

## **REQUEST FOR SUPPORTING LETTERS TO ANSI.**

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has released its long-awaited national standard on classroom acoustics, officially known as ANSI S12.60-2002 American National Standard Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for Schools.

This standard covers the last of the three environmental requirements in a classroom that are vital for an effective learning environment - air quality, lighting and acoustics. The first two have been covered by building codes for many years. Omission of acoustical standards for classrooms was a serious oversight long overdue to be resolved.

Three trade organizations have appealed to ANSI to have the standard withdrawn. These are: the Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute, (ARI), the School Facilities Manufacturer's Association (SFMA), and the Modular Building Institute (MBI). Each asserts that the standard is not in the public's best interests. Misrepresentation of added costs for implementing the standard have also been included in the appeals.

In keeping with the dedication of you and your colleagues in support of the standard and/or your related activity in educational audiology or with the hearing-impaired or as parents of hard-of-hearing children, we ask that you help counter the campaign to withdraw the standard. Specifically, we are asking for your help in soliciting or writing a letter of support to ANSI refuting the claim that the standard is not in the public's best interests .or that it will cost too much It is clearly in the public interest that education of children remains a continuing priority for the US. Withdrawal of this standard would allow acoustical barriers to learning to remain in classrooms that have improper architectural acoustics design and lack adequate noise control.

A letter from the President of your respective professional organization or from administrative (e.g. – school superintendents) or facility design personnel in the education infrastructure you may know would be especially helpful.

Letters should be addressed to  
**Ms. Anne Caldas**  
**Secretary of the Board of Standards Review (BSR)**  
**American National Standards Institute**  
**25 West 43rd Street, 4th Floor**  
**New York, New York 10036**

with a cc to:  
**Susan Blaeser**  
**Standards Secretariat**  
**Acoustical Society of America**  
**35 Pinelawn Road, Suite 114E**  
**Melville, NY 11747-3177**

A copy, bcc if you wish, to each of us would also be much appreciated. For maximum impact, the letters should be received by the end of September or, at the very latest, by the end of January, 2003. This will allow more time to marshal supporting associates.

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Westminster, CA 926783

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Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-3908

Further elaboration about the need for the standard is contained in the following press release from ASA about approval and publication of the standard.

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## ***Press Release Aug 13, 2002***

For additional information contact:  
Susan B. Blaeser, Standards Manager  
(631) 390-0215

### **New ANSI Standard on Classroom Acoustics Now Available!**

Melville, NY, August 13, 2002 – The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) announced today that the long-anticipated American National Standard on classroom acoustics is now available. The Standard, officially known as **ANSI S12.60-2002 *American National Standard Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for Schools***, provides helpful guidance to design professionals, educational facilities planners, and the general public, as well. This is the first time an ANSI Standard has addressed the application of good acoustical design for classrooms.

"This Standard is in the best interest of the American public and American school children and teachers. The criteria, requirements, and guidelines of this Standard are keyed to the acoustical qualities needed to achieve a high degree of speech intelligibility in learning spaces. If followed, this Standard removes acoustical barriers to learning. It provides equal access to education for a sizable minority of school children in the United States who may have mild-to-moderate hearing, learning, or attention deficits, suffer frequent ear infections, have limited English language skills, or may otherwise suffer from a substandard acoustical environment. For teachers, working in a classroom that conforms to this Standard can reduce or eliminate voice strain and reduce stress," said Paul Schomer, ASA's Standards Director.

This Standard was developed by Accredited Standards Committee S12, Noise, under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved operating procedures. These procedures assure that the Standard represents the consensus of opinion among experts in the field. The working group that assisted S12 in drafting the Standard was Co-chaired by David Lubman and Louis C. Sutherland, each of whom is a well-respected expert in the field of classroom acoustics. The working group, funded in part by the U.S. Access Board, was open to experts from all fields related to this subject and enjoyed wide participation. In fact, it was five times the size of a typical working group. As with all working groups in S12, the experts volunteered their time and talents to serve the public through this project.

The American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) is the national coordinator of voluntary standards development and the clearinghouse in the USA for information on national and international standards.

The Acoustical Society of America is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1929. It is the premier international scientific society in acoustics, dedicated to increasing and diffusing the knowledge of acoustics and promoting its practical applications.

The Standard is available for \$35.00 per copy at the ASA Standards Store at <http://asa.aip.org> - just click the Standards Store button on the ASA Home Page. Search for Standards using document number, keyword, standard category or other criteria. The ASA Standards Store uses the latest Oracle technology to make online credit card purchases of printed or electronic copies easy and secure. For bulk orders, please contact Susan B. Blaeser, Standards Manager, at the number given above.