Effect of recording/playback technique and experimental method on assessments of noise
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The aim of this study is to assess the quality image for domestic wall-hung gas-fired boilers, based on their noise. Nine boilers were recorded using an acoustic manikin in a hemi-anechoic room, for different operating conditions. Two of these operating conditions (maximum heat input, hot water tapping) were first studied. Five-second sequences were presented (through headphones) to sixty listeners using the mixed assessment method allowing for the comparison between signals. Analyses showed several assessment strategies: according to listeners, the relevant noise parameters could be the loudness, the sharpness or the presence of tonal components. A second experimental phase focused on tonal components by artificially modifying some sounds to offer a relevant perceptive indicator. The results of this second experiment will also be presented.

Invited Papers

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2aPPa23. Methodological aspects in the determination of the auditory filters and critical band at low and mid-frequencies.

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In order to evaluate loudness or audibility of complex sounds, knowledge of the auditory filter characteristics is necessary. At low frequencies, where both the threshold of hearing and dynamic range become considerably frequency dependent, care must be taken to account for this both in the psycho-acoustical model and the methodological approach. To account for variation in hearing sensitivity at low frequencies, equal loudness contours have been used to weight the stimuli accordingly. At mid and high frequencies, threshold of hearing curves have been used. These stimuli weightings can be applied before or after the experiment, normally being applied afterwards. Due to the non-linear characteristics of the cochlear amplifier, it is arguable whether post-experimental weighting is a proper approach, or whether at low frequencies there will be any difference between pre or post stimulus weighting. Listening experiments are then to be performed to test possible differences in pre or post filtering the stimuli. The most appropriate approach will then be discussed. Measurements will be done at low and mid frequencies. To obtain accurate auditory filter estimates, individual ELC or threshold curves will be determined. Methods such as the notched-noise method and the classical band-widening approach will be tested with these conditions.

2aPPa24. Effect of recording/playback technique and experimental method on assessments of annoyance, loudness and unpleas­

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Contributed Papers

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2aPPa25. Relation between the overall unpleasantness of a long duration sound and the one of its events: application to a delivery truck.

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The goal of this study was to investigate the link between the unpleasantness assessment of an unstationary long duration sound composed of several distinct sound events and the corresponding judgments of each of these events. For that purpose, a sound sequence of a delivery truck was evaluated by 16 listeners during a test in laboratory: first, subjects had to continuously quantify the perceived unpleasantness of the sequence by moving a sliding cursor along a five levels graduated scale and then give a global rating by using the same scale. In a second step, listeners had to express their overall judgment of unpleasantness for eight samples of the delivery sequence. As previously shown for loudness by Kuwano and Nambo (1983), the global rating of the unpleasantness of long sound could not be estimated by the arithmetic mean of the continuous assessment. It also appeared that the overall judgment corresponds to the arithmetic mean on the local values of unpleasantness of each main sound event. This last result was similar to the conclusions of Hellbrück et al. (2001) for the loudness scaling of traffic noise.

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