

ACOUSTICS2008/1559
Latinoamerican perspective of acoustical standards - the Chilean approach

Kenneth Roy and Micaelina Campos
Armstrong Building Products, 2500 Columbia Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603, USA

A review will be made of current acoustical standards in several countries of Latinoamérica: Brasil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, and Perú. Federal standards will be discussed relative to typical end user approaches to meeting requirements. Additionally, press articles warning of health concerns related to acoustics will be presented.

Most Latinoamerican acoustical standards include measurements of exterior noise, but do not mention interior noise requirements as mandatory. Brazilian standards establish overall maximum noise levels for different areas, but do not mention acoustical testing of materials. However, this is changing as a multi-professional team in Mexico is working to definition the acoustical coefficients required for ceilings and walls. And, this team is also working to establish levels of acoustical comfort in different office spaces.

Most countries in Latinoamerica have federal institutions that deliver technical standards for the building industry. In Chile, we have the "Instituto Nacional de Normalizacion"(National Standards Institute), and they base their standards on the ISO standards. In 2006 they have delivered many acoustical standards and regulations, including those on transmission loss for private housing including social housing parameters. They are planning to work on standards for Healthcare and School segments.