

Appendix 11.1

Acoustic Terminology

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Decibel, dB	A unit of level derived from the logarithm of the ratio between the value of a quantity and a reference value. For sound pressure level (L_p) the reference quantity is $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N/m}^2$. The sound pressure level existing when microphone measured pressure is $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N/m}^2$ is 0 dB, the threshold of hearing.
L	Instantaneous value of Sound Pressure Level (L_p) or Sound Power Level (L_w).
Frequency	Number of cycles per second, measured in hertz (Hz), related to sound pitch.
A weighting	Arithmetic corrections applied to values of L_p according to frequency. When logarithmically summed for all frequencies, the resulting single "A weighted value" becomes comparable with other such values from which a comparative loudness judgement can be made, then, without knowledge of frequency content of the source.
$L_{eq,T}$	Equivalent continuous level of sound pressure which, if it actually existed for the integration time period T of the measurement, would possess the same energy as the constantly varying values of L_p actually measured.
$L_{Aeq,T}$	Equivalent continuous level of A weighted sound pressure which, if it actually existed for the integration time period, T, of the measurement would possess the same energy as the constantly varying values of L_p actually measured.
$L_{n,T}$	L_p which was exceeded for n% of time, T.
$L_{An,T}$	Level in dBA which was exceeded for n% of time, T.
$L_{max,T}$	The instantaneous maximum sound pressure level which occurred during time, T.
$L_{Amax,T}$	The instantaneous maximum A weighted sound pressure level which occurred during time, T.