

The ongoing development of a new ISO Technical Specification on non-acoustic factors – 2023 update

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that the human perception, evaluation and response to an acoustic environment is influenced by personal, environmental, social and situational factors (often referred to as non-acoustic factors). Currently, socio-acoustic surveys on annoyance and soundscapes attempt to quantify the influence of these contextual factors using study-specific questions. This limits opportunities to consolidate results from different surveys in order to improve the overall quality and generalisability of the evidence base. A paper presented at IC BEN 2021 described initial work carried out to inform a proposal for a new ISO Technical Specification (TS). The overarching aim of the TS is to standardise the characterisation and use of non-acoustic factors for both noise and soundscapes assessments. In 2022, a New Work Item Proposal and a first draft of the TS were submitted to members of ISO Technical Committee 43 (acoustics), Sub-Committee 1 (noise). The project received sufficient votes for the work to formally commence. A new working group (ISO/TC 43/SC 1/WG 68) was set up to lead this work. This paper provides an update to the IC BEN community on this work programme, including a summary of comments received by ISO member states at voting stage, and key outcomes from meetings held to date by WG68 on the scope and definition of non-acoustic factors.

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