

dividual's threshold from the zero reference of the audiometer

HIGH FREQUENCY LOSS Refers to a deficit starting with 2000 Hz and beyond

INTENSITY LEVEL (SOUND-ENERGY FLUX DENSITY LEVEL) In decibels, of sound is 10 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the intensity of this sound to the reference intensity. The reference intensity shall be stated explicitly

INTERRUPTER SWITCH Usually called the "presenter switch" because it permits the stimulus to be presented or cut off from the earphones but it leaves the audiometer circuits in operation, making it possible to change the frequency and intensity level of the tone without the listener's knowledge

LEVEL The logarithm of the ratio of that quantity to a reference quantity of the same kind. The base of the logarithm, the reference quantity, and the kind of level must be specified

LOUDNESS The intensive attribute of an auditory sensation, in terms of which sounds may be ordered on a scale extending from soft to loud. Loudness depends primarily upon the sound pressure of the stimulus, but it also depends upon the frequency and wave form of the stimulus

LOUDNESS LEVEL A sound, in phons, is numerically equal to the median sound pressure level, in decibels, relative to 0.0002 microbar, of a free progressive wave of frequency 1000 Hz presented to listeners facing the source, which in a number of trials is judged by the listeners to be equally loud

MALINGERER One who pretends deafness or other abnormalities

MASKING The stimulation of one ear of a subject by controlled noise to prevent his hearing with that ear the tone or signal given to the other ear. This procedure is used where there is at least 15 to 20 dB difference in the two ears

MENIERE'S DISEASE The combination of deafness, tinnitus, and vertigo

MONAURAL HEARING Refers to hearing with one ear only

NARROW BAND Applies to a narrow band

of transmitted waves, with neither of the critical or cutoff frequencies of the filter being zero or infinite

NOISE Any unwanted sound

NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS The terminology used to refer to the slowly progressive inner ear hearing loss that results from exposure to continuous noise over a long period of time as contrasted to acoustic trauma or physical injury to the ear

NOISE LEVEL For air-borne sound, unless specified to the contrary, noise level is the weighted sound pressure level called sound level, the weighting must be indicated

NOISE REDUCTION A decrease of the sound pressure level at a specified observation point, which is attributable to a designated structure. Noise reduction is also used to designate the differences in sound pressure levels existing at two different locations at a single time, when the designated structures are in position. The term noise control is meaningful only when noise control components and the points of observation are fully specified

NONAUDITORY EFFECTS OF NOISE Refers to stress, fatigue, health, work efficiency, and performance effects of loud noise that is continuous

OCTAVE The interval between two sounds having a basic frequency ratio of two

OCTAVE BAND An arbitrary spread of frequencies

ORGAN OF CORTI An aggregation of nerve cells lying on the basilar membrane that picks up vibrations and converts them to electrical energy, which is sent to the brain and interpreted as sound. It is the "heart" of the hearing mechanism

OSCILLATION The variation, usually with time, of the magnitude of a quantity with respect to a specified reference when the magnitude is alternately greater and smaller than the reference

OSSICLE A small bone, any member of a chain of three bones from the outer membrane of the tympanum (eardrum) to the membrane covering the oval window of the inner ear