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Edition 3

## **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**

### **Methods for environmental noise impact assessments**

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**Table of changes**

<b>Change No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Scope</b>

**Foreword**

This South African standard was approved by National Committee SABS/TC 076, *Acoustics, electro-acoustics and vibration*, in accordance with procedures of the SABS Standards Division, in compliance with annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement.

This document was published in January 2008. This document supersedes SANS 10328:2003 (edition 2).

**This document is referenced in the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000), the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), the Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000).**

**Reaffirmed and reprinted in May 2015.  
This document will be reviewed every five years  
and be reaffirmed, amended, revised or withdrawn.**

**Introduction**

The Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989) has been superseded by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). However, the "noise control" regulations (on which SABS 0328:2000 was based) that were promulgated under sections 25 and 28 of the Environment Conservation Act, and published in Government Notice No. R 896 of 27 April 1990, will stay in force for the time being. These regulations are being extensively revised, and will be published by the appropriate authority.

The activities that could have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment and which are listed in the Environment Conservation Act, the regulations published under the Environmental Management Act, and the regulations that apply in respect of each of these listed activities, promulgated under the said Environment Conservation Act and the Environmental Management Act, as well as any subsequent amendments thereto and any noise control regulations promulgated by any other authority, are therefore applicable.

This standard forms the basis on which noise impact investigations which are prescribed in regulations published under the Environment Conservation Act, the Environmental Management Act and the Environmental Management Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) or any other noise control regulations should be conducted.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, an environmental impact study and assessment have to be conducted before a new development, that involves any of the listed activities, can be approved by the relevant authority. The environmental impact investigation has to

- identify all the issues that could have an effect on the environment,
- assess the impact of the identified issues on the environment, and
- identify probable alternatives and assess their impact on the environment.

## **Introduction** *(concluded)*

Noise is one of the issues that can have an effect on the environment and should therefore form part of the relevant environmental impact study and report. However, contrary to most of the other environmental issues that have to be assessed subjectively, the assessment of the impact of noise on the environment can be done scientifically and objectively by following the procedures described in this standard.

Although this standard is in accordance with current legislation, no direct reference to the relevant Act or Regulations is made in order to avoid any amendments or revisions that might result from new Acts or Regulations being promulgated in future.

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## **Methods for environmental noise impact assessments**

### **1 Scope**

This standard covers procedures for environmental noise impact investigations and assessments.

NOTE 1 For information on national legislation regarding environmental impact investigations, see the introduction.

NOTE 2 The responsibility rests with the relevant authority (see 3.19) or applicant (see NOTE 3(a), in co-operation with the environmental assessment practitioner (where relevant), and the interested or affected parties under the direction of the officer, agent or consultant conducting the noise impact investigation, to stipulate the scope of the investigation (for example, the noise sources to be investigated), the format and content of the report and the detail regarding the input data (for example, measuring results, calculations, assumptions and estimates).

NOTE 3 This standard does not cover requirements regarding officers, agents or consultants who are to be appointed for environmental noise impact investigations or for evaluation of reports submitted. The responsibility of the applicant and the relevant authority in this regard is described in (a), (b) and (c), respectively:

a) It is the responsibility of the applicant to:

- appoint an independent consultant who, on his behalf, has to comply with the relevant regulations;
- cover all costs incurred in the employment of the consultant or any other person acting on his behalf;
- ensure that the consultant, or any other person acting on his behalf, has no financial or other interest in the undertaking of the proposed activity;
- ensure that the consultant has
  - i) expertise in the area of environmental concern being dealt with in the specific application,
  - ii) the ability to efficiently perform all the relevant tasks contemplated in the relevant regulations,
  - iii) the ability to manage the participation of all the interested or affected parties (see 3.12),
  - iv) the ability to timeously produce thorough, readable and informative documents,
  - v) adequate recording and reporting systems to ensure the preservation of all data collected, and
  - vi) a good working knowledge of all relevant policies, legislation, guidelines, norms and standards;
- ensure that the consultant provides access to the relevant authority as well as the opportunity to review all procedures, underlying data, reports and interviews with interested or affected parties; and
- ensure that all interested or affected parties, including government departments that might have jurisdiction over any aspect of the activity, are given the opportunity to participate in all the relevant procedures contemplated in the relevant regulations.

b) It is the responsibility of the relevant authority to:

- ensure that officers, agents or consultants employed to evaluate any reports submitted by the applicant in terms of the relevant regulations have