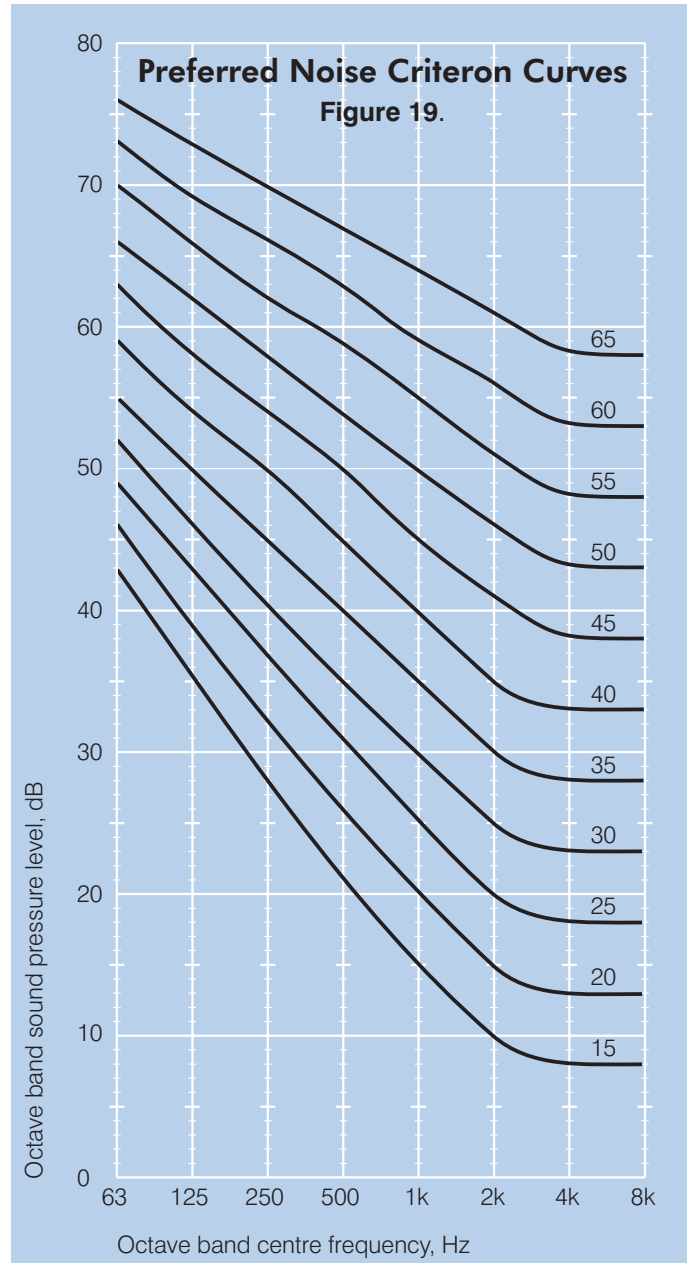


The Noise Rating (or NR contour) curves were proposed by Kosten and Van Os (1962) to rate internal noise levels. To use the curves, plot the noise spectrum onto the NR curves grid. The Noise Rating is defined as that curve which touches the highest point on the sound pressure spectrum.



Some acoustic consultants prefer to use the Preferred Noise Criterion (PNC) curves. These curves were designed by Beranek (1971) to achieve a more acceptable noise quality and lower the allowable levels of low and high frequency noises. To use the curves, plot the noise spectrum onto the PNC curves grid. The Preferred Noise Criterion is defined as that curve which touches the highest point on the sound pressure spectrum.

Notes

The dB(A) equivalent of the NR values would be approximately 5 dB(A) higher in each instance.

NR and PNC curves are designed to be used with broadband, constant noise sources (eg. motors, engines), and do not allow for the increased annoyance associated with tonal, or pulsating noises.