

THE NEW CAA ACOUSTICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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CSA made the decision to disband their Technical Committee Z107 TC on Acoustics and Noise Control which has acted as a clearinghouse for noise standards activity in Canada. They are keeping the occupational noise standards from Z107 and transferring them to a renewed Occupational Hearing Conservation Technical Committee which will also include the Z94.2 committee on hearing protection.

CSA will be transferring their standard Z107.10 to the Canadian Acoustical Association's newly formed Standards Committee. This standard is a listing of acoustical standards from Canada, the US, ISO and elsewhere which are deemed useful for Canadian use. Each listing includes a brief description of the endorsed standard and any recommended changes or concerns for its use in Canada. For example, some ISO standards do not adequately discuss the use of instrumentation in cold weather or the effect of snow on ground absorption and this would be flagged and recommendations made for dealing with these issues.

In addition, the committee is expected to help coordinate the Canadian representation on a variety of ASTM, ISO, IEC and other standards groups. This was one of the original reasons that the CAA was set up and this function has now returned to its original home.

In 2009 the Canadian Standards Association, CSA, made the decision to disband their Technical Committee Z107 on Acoustics and Noise Control which has acted as a clearinghouse for noise standards activity in Canada. CSA are keeping the occupational noise standards from Z107 and transferring them to a renewed occupational Hearing Conservation Technical Committee which will also include the Z94.2 committee on hearing protection.

To fill the gap left in Environmental Acoustics and other fields beyond Occupational Noise, the Canadian Acoustical Association (CAA) board agreed to found an Acoustical Standards Committee, which held its first meeting in May in conjunction with the new CSA committee. The intent is to keep the two committees in close liaison. In addition, the CAA committee will be continuing the Z107 role in coordinating the various Canadian groups working with other standards writing groups, including ISO, IEC, ASTM and ASA, specifically in Building Acoustics, Instrumentation, Acoustics and Noise.

Historically the Canadian Acoustical Association was originally formed to carry out this role of coordinating Canadian acoustical standards activity before it was taken over by CSA Z107. The latter has always held its annual

meeting in association with the Canadian Acoustical Association's Acoustics Week in Canada conference and that will of course continue with the new CAA Acoustical Standards Committee.

It is important to realize the difference between CSA and CAA. The CSA is one of only four standards writing groups in Canada authorised by the Standards Council of Canada to prepare National Standards of Canada. The new CAA committee does not have this designation and at present there is no plan to get it. While it can write acoustical standards, they would have no official status in Canada, other than being of use to Canadian Acousticians. By contrast, the US has a much larger group of standards writing organizations and the Acoustical Society of America prepares official US acoustical standards.

The Standards Council of Canada also organizes the ISO and IEC advisory committees in order to review them and recommend Canada's position. These groups have always been harmonised with the Z107 committee to which they have reported regularly on progress and upcoming issues. In addition, Canadian representatives on ASTM and ANSI committees regularly updated Z107. This coordination is also expected to continue with the new CAA committee, which has been structured into Subcommittees encompassing the existing Standards Council Advisory Committees.

CSA has agreed to transfer their standard Z107.10¹ to the new CAA Standards Committee. Z107.10 is a listing of acoustical standards from Canada, the US, ISO, IEC and elsewhere which are deemed useful for Canadian use. This has been the main avenue for the CSA to endorse international standards of importance to Canada. Each listing includes a brief description of the endorsed standard and any recommended changes or concerns for its use in Canada. For example, some ISO standards do not adequately discuss the use of instrumentation in cold weather or the effect of snow on ground absorption and this would be flagged and recommendations made for dealing with these issues.

The intent is to rebrand Z107.10 and continue to update it and augment it. The hope is that this standard will remain the definitive list of acoustical standards for use in Canada. It will be published on the CAA website at little or no cost to the user and it is hoped that this resource will help CAA members and other acousticians in Canada and around the world to understand and appreciate the range of acoustical standards available in Canada and in many other countries,

while at the same time raising the profile of the CAA among Canadian and international acousticians.

CAA is a member of I-INCE and other recognized international acoustics groups. The new Standards Committee will also help provide technical advice to the CAA board on technical issues raised by these groups. Already it has been used to respond to an I-INCE proposal to establish a new Technical Study Group (TSG-9) on Metrics for Environmental Noise Assessment and Control and an INCE/Japan technical questionnaire on Policies on Environmental Vibration in Different Countries. The Standards Committee is available to help answer such technical acoustics questions from abroad and from governments and other organizations within Canada.

Membership at present is from members of the old Z107 committee, however the committee is open to all CAA members with an interest in and expertise on the range of areas which will be discussed. Interested members should contact the current chair, Tim Kelsall, or attend the meeting, which will be held this year on the evening of Wednesday 13 October in Victoria.

REFERENCES

1. CSA Standard Z107.10, Guide for the Use of Acoustical Standards in Canada

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