BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES Plant Series

CROSS-OFFICE NOISE TESTING METHODS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes a method for measuring noise in any local switching machine. Several sample noise studies made with this method are analyzed in Part 4. For more detailed information on noise characteristics, refer to Section 331-100-100.

1.02 Studies have shown that various combinations of wear, fatigue, erosion, corrosion, and dirt in switching machine talking-path contacts will produce noise. The type and amount of noise so produced will often vary greatly with changes in current through these contacts. Sampling tests provide an evaluation of the amount of noise being generated by these conditions.

1.03 Section 331-700-110, Selecting a Sample, describes the kind of lines to select for testing, the number of test calls to make, and the conditions under which the selected lines are to be used.

1.04 Section 331-700-130, Test Equipment, describes a test set that permits noise measurement at two levels of loop current. Two of the test sets are required to make noise measurements. One of the test sets is connected to a line terminal, and the other to a call number terminal in the same machine. When a number is dialed from the line circuit and an intramachine call completed, noise can be measured at either end of the call at two levels of loop current. **1.05** Detailed instructions for the method to use in each type of equipment, are covered in these sections:

SECTION	TITLE
331-700-501	Step-By-Step
331-700-502	Panel Offices
331-700-503	No. 1 Crossbar Offices
331-700-504	No. 5 Crossbar Offices
331-700-505	No. 1 ESS Offices

2. CENTRAL OFFICE NOISE CHARACTERISTICS

2.01 The noise objective for subscriber lines is established at 20 dBrnc as measured at the station terminals. Noise generated in the serving central office should be low enough that it has little or no effect on the noise levels measured at the station terminal. In order to keep the central office noise at a low level, the central office equipment must be properly engineered and adequately maintained.

2.02 There are three basic sources of noise in central office equipment that contribute noise to a connection. These are:

- (a) Battery supply noise
- (b) Noise due to equipment
- (c) Cross-office noise

Battery supplies contribute noise to a connection through the office when the supplies are in trouble, or when the filters are defective, inadequate, or missing. Battery supply troubles effectively raise the average noise level measured on cross-office connections.

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SECTION 331-700-100

2.03 Noise due to equipment imbalance occurs when the imbalanced equipment is connected to a plant facility which has longitudinal noise present. The equipment imbalanced affects only the lines connected, but the noise may be objectionable on any connection involving those lines.

Cross-office noise is the net sum of all noise 2.04 sources on a connection between any two line appearances. Since the outside plant facilities are disconnected for such a measurement, cross-office noise, as measured, is not influenced by equipment imbalance, but is influenced by excessive battery noise. Other potential sources of noise are step-by-step selectors, crossbar switches, panel multiple banks and brushes, panel sequence switches, panel commutators, rotary selectors, and relay contacts. When such contact pairs are allowed to become pitted, corroded, dirty, or when the contact pressure becomes excessively light, because of contact wear or maladjustment, they tend to introduce series imbalance into the transmission path and may also begin to function as a microphone to reproduce vibration and mechanical noise from the surrounding structure. The series imbalance introduced into the transmission path increases its susceptibility to noise from other central office noise sources. Negative impedance repeaters, tone generators, ringing equipment, power supplies, and relay contacts opening and closing reactive loads can produce interfering tones and other noise that can enter the cross office transmission path via either, or both, magnetic and electrostatic inductive couplings. The resultant noise levels in the disturbed circuits may, at times, rise to objectionable levels.

Dial equipment includes many sliding contacts 2.05 in the commutators and sequence switches. Unlike relays, where the make or break tends to be quick and clean, sliding contacts break and make relatively slowly. Insulating materials bridge the open sliding contacts. These tend to foul. This coupled with the slow make and break characteristic, tends to produce extended arcing at contacts. Insufficient contact pressure on the panel multiple brush fingers tends to allow generation of microphonic noise. The fairly large inductances in the sequence switch and vertical drive clutch magnets may generate large current and voltage transients. Further, the balance of the earlier supervisory relays and talking battery supply components was not good. Finally, a large majority of the contacts in panel offices, particularly in the transmission path, are of metals that tend to corrode. All of these conditions contribute to the poor noise performance of the Panel Switching System. Also, panel utilizes revertive pulsing for transferring called number information from originating to terminating equipment. This, may contribute to the cross-office noise in panel and No. 1 crossbar offices.

3. MEASUREMENT OF CROSS-OFFICE NOISE

3.01 Cross-office noise is controlled largely through adequate equipment maintenance. The nature

of the noise sources is such that excessive noise occurs on random connections rather than on all connections. When the random occurrences become too frequent, they may seriously affect the grade of service experienced by users.

3.02 Cross-office noise troubles can be identified by sampling measurements. The results can be used to direct corrective maintenance programs.

3.03 The requirements are based on a 2-stage sampling plan. If 20 different cross-office connections are selected at random and measured, an office is considered to be fully satisfactory if no measurements exceed the following values:

All except panel—18 dBrnc Panel—24 dBrnc

3.04 An office is considered unsatisfactory if four or more measurements exceed the above requirements, or if any measurement exceeds the following values:

3.05 If 1, 2, or 3 measurements exceed the requirements of 3.03 but not those of 3.04 than 20 more measurements must be made, and the requirements of 3.03 and 3.04 then apply to all 40 measurements.

3.06 The noise requirements listed and described in 3.01 through 3.05 are for steady-state noise. Noise of this character is usually described

by customers as "hum", "buzz", "growl", crackling", "frying sounds," or just simply "noise". Another often reported category "clicks", "pops" or "bangs in the ear" is believed to be the most objectionable type of noise.

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3.07 When making cross-office noise measurements, "clicks and bangs" appear on the noise meter as large needle excursions. These excursions are observed and an average value determined. This average peak value is entered on the study form in the column when the steady reading is recorded.

3.08 In addition to the steady-state requirements listed above the following average peak limits apply:

3.09 An office is considered unsatisfactory if four or more average peak measurements exceed the above requirements, of if any measurement exceeds the following values:

3.10 If 1, 2, or 3 measurements exceed the requirements of 3.08 but not those of 3.09, then 20 more measurements must be made and the requirements of 3.08 and 3.09 applied to all 40 measurements.

4. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

4.01 Exhibit A is a study made in a SXS office with poor noise results. The principle customer complaint had been "clicks and bangs". The data in columns *E* and *G* support this complaint. When examining these sample studies, it must be remembered that the peak readings are *average* values of the peak, and that the noise meter (3A) was damped. Without damping, an occasional peak above 65 dBrnc was found.

4.02 Exhibit B is a study made in an old SXS office. There was very little change in noise with changes in loop current. The equipment in this office was dirty. However, there was almost no corrosion on the switch bank terminals, in or outside the wiper track area. This office, unlike

the office in Exhibit A, is in a rural area that is free of industrial air pollution. This sample also shows the importance of making noise measurements during busy periods. The noise level dropped with the calling rate during lunch period.

Exhibit C is a study made in an old panel 4.03 office. The equipment was clean and in good mechanical condition. The older frames have bronze switch cams and the newer frames silver cams. Notice that the lower readings did not change much with loop current changes and that the higher ones did. Several of the test calls were traced. All of the low readings, up to 7 dB, were in talking paths with all bronze switch cams. The higher readings were in paths that contained at least two silver cams. The bronze cams were not corroded. The silver cams varied from slightly to lightly corroded depending upon age and proximity to air duct openings. Although this office was acceptable at time of testing, it should be watched. Very little is known about the time required for corrosion to produce the noise levels shown in Exhibit D.

Exhibit D is a study made in a relatively 4.04 new panel office. Upon inspection of the equipment much dirt, many worn switch springs, and heavily corroded silver switch cams, were found. These last two conditions were usually in combination. Notice the wide ranges, 30 dB within column **D** and 37 dB in column **G**. Note also that there were large changes in **both** directions with change in loop current. In one case (test call #8) the noise dropped 24 dB. The direction of change is believed to be determined by the nature of the corrosion product on the contact surfaces. This sample illustrates the importance of measuring noise at more than one level of loop current. Several of the test call measurements, #16 and #17 for example, would have been acceptable if made at only one level of current.

4.05 Exhibit E is a study made in a No. 5 crossbar office. This study is included to show the level of noise to be expected in modern equipment in good condition. The -10 readings mean noise at least 10 dB below 0 dBrnc. The 3A noise measuring set, that was used in these studies, will not reliably measure noise below -10 dBrnc. The same noise level and range of variation found in No. 5 crossbar offices should be expected in ESS

offices. Higher noise levels in No. 5 crossbar and ESS offices can be caused by talking battery filter component deterioration or contact wear and corrosion.

4.06 Exhibit F shows parts of the studies made in both marker groups in a No. 1 crossbar office. The omitted parts did not differ with the data shown. The range up to 5.0 dBrnc shown in the older group, should be expected in No. 1 crossbar offices. Noise levels above this indicate filter and/or contact deterioration. The district frame talking battery filters in the newer frames were incompletely wired. Nearly raw signal battery was being used for talking. This exhibit illustrates the importance of a correctly selected sample within a switching machine. This filter condition escaped notice because the noise-test jacks are permanently associated with two of the older line-link frames that do not have access to the newer district frames.

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FORM E-5969 (10 69) SEC. 331-700-500

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

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BUILDING 100 MAIN ST OFFICE 525-526 CITY NOISETOWN DATE 10-25-69 TESTER G.H F.A.R. TYPE EQUIP. SXS WIRE CHIEF NO. SZS-XXXX 76 REL. HUMIDITY 32. % SW. RM. TEMP. ۰F 1 MW 88.5 OUIET TERM. 19.23 dBrac 72 dBrnc DIAL TONE __ ___ dBrnc MEAS. NOISE-dBmc CABLE CALLED CALLING LONG SHORT LINE PAIR NUMBER STEADY STEADY PEAK PEAK С E F G В D Α 16 13 20 14 1. 12-56 525- 2714 22 30 14 27 2173 2. 16 - 97 15 39 37 19 2558 3. 9-41 40 21 9814 15 32 4. 13 - 72 29 20 19 8015 16 7-43 5. 36 24 22 34 8251 8- 81 6. 21 26 9165 19 23 1. 5-81 33 28 21 8. 6-23 8475 20 19 32 20 7953 17 9. 3 - 104 26 26 21 10. 9 - 108526-19 7870 22 3z 19 30 7651 n. 4- 123 21 28 19 26 12. 1- 75 7343 33 21 37 19 13.17-161 7242 22 40 14. Z- 83 38 19 8361 32 Z 5 Z7 8748 23 15. 10-183 25 25 33 23 86Z4 16. 9-41 25 25 27 6705 22 17. 11- 61 22 **Z**1 27 9899 17 18. 1**2-51 Z**8 25 17 21 9087 19. 13-186 22 20. 15-15 47 32 8991 17 18 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING_ dBrnc (STEADY): 19 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 22 ____dBrnc (STEADY): 🛛 🗲 dBrnc (PEAK): 17 dBrnc (PEAK): 10 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 26 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 30 NOTES: HEAVY CORROSION . MANY WORN WIPERS KNOWN POOR NOISE RESULTS.

Fig. 1—Exhibit A

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FORM E-5969 (10-69) SEC. 331-700-500

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

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CITY <u>MYTOW</u> DATE <u>10-26</u>					OFFICE 234 - 235 TESTER A.B. F.A.R. WIRE CHIEF NO. 234- XXXX		
SW. RM. TEMP. 8		REL. HUMIDITY 46 %					
DIAL TONE 69		1 MW 89		dBrnc		-7-1	
		CALLED		MEAS. NOISE-dBmc			
CALLING	CABLE PAIR	NUMBE		LO STEADY	NG PÊAK	STEADY	ORT PEAK
Α	В	C		D	E	F	G
9-84		234-	4339	0	17	0	22
12-92			4491	0	14	0	13
13-117			5958	-5	13	0	19
14-11			7412	-7	12	-7	16
15-64			7939	0	12	0	12
16.40			9030	2	19	Z	10
. 19-85			0506	0	14	2	巻16
18 - 84			0325	Ζ	17	2	13
17-42			2944	0	20	0	17
7-142		235-	7671	0	16	0	13
20-105			1947	3	13	4	10
21- 52			2081	0	10	0	12
22-127			2129	10	17	5	13
23.65	DURING LUNCH PERIOL		3514	-8	15	-4	14
24-48			5079	-6	12	-5	12
11-134			3555	-8	12	- 5	14
25-42			9940	-10	11	- 7	14
26-48			8978	-10	11	-10	15
. 27-11			2544	-10	13	-10	14
30 96			3561	- 8	<u> </u>	-10	13
NO. OF CONN. EXCEE NO. OF CONN. EXCEE NO. OF CONN. EXCEE NO. OF CONN. EXCEE	DINGde DINGdede	Brnc (STEADY): Brnc (STEADY): Brnc (PEAK): Brnc (PEAK): CM PROG	0				

Fig. 2—Exhibit B

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

1

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FORM E-5969 (10 69) SEC. 331-700-500

	BUILDING 102 MAIN ST. OFFICE 345-346-34				5-041			
DATE 10-27-69	TYPE EQUIP. PAN-	TYPE EQUIP. PAN-GEO			TESTER C.D. FAR.			
SW. RM. TEMP. 74 °F	REL. HUMIDITY 65	REL. HUMIDITY 65 %		WIRE CHIEF NO. 345-XXXX				
DIAL TONE 70 dBrnc	1 MW 90.5	dBrnc	QUIET TERM					
CALLING CABLE	CALLED		MEAS. N	01SE-dBrnc	IORT			
LINE PAIR	NUMBER	STEADY	PEAK	STEADY	PEAK			
A B	C	D	E	F	G			
49-22 7-902	345-6501	5		5	//			
26-204 21-516	346· 4202	5	11	6	12			
46-70 2-107	5365	5	10	Z	8			
31-108 9-282	347-0428	10	16	10	21			
37-374 9-461	3559	12	20	3	7			
02-318 21-863	345 - 5615	4	10	4	10			
11-64 33-106	3 346- 8513	13	20	16	ZO			
10-292 2-40	7 345-4162	14	16	12	15			
104-383 31-27:		14	17	10	14			
17-126 SPARE		13	16	18	ZZ			
12-214	1209	4	11	4	11			
3-76	345 - 0466	18	20	15	18			
7-256	1772	11	14	10	14			
14-101	1877	6	/1	6	10			
21-03	347- 4321	9	16	9	17			
48.255	4627	6	12	6	51			
33-73	0271	15	19	51	20			
27-341	7462	11	16	10	14			
23.27	1021	7	12	7	10			
19-214	5636	11	16	9	15			
NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 24	dBrnc (STEADY): •							
NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 28 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 32 NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDING 36 NOTES: GOOD MAINTENAM	dBrnc (STEADY): ♪ dBrnc (PEAK): ♪ dBrnc (PEAK): ♪		CLEAN					

Fig. 3—Exhibit C

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FORM E-5969 (10/69) SEC, 331-700-500

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

2

CITY HISTOWN		BUILDING 103 MAIN ST.			OFFICE 456-457-458		
DATE 10-28-	TYPE EQUIP. PAN-BCO						
SW. RM. TEMP. 74	REL. HUMIDITY 42 %			WIRE CHIEF NO. 456- XXXX			
DIAL TONE	dBrnc	1 MW	37.5	dBrnc			₹dBinc
CALLING	CABLE	CALLED			MEAS. NO		ORT
LINE	PAIR	NUMBER		STEADY	PEAK	STEADY	PEAK
A	В		C	D	E	F	G
1. 8 - 213	<u></u>	456-	6483	21	24	27	34
2.9.212			3469	22	25	25	29
3. 10 - 22			6392	19	23	23	25
4.12-94			5168	21	23	21	24
5. 11 - 60	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		3387	25	30	19	22
6. 40 - 67			7593	40	44	26	35
7. 7-15	-		0425	18	21	16	19
8. 16 - 370			1270	44	48	20	24
9. 17 - 256		457-	0237	20	30	19	25
10. 15- 179			0324	٢٢	30	35	38
11. 27- 269			1186	19	21	19	21
12. 19-311			4068	25	27	21	24
13. ZO- 30			1211	22	24	25	29
14. 23-330			2312	42	44	40	43
15. 29 - 262		458-	6377	47	51	52	56
16. 22- 53			3517	34	37	22	26
17. 32- SO	•		4468	22	25	41	45
18. 34-124			8594	26	30	22	24
19. 29-293			6498	רו	23	23	25
20. 35-295			9442	ZZ	25	22	27
NO. OF CONN. EXCEED	A A	_dBrnc (STEAD					
NO. OF CONN. EXCEED NO. OF CONN. EXCEED	ING 32	_dBrnc (STEAD _dBrnc (PEAK):					
NO. OF CONN. EXCEED NOTES: CORRODA		_dBmc (PEAK); /oRN SS		i	F. IMW	ten	CRUICAD
	DIRTY EQUI		-1	RE	r. Imu	<i>ib</i> Jup	EKVIJUIN,

Fig. 4—Exhibit D

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

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FORM E-5969 (10/69) SEC. 331-700-500

CITY QUIETOWN		BUILDING 104 MAIN ST. OFFICE 567-568				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
DATE 10-29-69			TESTER I.J. FAR			
SW. RM. TEMP. 81	°F	REL. HUMIDITY 27	<i>a</i> .,	WIRE CHIEF NO. 567- XXX		
DIAL TONE 70.5		1 MW 90.2	dBrnc	QUIET TERM10-4		
	CABLE	CALLED		MEAS. N		
CALLING LINE	PAIR	NUMBER	STEADY	DNG PEAK	STEADY	ORT PEAK
A	В	С	D	E	F	G
1. 25-0-6-01		567 - 8021	- 10	- 7	-10	- 8
2. 24-4 -1 -00		2723	-10	-6	-10	-6
3. 18-0 -9-01		1041	-10	-7	-10	-8
4.21-2-8-01		6732	-10	-1	-10	-6
5. 17-2-5-03		1521	-10	-4	-10	-7
6. 19-1-4-02		7040	-10	-6	-10	-7
7. 24-3-4-01		2926	-10	-4	-9	-6
8 20-3 -6-03		1796	-10	- 6	-10	-8
9. 19 - 3 - 5 - 02		2272	-10	-5	- 8	-7
10. 18-2-7-01		568-0040	- 10	- 6	-10	- 5
11. 16-1-4-03		9938	-10	- 9	-10	-4
12. 12-0-8-02		7116	-10	-5	-10	-6
13. 14-1-7-01		2724	-10	-6	-10	-6
14. 11-2-2.01		6371	-10	- 6	-10	-4
15. 10-0- 5-02		5296	-10	-5	-10	-5
16.07-3-0-01		1792	- 8	-6	-10	<u> -S</u>
17.031-3-02		6204	-10	-5	-10	-6
18.08-2-7-02		0121	-10	-6	-8	-6
19. 02. 3 - 2. 03		3607		-5	-10	-5
20. 01-0-1-01	<u></u>	7847	-10	- 4	-10	-6
NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDIN NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDIN NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDIN NO. OF CONN. EXCEEDIN NOTES:	IG 22 IG 26 NG 30	_dBrnc (STEADY): O _dBrnc (STEADY): O _dBrnc (PEAK): O _dBrnc (PEAK): O - REF. IMW TO U	UIRE CL	NEF.		

Fig. 5—Exhibit E

FORM E-5969 (10'69) SEC. 331-700-500

CROSS OFFICE NOISE TEST DATA

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[CITY ERR TO	w N	BUILDING 105 MA	OFFICE 265-6, 456-789					
ļ	DATE 10-30	-69	TYPE EQUIP. IXB	TESTER KL. FAR					
	SW. RM. TEMP. 8	°F	REL. HUMIDITY 27	WIRE CHIEF NO. ZGS- XXXX					
	DIAL TONE 71		1 MW 89.3	dBrnc	QUIET TERM Z - Z _ dBr				
	CALLING	CABLE	CALLED		MEAS. NOISE-dBmc				
	LINE	PAIR	NUMBER	LO STEADY	PEAK	STEADY	PEAK		
[A	В	С	D	E	F	G		
1.	03-69	OLD GROUP	265 - 3999	-4	3	-4	Z		
2.	17-46		4358	- 3	2	-3	Z		
3.	21-07	V/	0090	0	5	0	4		
4	43-72		8610	-5	2	0	3		
5.	31-64		5940	-4	Z	-4	3		
6.	32-71		3776	-3	1	- 3	0		
7.	16-63		5518	-4	1	-3	3		
8.	24-28		2193	0	3	1	2		
9.	37-63		5392	-2	2	-2	1		
10.	15-19		4098	0	4	0	4		
11.	91-27	NEW GROUP	456 - 1202	29	31	30	35		
12.	92.56		38/4	30	34	32	35		
13.	93-02		3991	30	34	30	34		
14.	107-32	\checkmark	6094	30	34	30	33		
15.	109-51		3798	30	33	29	33		
16.	111-56		2842	30	33	30	32		
17.	117-96		3405	30	34	29	33		
18.	126-72		5207	30	34	29	32		
19.	128-46		2231	29	32	29	32		
20.	131-22		1110	30	33	29	33		
	NO. OF CONN. EXCEED NO. OF CONN. EXCEED NO. OF CONN. EXCEED	DING ZZ de	Brnc (STEADY):	سعدم 11 11					
	NO. OF CONN. EXCEED	ERROR - TAL	BITC (PEAK): O KING BATTERY	II FILTER	5-0157	RICTS.			
	SAME ERROR IN ALL NEW FRAMES IN THIS OFFICE-								

Fig. 6—Exhibit F