



Designation: E1332 – 22

Standard Classification for Rating Outdoor-Indoor Sound Attenuation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1332; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

This classification is part of a set of ratings for the sound isolating properties of materials, building elements, and structures. It is based on A-weighted reduction of a transportation noise source. Other ratings include Classification **E413** that rates the ability of a partition to reduce speech and other sounds within a limited frequency range, and Classification **E989** that provides a rating method for comparing the impact-insulation properties of floor-ceiling assemblies.

1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of this classification is to provide a method to calculate single-number ratings that can be used for assessing the isolation from outdoor sound provided by a building or comparing building facade specimens including walls, doors, windows, and combinations thereof, including complete structures. These ratings are designed to correlate with subjective impressions of the ability of building elements to reduce the penetration of outdoor ground and air transportation noise that contains strong low-frequency sound.² These ratings provide an evaluation and rank ordering of the performance of test specimens based on their effectiveness at controlling the sound of a specific outdoor sound spectrum called the reference source spectrum.

1.2 In addition to the calculation method, this classification provides the definition of the outdoor-indoor transmission class which is not defined elsewhere within ASTM standards. Other standards such as Guide **E966** define additional ratings based on the method of this classification, one of which is discussed in this classification.

1.3 The rating does not necessarily relate to the perceived aesthetic quality of the transmitted sound. Different facade elements with similar ratings differ significantly in the proportion of low and high frequency sound that they transmit, and the spectra of sources can vary significantly. It is best to use specific sound transmission loss values, in conjunction with

actual spectra of outdoor and indoor sound levels, for making final selections of facade elements.

1.4 Excluded from the scope of this classification are applications involving noise spectra differing markedly from that shown in **Table 1**. Thus excluded, for example, would be certain industrial noises with high levels at frequencies below the 80 Hz one-third octave band, relative to levels at higher frequencies, and any source, including some transportation sources, that does not have a spectrum similar to that in **Table 1**. However, for any source with a spectrum similar to that in **Table 1**, this classification provides a more reliable ranking of the performance of partitions and facade elements than do other classifications such as Classification **E413**.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

¹ This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **E33** on Building and Environmental Acoustics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **E33.03** on Sound Transmission.

Current edition approved June 1, 2022. Published August 2022. Originally approved in 1990. Last previous edition approved in 2016 as E1332 – 16. DOI: 10.1520/E1332-22.

² This classification may be used in conjunction with Test Method **E90** or Guide **E966**.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

TABLE 1 Reference Source Spectrum

One-third Octave Band Center Frequency, Hz	Sound Level, dB
80	103
100	102
125	101
160	98
200	97
250	95
315	94
400	93
500	93
630	91
800	90
1000	89
1250	89
1600	88
2000	88
2500	87
3150	85
4000	84

C634 Terminology Relating to Building and Environmental Acoustics

E90 Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Airborne Sound Transmission Loss of Building Partitions and Elements

E413 Classification for Rating Sound Insulation

E966 Guide for Field Measurements of Airborne Sound Attenuation of Building Facades and Facade Elements

E989 Classification for Determination of Single-Number Metrics for Impact Noise

2.2 *ANSI Standard*.⁴

ANSI S1.4-2014/Part 1/IEC 61672-1: 2013 Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 1: Specifications

2.3 *ISO Standard*.⁵

ISO 532:1975 Acoustics—Method for calculating loudness level

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms used in this standard are defined either in Terminology **C634** or within this standard. The definition of terms explicitly given within this standard take precedence over definitions given in Terminology **C634**. The definitions within Terminology **C634** and this standard take precedence over any other definitions of defined terms found in any other documents, including other documents referenced in this standard.

3.1.1 The following terms used in this classification have specific meanings that are defined in Terminology **C634**: *decibel*, *octave band*, *outdoor-indoor transmission loss*, *sound level*, *sound transmission loss*.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

3.2.1 The following definitions shall be used in interpretation of this classification for terms that do not appear in Terminology **C634**.

3.2.2 *outdoor-indoor noise reduction, OINR or OINR(θ)*, [dimensionless] dB, *n*—for a specified source angle of incidence or source sound distribution, the difference between the time-average free-field sound pressure level at the exterior of a façade and the space-time average sound pressure level in a room of a building exposed to the outdoor sound through that façade.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—The outdoor-indoor noise reduction was previously referred to as the outdoor-indoor level reduction, OILR. If the result is measured for a source at a specific angle, or calculated based on outdoor-indoor transmission loss or apparent outdoor-indoor transmission loss, then the result is OINR(θ), a function of angle. If the result is calculated from values of transmission loss or is measured with a horizontal line source such as road or air traffic, the OINR is then not a function of horizontal angle though it could be a function of vertical angle for the horizontal line source.

3.2.3 *outdoor-indoor noise isolation class, OINIC or OINIC(θ)*, *n*—of an enclosed space exposed through a façade to an outdoor sound, a single-number rating calculated in accordance with Classification E1332 using values of outdoor-indoor noise reduction (OINR or OINR(θ)).

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—The OINIC is the overall A-weighted noise reduction that would occur if the source spectrum were that given in **Table 1**.

3.2.4 *outdoor-indoor transmission class, OITC, n*—of a building façade or façade element, a single-number rating calculated in accordance with Classification E1332 using values of sound transmission loss (TL).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This classification provides a single number rating for transmission loss or noise reduction data that have been measured or calculated. This rating is based on the difference between the overall A-weighted sound level of the sound spectrum given in **Table 1** and the overall A-weighted sound level of the spectrum that results from arithmetically subtracting the transmission loss or noise reduction data from this spectrum. The spectrum shape is an average of three spectra from transportation sources (aircraft takeoff, road traffic, and diesel locomotive). A study showed that this classification correlated well with the A-weighted and loudness reductions (based on ISO 532:1975 in effect at the time) calculated for each of the individual spectra used in developing the rating for the one-third-octave band range of 50 Hz to 5000 Hz. The calculated numeric value of the rating is based on the sound transmission loss or noise reduction values for a particular specimen and depends only on that data and the shape of the reference source spectrum used in the calculation. The values shown in **Table 1** have an arbitrary reference level. Use single-number ratings with caution. Specimens having the same rating can result in different indoor spectra depending on the variation of their transmission loss with frequency. Also, if the actual spectrum of the outdoor sound is different from that assumed in **Table 1**, the overall A-weighted outdoor-indoor