



**DATE:** 17 September 2014  
**TO:** CAA Committee on Standards  
**FROM:** J.D. (David) Quirt  
Chair, CAC/ ISO/TC43/SC2

***Report of Subcommittee on Building Acoustics, October 2014***

This report presents an update on key standardization activity in ISO/TC43/SC2 and ASTM E33, the two standards committees relevant for building acoustics in Canada. Draft changes to the National Building Code (NBCC) for 2015 propose the use of a mix of ASTM and ISO standards. The review and approval process for changes to the NBCC will extend over the next two years; at this stage the proposed changes have been approved by the committees for Part 5 (large buildings) and Part 9 (Housing) and were included in proposed changes circulated fall of 2013 for public review and comment. Work on a further revision to include impact (footstep) sound in the subsequent edition of the NBCC should start in 2015.

**1. Issues in ISO/TC43/SC2:**

Last meeting of ISO/TC43/SC2 was in Berlin in May 2014, and David Quirt attended. Steady advance of the ISO standards beyond their ASTM counterparts invites serious consideration of eventually basing the noise control provisions in the National Building Code completely on ISO standards, but meanwhile they provide concepts for ASTM to adapt.

- Field sound transmission, ISO 16283 Parts 1-3 (updating/replacing remaining parts of ISO 140 series) are being revised to deal more reliably with low frequency sound; JDQ is acting as formal Canadian participant (with Berndt Zeitler from NRC attending some meetings).
- Ratings for sound transmission: Development of new ratings in standards be called ISO 16717 Parts 1 and 2 came to a dramatic halt, due to opposition (apparently led by the German gypsum board industry) that gathered enough votes to prevent acceptance. This seemed to offer the potential for much improved ratings for both airborne and impact sound, which would have justified switching Canadian requirements to ISO, but is now in limbo.
- Revision of ISO 15712 series: The ballot on reconfirmation of the old version (basically a 1990 European set of documents) had mixed response, but the Berlin meeting decided to push for harmonizing an ISO revision under CEN lead, which could change the number and lead rapidly to a new version. This standard is central to the 2015 Building Code revision.
- Green Acoustics: A new Working Group has been established to develop acoustical performance standards suitable for use in the evaluation/rating of sustainable buildings under programs such as LEED. Focus is on hospitals and commercial buildings.

More members joining Canadian Advisory Committee to ISO/TC43/SC2 would be nice, and this year Berndt Zeitler from NRC joined the activity. Because participation by some longterm members had died out, a pruning of the membership was done, with considerable regret in view

of the former members' extensive contributions in past years. Those interested in participating in the building acoustics CAC are urged to contact Dave Quirt.

**2. *Issues in ASTM E33:***

Members of our CAC have had leading roles within ASTM Committee E33, which is responsible for standards in "Building and Environmental Acoustics". The committee meets twice each year and is responsible for all ASTM standards pertinent to sound transmission in buildings (and hence for building codes). However, Trevor Nightingale and Brad Gover have now shifted to management roles at NRC, and the NRC participation has vanished.

Activity to maintain and revise ASTM standards is presented on the ASTM website, and for building acoustics, this is at <http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/SUBCOMMIT/E33.htm> . For each current standard, there is a brief summary of significance and use, plus the scope, and an outline of the issues for any current revision.