



European Committee for Standardization

# Webinar

'Hearing for life – How can hearing protection support?'



# Webinar moderator

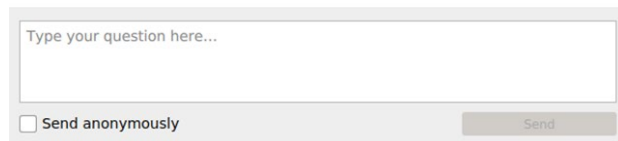


**Els SOMERS**  
**Project Manager**  
**Policy & Partnerships**  
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[esomers@cencenelec.eu](mailto:esomers@cencenelec.eu)

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- ▶ You are muted
- ▶ Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions



- ▶ Talk about us on Twitter [#training4standards](#) [@Standards4EU](#)

# Today's speakers

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- ▶ **Jennifer Ogbonna** – Project Manager – Energy & Living -  
Healthcare standards  
Introduction to CEN-CENELEC
- ▶ **Giovanna Longo** – Chair of CEN/TC 159  
Introduction to the work of TC 159
- ▶ **Magnus Johansson** – Convenor of CEN/TC 159/WG2  
'Electronic & amplitude-sensitive hearing protectors'
- ▶ **Peter Sickert** – Convenor of CEN/TC 159/WG5  
'Hearing protectors - Selection and use'
- ▶ **Sandra Dantscher** - Convenor of CEN/TC 159/WG6  
'Hearing protectors - General requirements and test methods'



# Introduction to CEN and CENELEC



## CEN and CENELEC

Two public standardization organizations with a common secretariat and common system of rules, to serve the interest of their members

### Members:

- Standardization organization of the 27 Member States of the EU
- +
- United Kingdom, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
- +
- Iceland, Switzerland, Norway (EFTA)



# Introduction to CEN and CENELEC



<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p><b>Denmark</b></p>	<p><b>Greece</b></p>	<p><b>Latvia</b></p>	<p><b>Poland</b></p>	<p><b>Slovenia</b></p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p><b>Estonia</b></p>	<p><b>Hungary</b></p>	<p><b>Lithuania</b></p>	<p><b>Portugal</b></p>	<p><b>Spain</b></p>
<p><b>Bulgaria</b></p>	<p><b>Finland</b></p>	<p><b>Iceland</b></p>	<p><b>Luxembourg</b></p>	<p><b>Republic of North Macedonia</b></p>	<p><b>Sweden</b></p>
<p><b>Croatia</b></p>	<p><b>France</b></p>	<p><b>Ireland</b></p>	<p><b>Malta</b></p>	<p><b>Romania</b></p>	<p><b>Switzerland</b></p>
<p><b>Cyprus</b></p>	<p><b>Germany</b></p>	<p><b>Italy</b></p>	<p><b>Netherlands</b></p>	<p><b>Serbia</b></p>	<p><b>Turkey</b></p>
<p><b>Czech Republic</b></p>	<p><b>Norway</b></p>	<p><b>Slovakia</b></p>	<p><b>United Kingdom</b></p>		

# Standardization happens at different levels..



National

European

International

Recognised also in Art. 2 (8) and Annex I of EU Regulation 1025/2012!

Recognised also in Art. 2 (9) of EU Regulation 1025/2012!

## 1 European Standard



34 identical national standards

All conflicting standards removed



**Access to a market of 600 million consumers**



# Introduction to CEN and CENELEC



## CEN

- Partner organizations [10](#)
- Liaison organisations [288](#)
- European Agencies [5](#)



## CENELEC

- Partner organizations [13](#)
- Liaison organisations [28](#)
- European Agencies [5](#)



EUROPEAN ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION



SME-Friendly Standards



European Commission

Joint Research Centre

# Actors in standardization





- ▶ CEN/TC 79 'Respiratory protective devices'
- ▶ CEN/TC 85 'Eye protective equipment'
- ▶ CEN/TC 122 'Ergonomics'
- ▶ CEN/TC 136 'Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment'
- ▶ CEN/TC 158 'Head protection'
- ▶ CEN/TC 159 'Hearing protectors'
- ▶ CEN/TC 160 'Protection against falls from height including working belts'
- ▶ CEN/TC 161 'Foot and leg protectors'
- ▶ CEN/TC 162 'Protective clothing including hand and arm protection and life jackets'
- ▶ CLC/TC 78 'Equipment and tools for live working'
- ▶ CEN/TC 231 'Mechanical vibration and shock'

- ▶ Coordinates European standardisation activities on PPE
- ▶ Chaired by Sector Rapporteur
- ▶ Meets twice a year
- ▶ Commission's presence is welcomed by CEN and CENELEC
- ▶ Current activities:
  - Day to day guidance on the impact of the PPE Regulation on standards
  - Discussion on circularity and sustainability for PPE

- ▶ CEN/TC 159 'Hearing protectors' CEN-CENELEC Guide 25 'The concept of Cooperation with European Organizations and other stakeholders' details conditions to become a liaison → Mail to partners [partners@cencenelec.eu](mailto:partners@cencenelec.eu)
- ▶ The CEN-CENELEC Sector Forum on Personal Protective Equipment
  - The applicant organization duly fulfils an ad-hoc **application form** - Application form to become member in a Joint advisory or coordination group
  - PPE Sector Forum to **evaluates the request** and provides an advice to the (Technical) Boards who then takes a final decision



Giovanna LONGO

Chairperson of CEN/TC 159 'Hearing protection'

[glongo@mmm.com](mailto:glongo@mmm.com)

- ▶ Introduction to the work of  
CEN/TC 159

# A question for you





Why do we need hearing protection?

Noise Directive  
2003/10/EC

Minimum requirements on noise  
exposure to workers



Why do we need hearing protection?

Framework  
Directive  
89/391/EEC

Measures to improve  
OH&S






Why do we need hearing protection?

Use of PPE  
89/656/EEC

Employer's  
responsibility



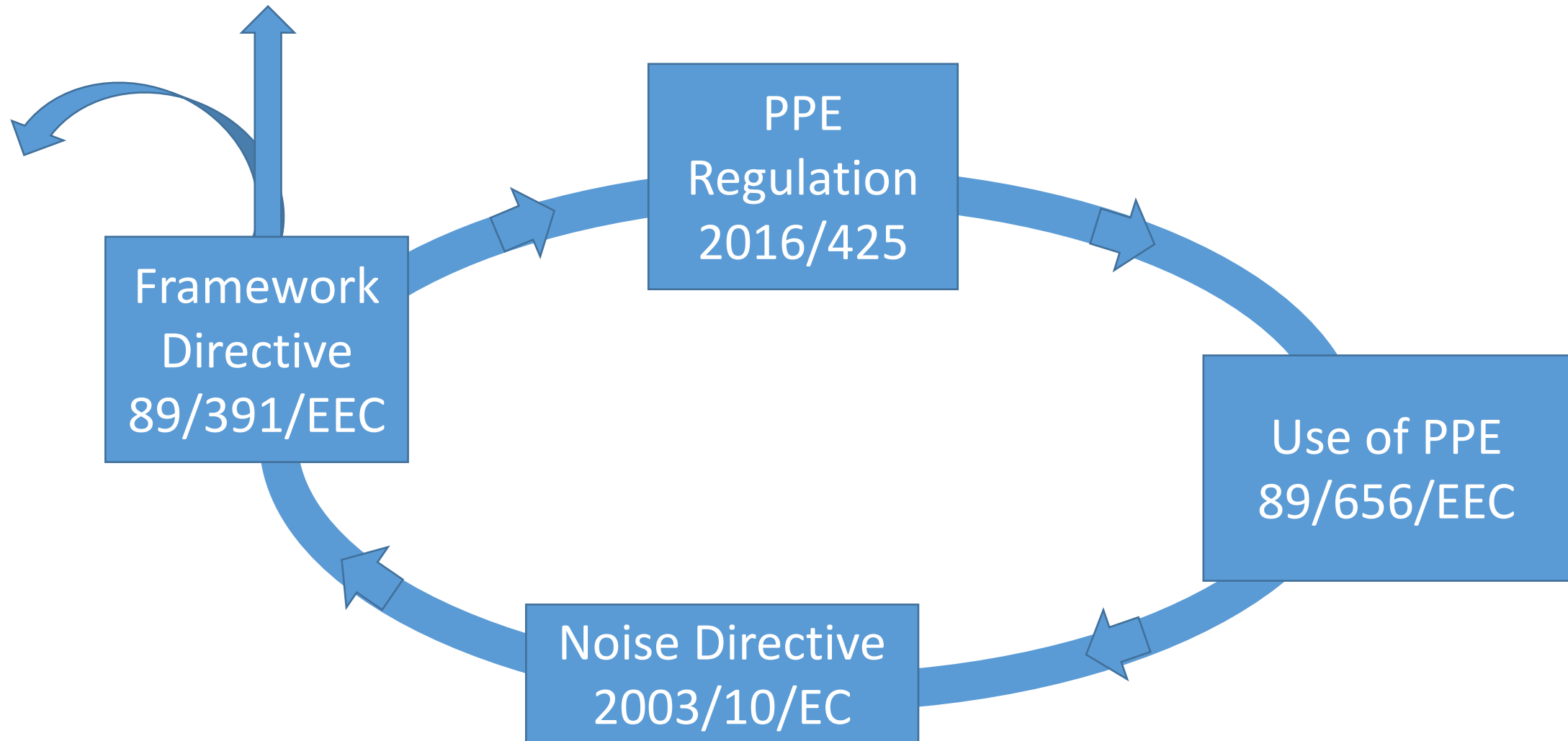


PPE  
Regulation  
2016/425

Minimum requirements for  
Hearing Protection Devices

Why do we need hearing  
protection?

# Why do we need hearing protection?





What are the two saddest words for someone with hearing loss?



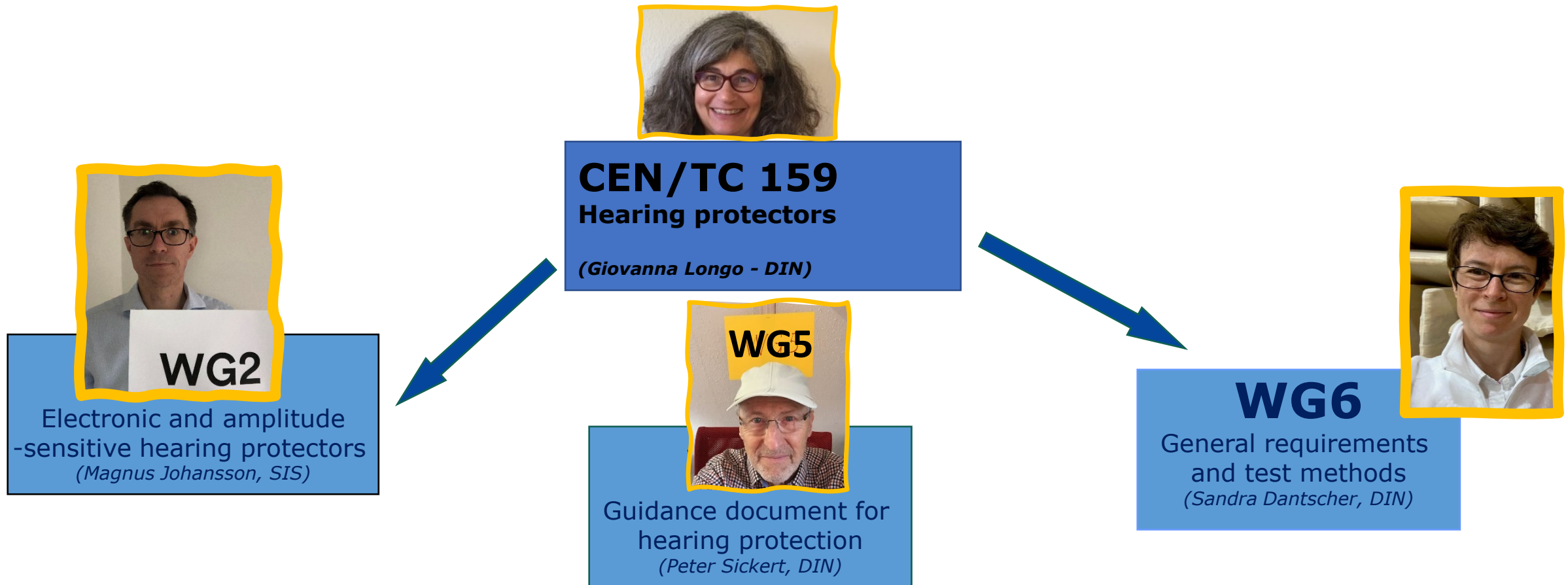
„Never mind“

# What about you?





# Structure CEN/TC 159



# Structure CEN/TC 159



## CEN/TC 159 Hearing protectors

(Giovanna Longo - DIN)



### WG2

Electronic and amplitude  
-sensitive hearing protectors  
(Magnus Johansson, SIS)



### WG5

Guidance document for  
hearing protection  
(Peter Sickert, DIN)



### WG6

General requirements  
and test methods  
(Sandra Dantscher, DIN)

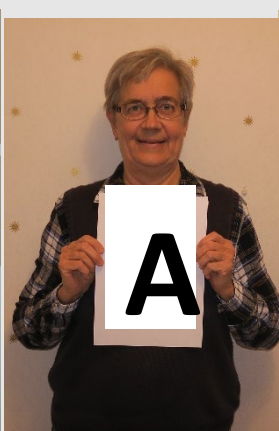


Are you...

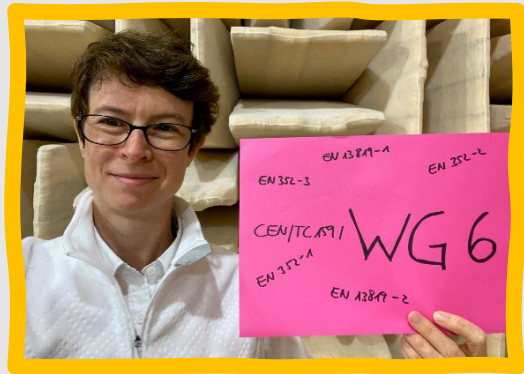




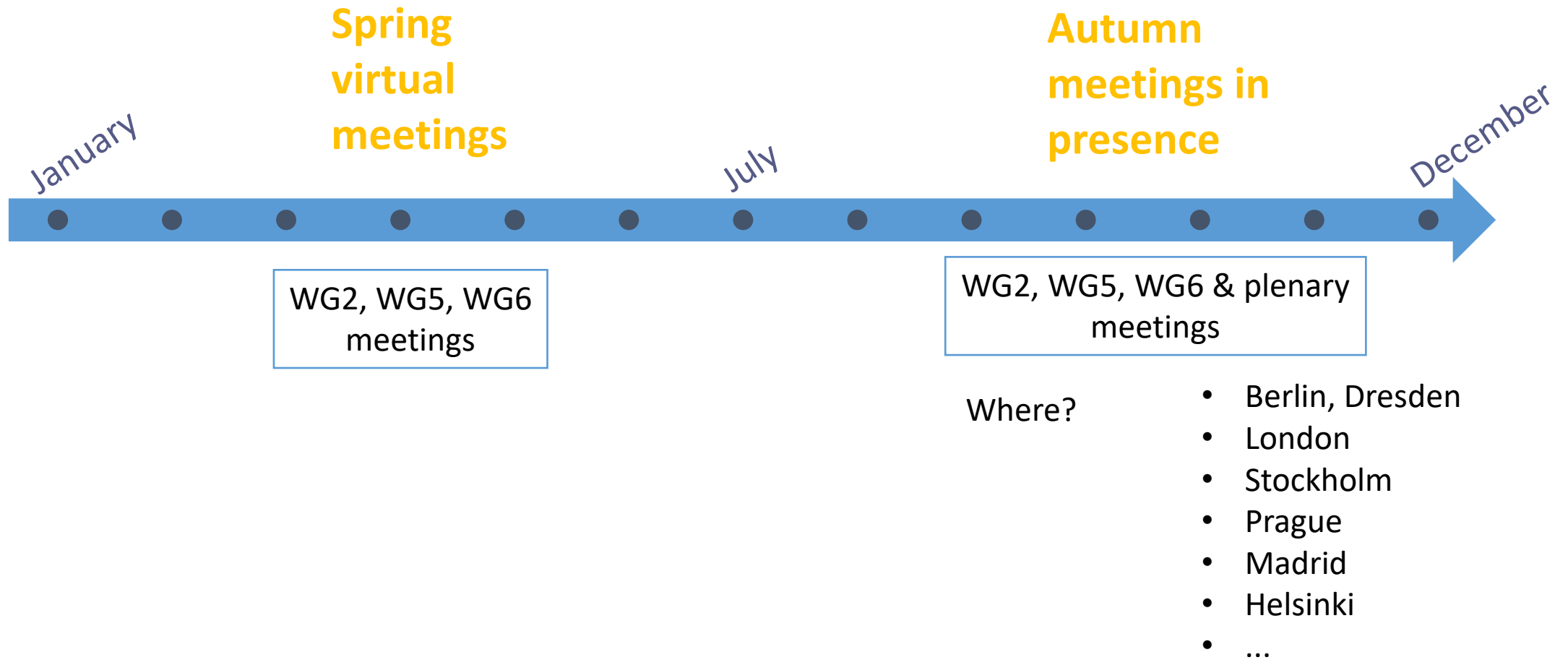
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# How we work





Magnus JOHANSSON

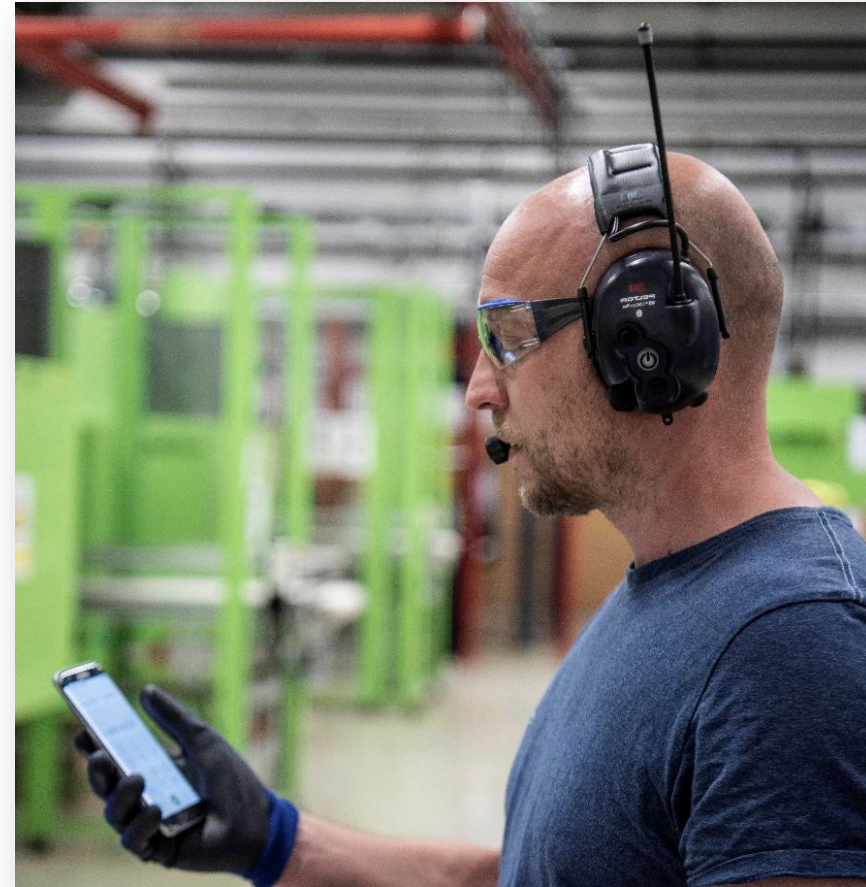
Convenor CEN/TC 159/WG 2

‘Electronic & amplitude-sensitive hearing protector’

[magnus.johansson@mmm.com](mailto:magnus.johansson@mmm.com)



# Hearing protection devices with communication facilities - with long history



## Example of product requirement standard from 2002

### Hearing protectors - Safety requirements and testing - Part 6: Ear-muffs with electrical audio input

EUROPEAN STANDARD **EN 352-6**  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM December 2002

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ICS 13.340.20

English version

Hearing protectors - Safety requirements and testing - Part 6:  
Ear-muffs with electrical audio input

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Exigences de  
sécurité et essais - Partie 6: Serre-tête avec entrée audio-  
électrique


Gehörschützer - Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen und  
Prüfungen - Teil 6: Kapselgehörschützer mit  
Kommunikationseinrichtungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 16 October 2002.

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## Current list of standards in the EN352 series - 2020

EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 352-6

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

November 2020

ICS 13.340.20

Supersedes EN 352-6:2002

English Version

### Hearing protectors - Safety requirements - Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Exigences de  
sécurité et essais - Partie 6 : Serre-tête avec entrée  
audio

Gehörschützer - Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen  
und Prüfungen - Teil 6: Kapselgehörschützer mit  
Kommunikationseinrichtungen

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Ref. No. EN 352-6:2020 E

- EN 352-1, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 1: Earmuffs
- EN 352-2, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 2: Earplugs
- EN 352-3, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 3: Earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices

- EN 352-4, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 4: Level-dependent earmuffs
- EN 352-5, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 5: Active noise reduction earmuffs
- EN 352-6, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-7, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 7: Level-dependent earplugs
- EN 352-8, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 8: Entertainment audio earmuffs
- EN 352-9, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 9: Earplugs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-10, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 10: Entertainment audio earplugs

Test methods for these requirements are described in the following standards:

- EN 13819-1, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 1: Physical test methods
- EN 13819-2, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 2: Acoustic test methods
- EN 13819-3, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 3: Supplementary acoustic test methods

## Current list of standards in the EN352 series - 2020

EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 352-6

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

November 2020

ICS 13.340.20

Supersedes EN 352-6:2002

English Version

### Hearing protectors - Safety requirements - Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit - Exigences de  
sécurité et essais - Partie 6 : Serre-tête avec entrée  
audio

Gehörschützer - Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen  
und Prüfungen - Teil 6: Kapselgehörschützer mit  
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- EN 352-1, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 1: Earmuffs
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- EN 352-3, Hearing protectors — General requirements — Part 3: Earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices

- EN 352-4, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 4: Level-dependent earmuffs
- EN 352-5, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 5: Active noise reduction earmuffs
- EN 352-6, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-7, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 7: Level-dependent earplugs
- EN 352-8, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 8: Entertainment audio earmuffs
- EN 352-9, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 9: Earplugs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-10, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 10: Entertainment audio earplugs

Test methods for these requirements are described in the following standards:

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- EN 13819-3, Hearing protectors — Testing — Part 3: Supplementary acoustic test methods



# Products with safety-related audio input

EN 352-6, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 6: Earmuffs with safety-related audio input

EN 352-9, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 9: Earplugs with safety-related audio input

## Product requirements:

- Criterion input signal
- The relationship between sound output level and input signal in 5 dB steps from a sound output level of 70 dB(A) up to the maximum input signal
- The sound output level for maximum input signal
- The usage time for the maximum input signal that corresponds to an 8 h equivalent sound output level



# Products with entertainment audio

EN 352-8, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 8: Entertainment audio earmuffs

EN 352-10, Hearing protectors — Safety requirements — Part 10: Entertainment audio earplugs



## Requirements:

- The entertainment audio signal doesn't exceed 82 dB(A) effective to the ear;
  - built-in broadcast receivers for FM radio
  - electrical audio input
  - built-in Bluetooth receivers



# Upcoming amendments

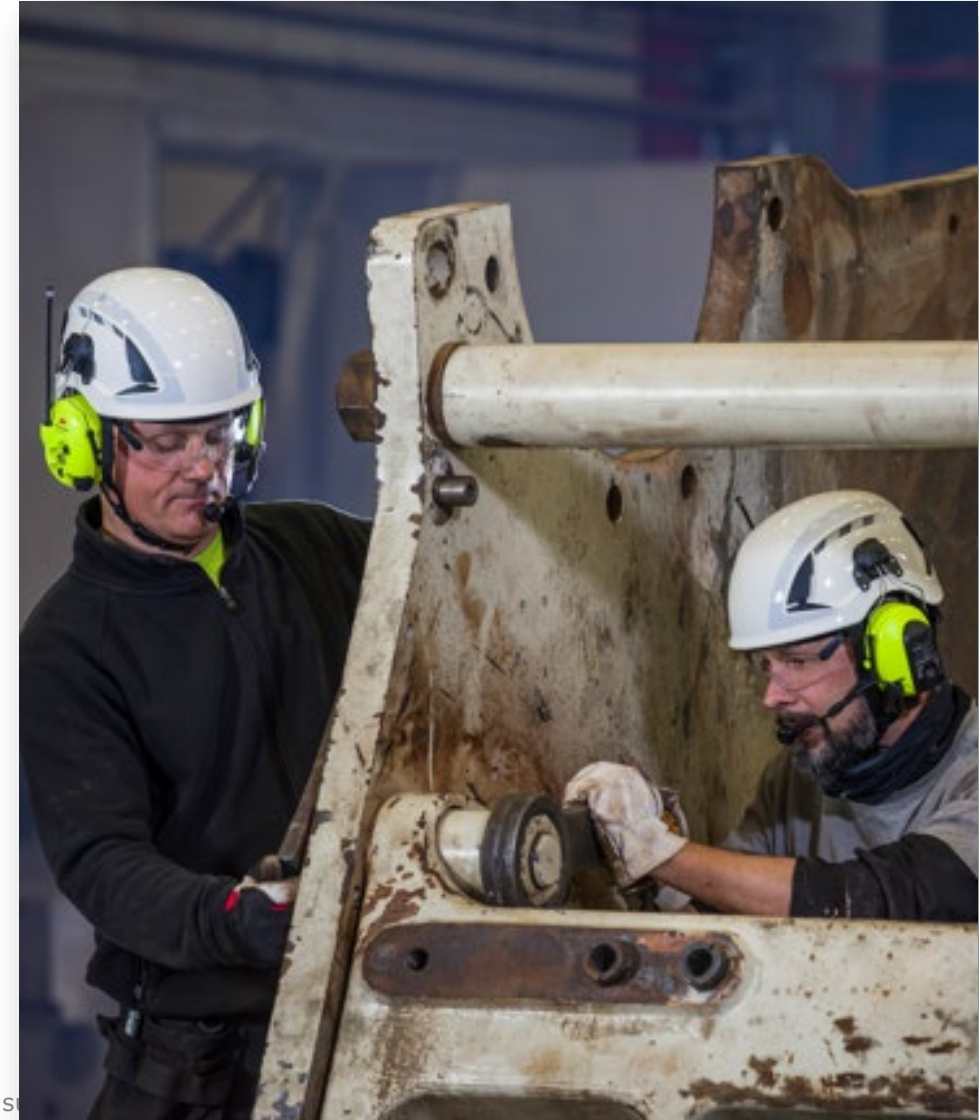


EN352 - Part 6 and Part 9 ...safety-related audio input

- The criterion input signal for hearing protection devices with analogue frequency modulated two-way radio input

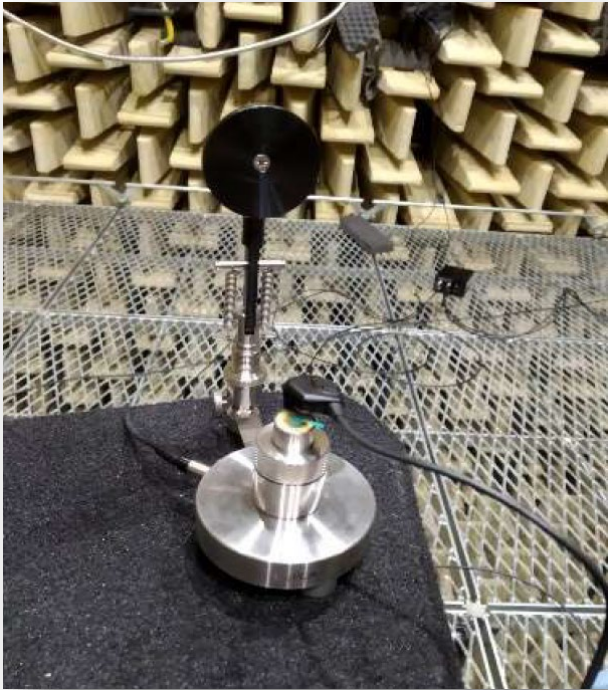
EN352 - Part 8 and Part 10 ...entertainment audio

- Entertainment audio hearing protections with built-in DAB and/or DAB+ radio receivers

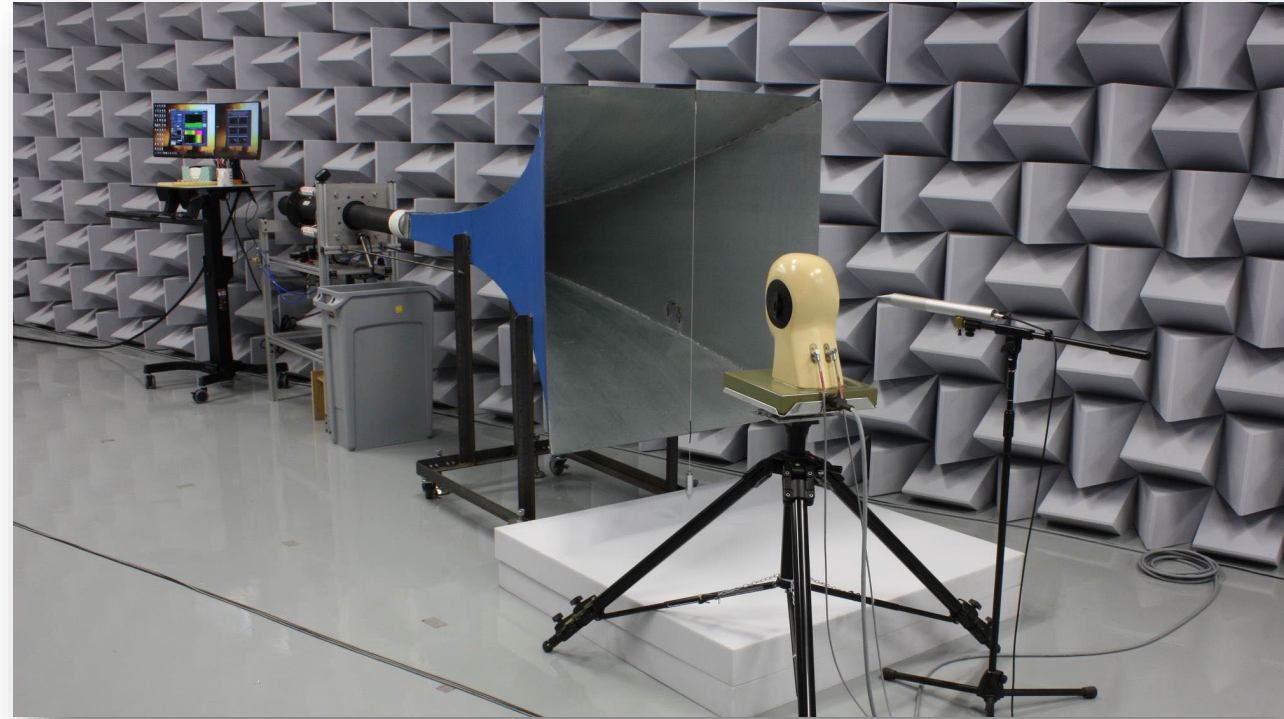


# Ongoing work

How to test ANR earplugs?



How to test hearing protection devices to impulse noise?



# Join the team!

---





Peter SICKERT

Convenor CEN/TC 159/WG 5 'Hearing protectors -  
Selection and use'

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# CEN/TC 159 Working group 5

## “Hearing protectors - Selection and use”



WG 5 originally deals with appropriate selection, use and maintenance of hearing protectors

Special case: User standard, no requirements on products or test methods



### Overview:

- Selection and use of HPD
- Selection and use of fit testing systems
- Requirements on fit testing systems

# Selection of hearing protectors according EN 458



July 2016

DIN EN 458

**DIN**

ICS 13.340.20

Supersedes  
DIN EN 458:2005-02

**Hearing protectors –  
Recommendations for selection, use, care and maintenance –  
Guidance document;  
English version EN 458:2016,  
English translation of DIN EN 458:2016-07**



# Example of the content - important aspect: Selection of HPD according to sound attenuation

## Methods for assessing the sound attenuation of a passive hearing protector :

- Octave band method;
- HML method;
- HML check method;
- SNR method.



## Mostly used: calculation method “HML Check”:

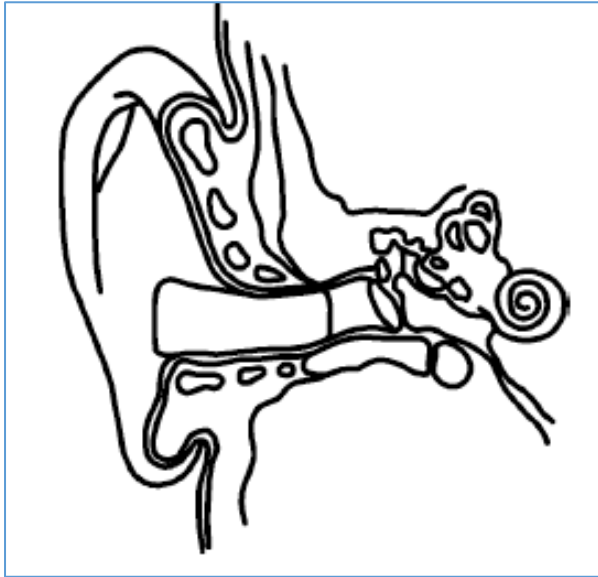
Subtract the **laboratory** determined sound attenuation values (M or L-value) (type examination) from the A-weighted sound pressure level ( $L'_{p,A} = L_{p,A} - M/L$ )

- if  $L'_{p,A} > L'_{NR}$  the protection is insufficient → try another hearing protector with higher attenuation;
- if  $L'_{p,A} \leq L'_{NR}$  the sound attenuation of the hearing protector is sufficient;
- if  $L'_{p,A} > L'_{NR} - 15$  dB the sound attenuation is “acceptable” or “good”.

# But: Sound attenuation in practice (Real-world attenuation) is mostly lower!



The attenuation afforded by a hearing protector when used under normal working conditions may differ from that indicated on the device packaging or in the user information from different reasons.  
Possible causes: Ear anatomy, wrong use, poor maintenance.



→ Different derating methods within the member states

→ Example: Germany for disposable earplugs → use the M-Value – 9 dB

Not appropriate use of earplugs

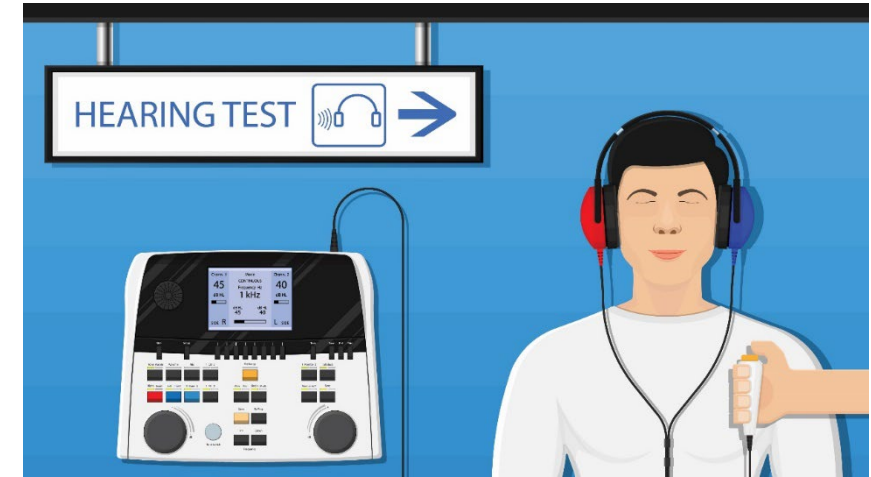
# Second WG 5 Topic: fit testing methods



EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 17479**

November 2021



ICS 13.340.20

English Version

## Hearing protectors - Guidance on selection of individual fit testing methods

Protecteurs individuels contre le bruit -  
Recommandations relatives au choix des méthodes  
individuelles de contrôle de l'ajustement

Gehörschützer - Leitfaden zur Auswahl von  
Prüfverfahren für den individuellen Sitz

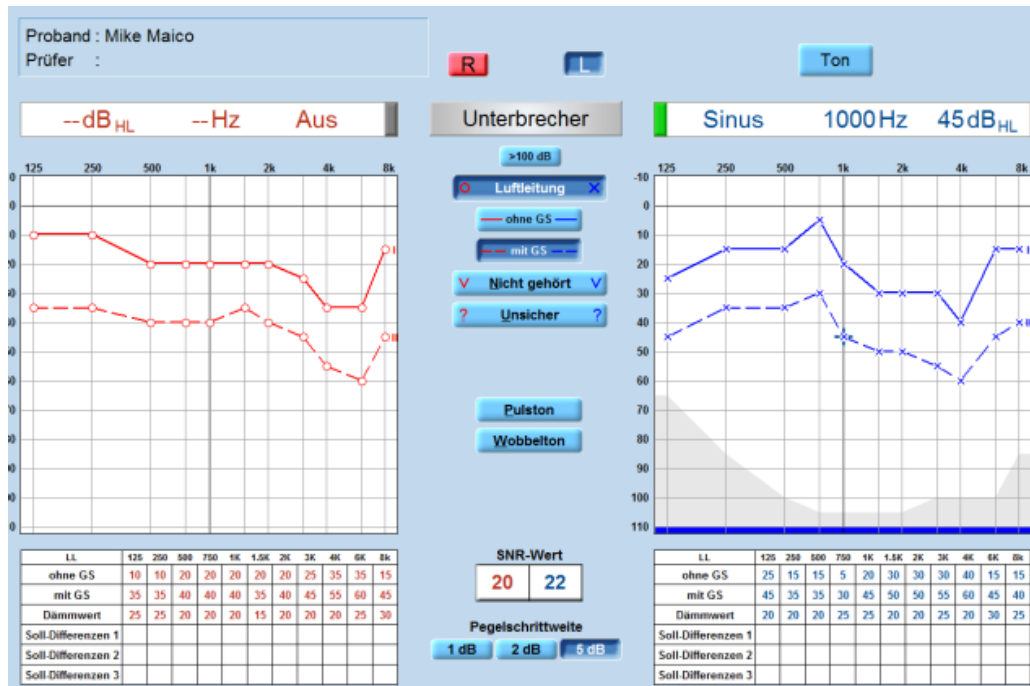
This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 September 2021.

# 4.2 Test methods (objective and subjective)



- Method 1: Sound-level measurements with microphone in real ear (MIRE)
- Method 2: Audiometric method (determination of the threshold of hearing with and without hearing protector)

Method 2



Audiometric method: „Maico MA 33“





- Method 3: Audiometric-based method (determination of the threshold of hearing with and without hearing protector)
- Method 4: Loudness balancing method
- Method 5: Acoustic leakage test
- Method 6: Air leakage test

Method 3



Phonak „SafetyMeter“ Source: Weiss/BGHM



Honeywell „VeriPro“

Method 4



# Table 2: Application field of the different fit testing methods



Health surveillance



Training for trainers and supervisors

Method	Sound-level measurement with microphone in real ear (MIRE)		Audiometric method		Audiometric-based method		Loudness balancing	Acoustic leakage test	Air leakage test
	with headset	with loud-speaker	with headset	with loud-speaker	with headset	with loudspeaker			
Select an appropriate hearing protector	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
End user training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Training for trainers and supervisors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Health surveillance	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
Verify adequacy of attenuation to noise level at work place	X	X	x <sup>b</sup>	x <sup>b</sup>	x <sup>b</sup>	x <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-
Fit for custom moulded earplugs	x <sup>a</sup>	x <sup>a</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Awareness increase	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

<sup>a</sup> Some MIRE systems can be used only on custom moulded earplugs.

<sup>b</sup> Suitable only when tested at all frequencies.

## **2019: New scope of WG 5**

**1. To be responsible for preparing European standards on guidance on correct selection, use, care and maintenance of hearing protectors.**

**+**

**2. Additionally, to be responsible for the development of performance requirements and test methods for fit testing systems for determination of the individual hearing protection performance.**

# First draft of a new standard on fit testing system requirements (PWI)



CEN/TC 159/WG 5 N 396

**CEN/TC 159/WG 5 "Hearing protectors - Selection and use"**

WG Secretariat: **DIN**

Convenor: **Sickert Peter Mr Dipl.-Phys.**

**Draft PWI - Performance criteria for fit testing systems - 2022-08-23**

**Possible: partly use of American standard: ANSI/ASA S12.71-2018**

“Performance Criteria for Systems that Estimate the Attenuation of Passive Hearing Protectors for Individual Users”

8	Performance characteristics for FTS with <u>qualitative approach (pass/fail)</u> (→ same approach as for <u>quantitative systems</u> , consider here differences for pass/fail systems) .....	13
9	Calculation of individual attenuation values (→ consider specifying compulsory calculation procedures for well-defined quantities (like HML), others (like PAR?) could be left to the manufacturer of the system) .....	12
10	Factors of uncertainty (→ including test procedures thereto) .....	14
10.1	Measurement uncertainty of the system itself.....	14
10.2	Fitting uncertainty .....	14
10.3	Spectrum uncertainty (→ probably only necessary for certain single number values) .....	14
10.4	Surrogate-related uncertainty (→ if applicable).....	14
13	Acceptance criteria for the individual FTS.....	19
13.1	Measurement uncertainty .....	19
13.2	Deviation from REAT.....	19
13.3	(Specific requirements on different methods?).....	19



# Summary and Outlook



- Appropriate selection of HPD
  - Correct use of hearing protectors
  - Individual fit of hearing protectors
  - Derating of sound attenuation in practise
  - Guidance on selection of individual fit testing methods
- Performance criteria for fit testing systems



## Future of WG 5:

- From 2023 no convener and no secretary available.
- Every kind of support is welcome.

Thank you for your attention!



Sandra DANTSCHER

Convenor CEN/TC 159/WG 6 'Hearing protectors - General requirements and test methods'

[Sandra.Dantscher@dguv.de](mailto:Sandra.Dantscher@dguv.de)

# Challenges

## Hearing protectors for children – challenges for TC 159



# Scope of WG 6

---

Testing the passive functionality  
- applicable to all products

To be responsible for the **basic** European standards for earmuffs, earplugs and earmuffs attached to head protection and/or face protection devices to include requirements, testing, marking and user information.

Also to be responsible for harmonising, where possible, all of CEN/TC 159 hearing protector **product standards**.

Here: EN 352-1 to -3



# EN 352 and EN 13819 series

Series EN 352: product standards specifying requirements  
→ In WG 6: EN 352-1, -2 and -3

Series EN 13819: testing standards specifying procedures  
→ In WG 6: EN 13819-1 and -2



EN 352-1: earmuffs



EN 352-2: earplugs



EN 352-3: mounted earmuffs

# PPE for children - examples

- ▶ Respirator masks, face masks
- ▶ Helmets for sports (equestrian, biking and skiing)
- ▶ Hearing protectors ( earmuffs and earplugs)
- ▶ Life jackets
- ▶ Climbing harness



# Hearing protectors for children

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## Fields of application:

- ▶ Leisure and sports (e.g. music, car racing)
- ▶ But also schools etc. (for enhancing concentration)

## To be noted:

- ▶ The PPE Regulation addresses also private use (not only work environment).
- ▶ So far, this field has not been in the focus of TC 159.

# Testing and certification so far

- ▶ Application of existing standards (EN 352-1 and -2) where possible
- ▶ Application of Recommendation for Use sheets of the Notified Bodies for further aspects
  - ▶ RfU: Agreement between NB on technical questions, also approved by member states representatives
  - ▶ Example: Additional instructions and warnings for parents as part of user information
- ▶ Application of bespoke test procedures adapted to certain products (e.g. for babies and toddlers)





# Approach of TC 159 standards for adults

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## Examples:

- ▶ Size ranges (adjustability)
- ▶ Measurement of sound attenuation (subjective procedure with test subjects)

Test procedures and requirements are affected by the reduced sizes of the products and the target group of users.

# Earmuffs: sizing

Specification of test width and test height for three different size ranges (S, M, L) in EN 13819-1

Values cover the adult population (males and females).



**Table 1 — Test dimensions - adjustability (over-the-head and under-the-chin earmuffs)**

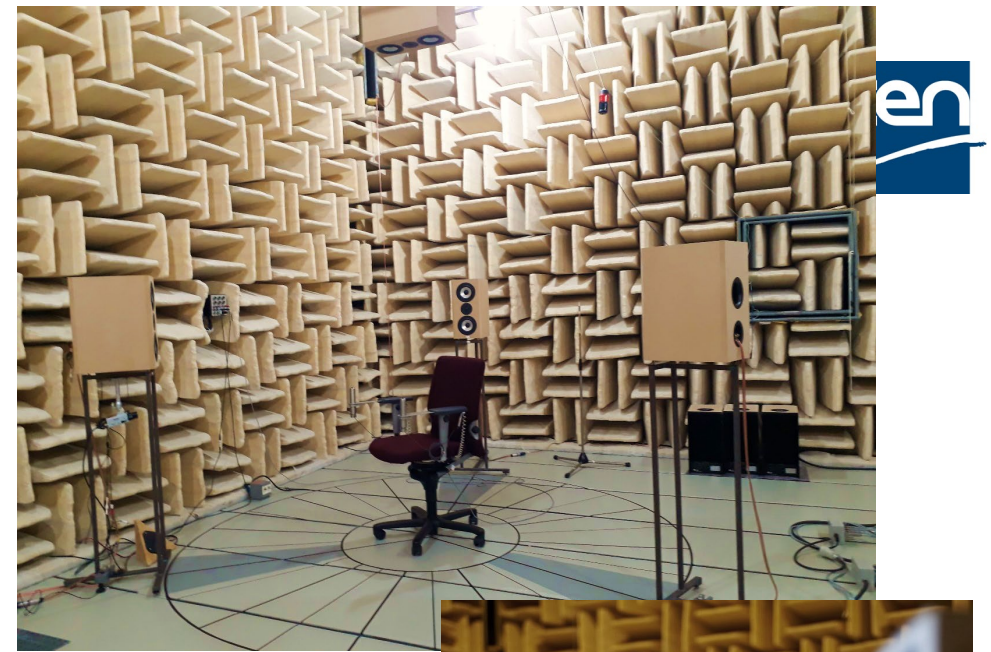
Dimensions in millimetres with a limit deviation of  $\pm 1$  mm

Test height mm	Test width mm		
	125	145	155
115	S	S/M	—
130	S/M	S/M/L	M/L
140	—	M/L	L

M indicates earmuffs of 'medium' size range.  
 S indicates earmuffs of 'small' size range.  
 L indicates earmuffs of 'large' size range.  
 — not applicable.

# All types: sound attenuation

- ▶ Measurement method: EN ISO 4869-1, Real-ear attenuation at threshold (REAT)
  - ▶ Hearing threshold with and without hearing protector
  - ▶ Test subjects needed for realistic results
- ▶ 16 subjects per product → representative anthropometric range of target group
- ▶ Necessary precondition: stable threshold measurements



# Sound attenuation measurement

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# Current project of CEN/TC 159/WG 6



Testing and certification of earmuffs for children under the age of five years

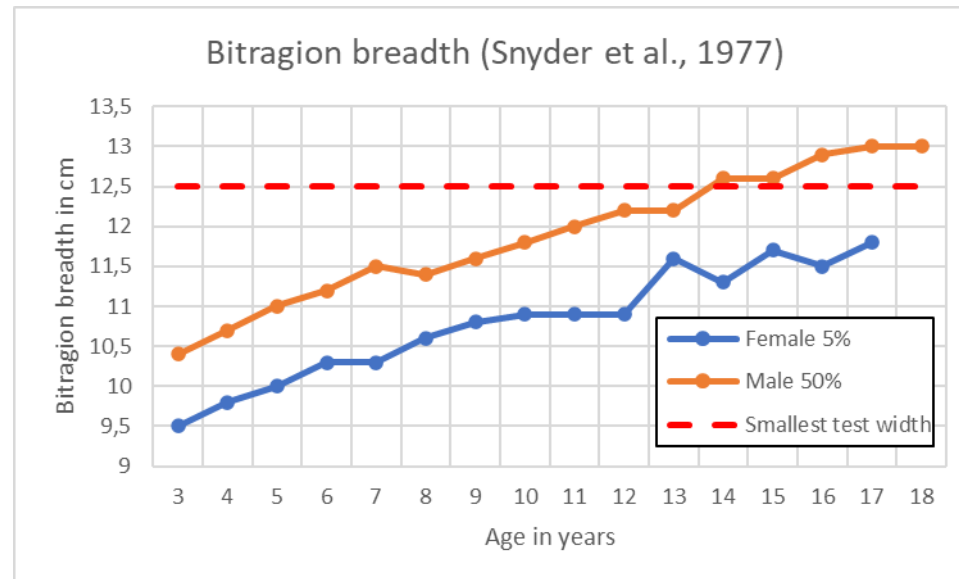
Identified open questions:

- ▶ Sizing: smaller test headforms for adjustability
- ▶ Test equipment: smaller versions (e.g. headband force, variation of insertion loss)
- ▶ Sound attenuation: measurements with adults or children (or artificial heads)



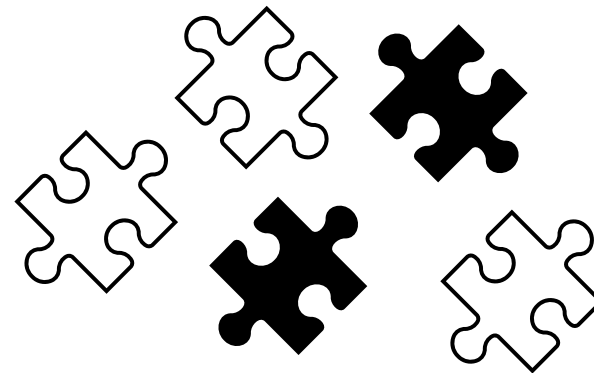
# Approaches

- ▶ As a first step: address age range from 2 to 5 years
- ▶ Anthropometric measures: contact to [CEN/TC 122/WG 1](#), analyse existing data sets (webinar in November 2021 and technical report [CEN/TR 17698](#))
- ▶ Ergonomic criteria (e.g. headband force): investigate other products for children
- ▶ Involve NBs (with and without previous experience in testing of such products)



# Summary and outlook

- ▶ **Goal: Protect the whole population exposed to noise**
  - ▶ A relevant part of the exposure can lie on the leisure side (for all age groups).
- ▶ **Take into account**
  - ▶ the needs of children as primary target group
  - ▶ the needs of parents as secondary target group (information and instruction)
- ▶ **Change or adapt established procedures**
  - ▶ E.g. determination of sound attenuation
- ▶ **Can you help us? Experts for experience exchange**
  - ▶ Audiology, medicine
  - ▶ Anthropometry
  - ▶ Test labs, notified bodies



Do you ...

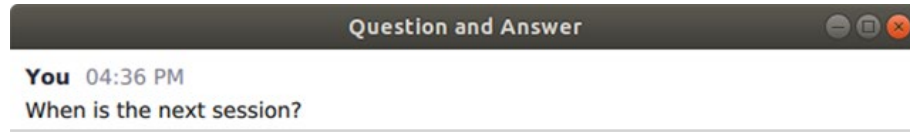




# Question time



- ▶ Use the Q&A panel to submit your questions

A screenshot of a question submission form. It features a large text input field with the placeholder text 'Type your question here...'. Below the input field, there is a checkbox labeled 'Send anonymously' and a 'Send' button.



European Committee for Standardization

# Thank you for your participation!

Next events & webinars

2022-12-02 – Hybrid event [‘Trusted Chips: The Standardization Landscape & Opportunities for Europe’](#)

2022-12-12 – [Training for newly appointed Technical Body Officers](#)