Section 36.103," through Amendment 36-12, effective 1 August 1981.
- 3.* International Civil Aviation Organization, International Standards and Recommended Practices "Environmental Protection," Annex 16 to the Convention of International Civil Aviation, First Edition - 1981.
- 4.* International Organization for Standardization, International Standard ISO 3891, "Acoustics - Procedure for Describing Aircraft Noise Heard on the Ground," First Edition 1978-01-15.
5. R. A. Pinker: Computation of Perceived Noise Level: Mathematical Formulation of the Noy Tables, NGTE Note NT.684, February 1968.
6. SAE ARP 865, "Definitions and Procedures for Computing the Perceived Noise Level of Aircraft Noise, " issued October 15, 1964.
7. K. D. Kryter and K. S. Pearsons, "Modification of Noy Tables," J. Acoust. Soc. Am., 36, 394-397, 1964.
8. K. D. Kryter and K. S. Pearsons, "Some Effects of Spectral Content and Duration on Perceived Noise Level," J. Acoust. Soc. Am., 35, 866-883, 1963.
9. K. D. Kryter, "Scaling Human Reactions to the Sound from Aircraft," J. Acoust. Soc. Am., 31, 1415-1429, 1959.
10. American National Standards Institute, "Preferred Frequencies and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements," ANSI S1.6-1967 (R 1976).

*These references are employed, for definition of effective perceived noise level (EPNL), in the absence of any approved ANSI standard, as of the date of this revision, which defines EPNL.

TABLE I — PERCEIVED NOISE IN NOYS AS A FUNCTION OF SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL

SPL	1/3 OCTAVE BAND CENTER FREQUENCIES IN Hz															
	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600
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TABLE I (CONTINUED)

 $1/3$ OCTAVE BAND CENTER FREQUENCIES IN HZ

SPL	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000	2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	
50	.12	.26	.49	.72	.90	1.17	1.36	1.56	1.76	2.00	2.24	2.50	2.83	3.20	3.66	4.26	5.00	5.92	7.00	8.40	10.10	12.20	14.80	18.00	22.00
51	.14	.30	.55	.80	1.00	1.26	1.47	1.68	1.89	2.14	2.40	2.68	3.03	3.42	3.90	4.50	5.30	6.30	7.50	9.00	10.80	13.20	16.00	19.50	24.00
52	.17	.34	.62	1.00	1.28	1.58	1.79	1.99	2.20	2.46	2.74	3.03	3.40	3.80	4.30	4.90	5.80	6.90	8.20	9.80	11.80	14.30	17.50	21.50	26.50
53	.21	.45	.79	1.09	1.48	1.85	2.09	2.34	2.60	2.88	3.18	3.50	3.90	4.30	4.90	5.60	6.60	7.90	9.40	11.20	13.60	16.80	20.80	25.80	31.80
54	.25	.51	1.00	1.39	1.88	2.27	2.51	2.81	3.10	3.40	3.73	4.08	4.50	4.90	5.60	6.40	7.60	9.10	10.90	13.00	15.50	18.80	23.00	28.00	34.00
55	.30	.61	1.19	1.68	2.27	2.71	3.03	3.38	3.73	4.08	4.50	4.90	5.60	6.40	7.60	9.10	10.90	13.00	15.50	18.80	23.00	28.00	34.00	42.00	51.00
56	.34	.69	1.39	1.98	2.67	3.16	3.51	3.86	4.21	4.56	5.00	5.40	6.10	7.00	8.30	9.80	11.60	13.80	16.50	20.00	24.50	30.00	36.50	45.00	55.00
57	.39	.77	1.59	2.18	2.97	3.46	3.81	4.16	4.51	4.90	5.30	5.80	6.50	7.50	8.90	10.60	12.60	15.10	18.50	22.50	28.00	34.50	43.00	53.00	65.00
58	.45	.87	1.79	2.38	3.27	3.76	4.11	4.46	4.81	5.20	5.60	6.10	6.80	7.90	9.40	11.20	13.40	16.20	20.00	24.50	30.00	37.00	46.00	57.00	70.00
59	.51	1.00	1.99	2.78	3.67	4.16	4.51	4.86	5.21	5.60	6.10	6.60	7.40	8.60	10.20	12.20	14.60	17.80	22.00	27.00	33.00	41.00	51.00	63.00	78.00
60	.59	1.10	2.19	3.08	4.07	4.56	4.91	5.26	5.61	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.90	9.20	10.90	12.90	15.40	19.00	23.50	29.00	36.00	45.00	56.00	69.00	86.00
61	.67	1.21	2.39	3.28	4.27	4.76	5.11	5.46	5.81	6.20	6.70	7.20	8.20	9.60	11.40	13.60	16.20	20.00	25.00	31.00	39.00	49.00	61.00	76.00	94.00
62	.77	1.31	2.49	3.38	4.37	4.86	5.21	5.56	5.91	6.30	6.80	7.30	8.40	9.90	11.70	14.00	16.80	21.00	26.50	33.00	42.00	53.00	66.00	82.00	102.00
63	.87	1.41	2.59	3.48	4.47	4.96	5.31	5.66	6.01	6.40	6.90	7.40	8.60	10.10	12.00	14.40	17.40	22.00	28.00	35.00	45.00	57.00	71.00	88.00	110.00
64	1.00	1.45	2.71	3.60	4.59	5.08	5.43	5.78	6.13	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.80	10.40	12.40	14.80	18.00	23.00	30.00	38.00	49.00	61.00	76.00	94.00	118.00
65	1.11	1.60	2.81	3.70	4.69	5.18	5.53	5.88	6.23	6.60	7.10	7.60	9.00	10.60	12.60	15.00	18.40	24.00	31.00	40.00	51.00	64.00	80.00	100.00	125.00
66	1.22	1.75	2.91	3.80	4.79	5.28	5.63	5.98	6.33	6.70	7.20	7.70	9.20	10.80	12.80	15.20	18.80	25.00	32.00	42.00	53.00	67.00	84.00	105.00	132.00
67	1.35	1.92	3.01	3.90	4.89	5.38	5.73	6.08	6.43	6.80	7.30	7.80	9.40	11.00	13.00	15.40	19.20	26.00	33.00	44.00	56.00	71.00	89.00	111.00	140.00
68	1.49	2.11	3.11	4.00	4.99	5.48	5.83	6.18	6.53	6.90	7.40	7.90	9.60	11.20	13.20	15.60	19.60	27.00	34.00	46.00	58.00	74.00	93.00	116.00	146.00
69	1.65	2.32	3.21	4.10	5.09	5.58	5.93	6.28	6.63	7.00	7.50	8.00	9.80	11.40	13.40	15.80	20.00	28.00	35.00	48.00	61.00	78.00	98.00	122.00	154.00
70	1.82	2.55	3.28	4.23	5.22	5.71	6.06	6.41	6.76	7.10	7.60	8.10	10.00	11.60	13.60	16.00	20.40	29.00	36.00	50.00	64.00	82.00	104.00	130.00	164.00
71	2.02	2.74	3.37	4.32	5.31	5.80	6.15	6.50	6.85	7.20	7.70	8.20	10.20	11.80	13.80	16.20	21.00	30.00	37.00	52.00	67.00	86.00	109.00	137.00	174.00
72	2.23	3.07	3.58	4.53	5.52	6.01	6.36	6.71	7.06	7.40	7.90	8.40	10.40	12.00	14.00	16.40	21.60	31.00	38.00	54.00	70.00	90.00	114.00	143.00	184.00
73	2.46	3.37	3.70	4.65	5.64	6.13	6.48	6.83	7.18	7.50	8.00	8.50	10.60	12.20	14.20	16.60	22.00	32.00	39.00	56.00	73.00	94.00	119.00	149.00	192.00
74	2.72	3.70	4.03	4.98	5.97	6.46	6.81	7.16	7.51	7.80	8.30	8.80	11.00	12.60	14.60	17.00	22.40	33.00	40.00	58.00	76.00	98.00	125.00	157.00	202.00
75	3.01	4.06	4.39	5.34	6.33	6.82	7.17	7.52	7.87	8.10	8.60	9.10	11.40	13.00	15.00	17.40	23.00	34.00	41.00	60.00	79.00	102.00	130.00	164.00	210.00
76	3.32	4.46	4.79	5.74	6.73	7.22	7.57	7.92	8.27	8.50	9.00	9.50	11.80	13.40	15.40	17.80	24.00	35.00	42.00	62.00	82.00	106.00	135.00	171.00	220.00
77	3.67	4.89	5.22	6.17	7.16	7.65	8.00	8.35	8.70	8.90	9.40	9.90	12.20	13.80	15.80	18.20	25.00	36.00	43.00	64.00	85.00	110.00	140.00	178.00	230.00
78	4.06	5.37	5.70	6.65	7.64	8.13	8.48	8.83	9.18	9.40	9.90	10.40	12.80	14.40	16.40	18.80	26.00	37.00	44.00	66.00	88.00	114.00	145.00	185.00	245.00
79	4.49	5.90	6.23	7.18	8.17	8.66	9.01	9.36	9.71	9.90	10.40	10.90	13.40	15.00	17.00	19.40	27.00	38.00	45.00	68.00	91.00	118.00	150.00	192.00	260.00
80	4.96	6.48	6.81	7.76	8.75	9.24	9.59	9.94	10.29	10.50	11.00	11.50	14.00	15.60	17.60	20.00	29.00	40.00	47.00	71.00	95.00	124.00	160.00	205.00	280.00
81	5.46	7.11	7.44	8.39	9.38	9.87	10.22	10.57	10.92	11.10	11.60	12.10	14.60	16.20	18.20	20.60	31.00	42.00	49.00	74.00	99.00	130.00	170.00	220.00	300.00
82	6.00	7.81	8.14	9.09	10.08	10.57	10.92	11.27	11.62	11.80	12.30	12.80	15.40	17.00	19.00	21.40	33.00	44.00	51.00	76.00	102.00	134.00	180.00	235.00	320.00
83	6.57	8.51	8.84	9.79	10.78	11.27	11.62	11.97	12.32	12.50	13.00	13.50	16.20	17.80	19.80	22.20	35.00	46.00	53.00	79.00	106.00	140.00	190.00	245.00	335.00
84	7.17	9.41	9.74	10.69	11.68	12.17	12.52	12.87	13.22	13.40	13.90	14.40	17.20	18.80	20.80	23.20	37.00	48.00	55.00	82.00	110.00	146.00	200.00	260.00	350.00
85	7.81	10.3	10.6	11.55	12.54	13.03	13.38	13.73	14.08	14.20	14.70	15.20	18.00	19.60	21.60	24.00	40.00	51.00	58.00	86.00	115.00	153.00	210.00	275.00	370.00
86	8.51	11.3	11.6	12.55	13.54	14.03	14.38	14.73	15.08	15.20	15.70	16.20	19.00	20.60	22.60	25.00	42.00	53.00	60.00	90.00	120.00	160.00	225.00	295.00	400.00
87	9.26	12.4	12.7	13.65	14.64	15.13	15.48	15.83	16.18	16.30	16.80	17.30	20.20	21.80	23.80	26.20	44.00	55.00	62.00	94.00	125.00	166.00	235.00	310.00	420.00
88	10.0	13.6	13.9	14.85	15.84	16.33	16.68	17.03	17.38	17.50	18.00	18.50	21.40	23.00	25.00	27.40	46.00	57.00	64.00	98.00	130.00	172.00	245.00	325.00	440.00
89	10.8	14.9	15.2	16.05	17.04	17.53	17.88	18.23	18.58	18.70	19.20	19.70	22.60	24.20	26.20	28.60	48.00	59.00	66.00	102.00	136.00	178.00	255.00	340.00	465.00
90	11.7	16.3	16.6	17.45	18.44	18.93	19.28	19.63	19.98	20.10	20.60	21.10	24.00	25.60	27.60	30.00	50.00	61.00	68.00	107.00	142.00	184.00	265.00	355.00	490.00
91	12.6	17.7	18.0	18.75	19.74	20.23	20.58	20.93	21.28	21.40	21.90	22.40	25.40	27.00	29.00	31.40	52.00	63.00	70.00	112.00	148.00	190.00	275.00	370.00	505.00
92	13.5	19.1	19.4	20.15	21.14	21.63	21.98	22.33	22.68	22.80	23.30	23.80	26.80	28.40	30.40	32.80	54.00	65.00	72.00	117.00	154.00	196.00	285.00	385.00	520.00
93	14.5	20.6	20.9	21.45	22.44	22.93	23.28	23.63	23.98	24.10	24.60	25.10	28.00	29.60	31.60	34.00	56.00	67.00	74.00	122.00	160.00	202.00	295.00	395.00	535.00
94	15.5	22.1	22.4	23.15	24.14	24.63	24.98	25.33	25.68	25.80	26.30	26.80	29.80	31.40	33.40	35.80	58.00	69.00	76.00	127.00	166.00	208.00	305.00	405.00	550.00
95	16.6	23.6	23.9	24.65	25.64	26.13	26.48	26.83	27.18	27.30	27.80	28.30	31.20	32.80	34.80	37.20	60.00	71.00	78.00	132.00	172.00	214.00	315.00	415.00	565.00
96	17.7	25.1	25.4	26.15	27.14	27.63	27.98	28.33	28.68	28.80	29.30	29.80	32.80	34.40	36.40	38.80	62.00	73.00	80.00	137.00	178.00	220.00	325.00	425.00	580.00
97	18.8	26.6	26.9	27.45	28.44	28.93																			