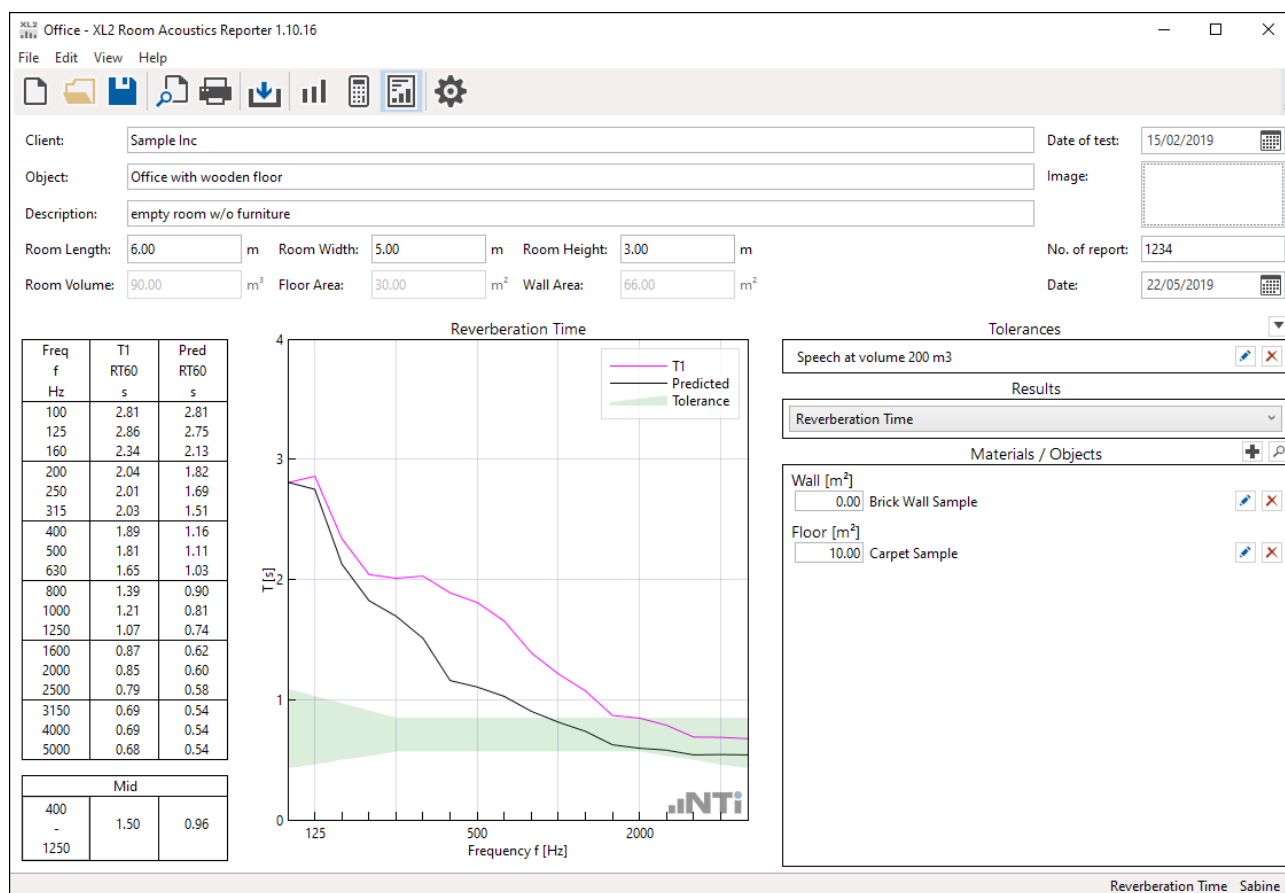


Room Acoustics Reporter

for XL2 Sound Level Meter



User Manual

V1.20

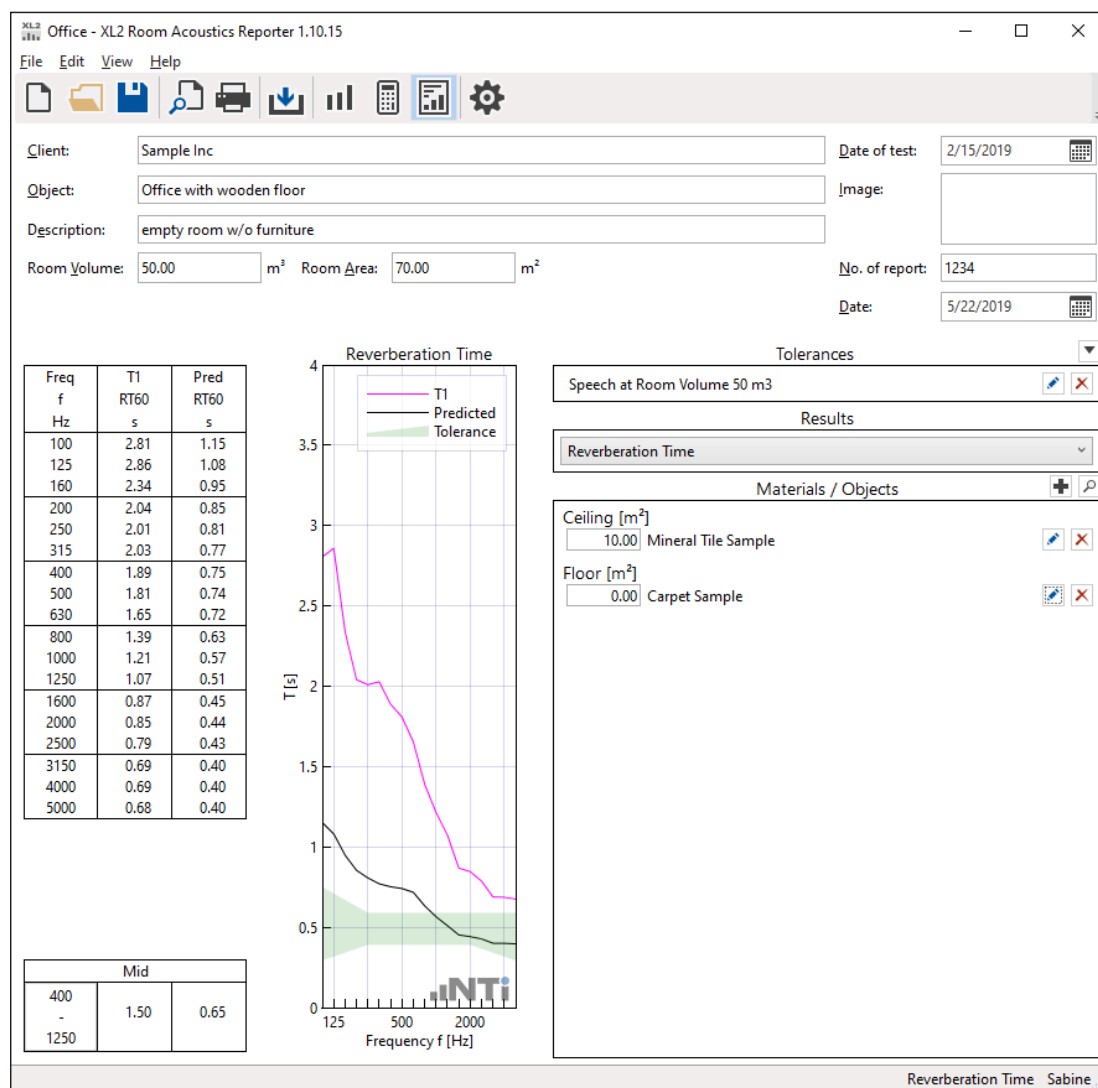
Index

1. Introduction	4
2. Preparations	5
Software Installation	5
Optional XL2 Sound Level Meter Requirements	5
XL2 with Firmware V4.70 or higher	5
XL2-TA with type approved Firmware V3.11	5
3. Measurement with XL2	6
Mapping File for XL2	6
Set XL2 Memory Structure for Multiple Rooms	8
Perform Frequency Response Measurements	9
Perform Reverberation Time Measurements	10
4. My First Steps using Room Acoustics Reporter	11
Data Import	11
Measurement Report	14
5. Main Menu	16
Toolbar	16
Menu	21
6. Analysis and Reporting Views	23
Measurements View	24
Calculations View	26
Results View	28
7. Measurement Report	31
8. Tolerances	32
Add Tolerance Band	32
Import Tolerance	34
9. Simulation - Optimizing Room Acoustics	37
Theory	37
Add Material / Object	41
Import Material / Object	43
10. Standards	46
IEC 61260 - Octave or Third-Octave Spectrum	46

GB 50371 - Code for sound reinforcement system design of auditorium	48
ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Noise criteria curves NC	50
ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Room noise criterion RNC	50
DIN 15996:2008 - Grenzkurven GK.....	52
ISO R 1996-1971 - Noise rating curves NR	54
ISO 3382-1:2009 - Reverberation time in performance spaces	56
ISO 3382-2:2008 - Reverberation time in ordinary rooms.....	57
ASR A3.7 - Working Place	58
DIN 18041:2016 - Acoustic quality in rooms	60
ÖNORM B 8115-3:2015 - Room Acoustics.....	62
ASTM C423-17 - Sound Absorption by the Reverberation Room Method	64
ISO 354:2003 - Sound absorption in a reverberation room	66
11. Specifications	68
12.Revision-History	70
13.End-User Licence Agreement	71

1. Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the permanent Room Acoustics Option or the annual Room Acoustics Reporter 365 license for the XL2 Sound Level Meter. This enables the import of the measurement data into the Room Acoustics Reporter PC-software. The Room Acoustics Reporter is a PC-based software application that reports reverberation time and noise spectrum measurements.



Designed for room acoustic experts, this comprehensive tool uses data gathered by the XL2 Sound Level Meter, and quickly returns graphical analysis of all measurement positions. Analyzing the measurement data and producing reports is straight-forward using the Room Acoustics Reporter software. Just drag & drop the XL2 measurement data into the software and print the report.

2. Preparations

Room acoustics describes how sound behaves in an enclosed space. Typical parameters to describe this behavior are the reverberation time and the frequency spectrum of the sound in the room.

First the measurements are performed manually with the XL2. Then all data is imported into the Room Acoustics Reporter software.

Software Installation

- Install the Room Acoustics Reporter software on your PC.

Optional XL2 Sound Level Meter Requirements

- Optional "Extended Acoustic Pack" for reverberation time measurements in 1/3 octave resolution.
- Optional "Spectral Limits" for measurements of **Noise Curves** or high-resolution frequency response in 1/6 or 1/12 octave bands in the function **1/12 Oct**.
- Optional „Cinema Assistant" for frequency response measurements in the function **Cinema Meter**.

XL2 with Firmware V4.70 or higher

- Ensure the latest firmware V4.70 or higher is installed in your XL2 Sound Level Meter.
- Request the online activation of the optional annual license "Room Acoustics Reporter 365". Alternatively, you may install the Room Acoustics Option permanent in your XL2 Sound Level Meter. This enables the data import into the Room Acoustics Reporter software.

XL2-TA with type approved Firmware V3.11

- Request the online activation of the annual license Room Acoustics Reporter 365. This enables to import the measurement data into the software. Just ensure your PC is online during the data import.

3. Measurement with XL2

Mapping File for XL2

The measurement task onsite is made up by multiple individual measurements. The XL2 Sound Level Meter may assign each of these measurements with a dedicated mapping, e.g. "T1" for the readings taken before adding absorption material in a room and "T2" afterwards. This feature supports automated post-processing and reporting in the Room Acoustics Reporter software.

- Load the text file "savenames.txt" with the user defined mapping, such as "T1", "T2",..., into the root directory of the XL2. The text file "savenames.txt" may be generated by the Room Acoustics Reporter software:

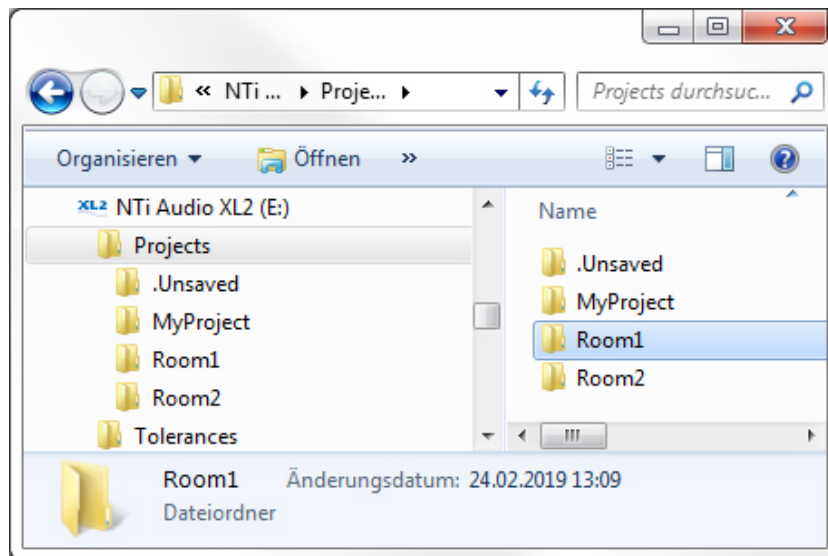
- Click on **Settings**
- Select the tab **Mapping**
- Click **Export**

The screenshot shows the 'Project Settings' dialog box with the 'Mapping' tab selected. The dialog has four tabs: 'General', 'Mapping', 'Charts', and 'Report'. The 'Mapping' tab contains the following fields:

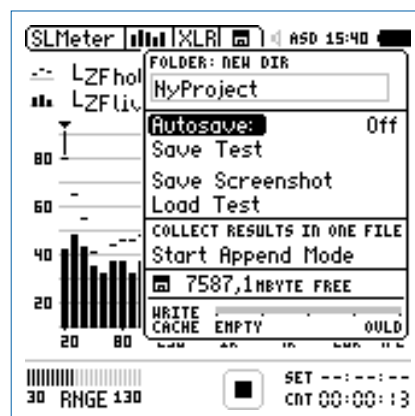
Mapping	
Level 1	L1
Level 2	L2
Reverberation Time 1	T1
Reverberation Time 2	T2

At the bottom right of the dialog is an 'Export...' button. At the bottom center are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

- Load the txt-file "savenames.txt" with the various mappings onto the root directory of the XL2.



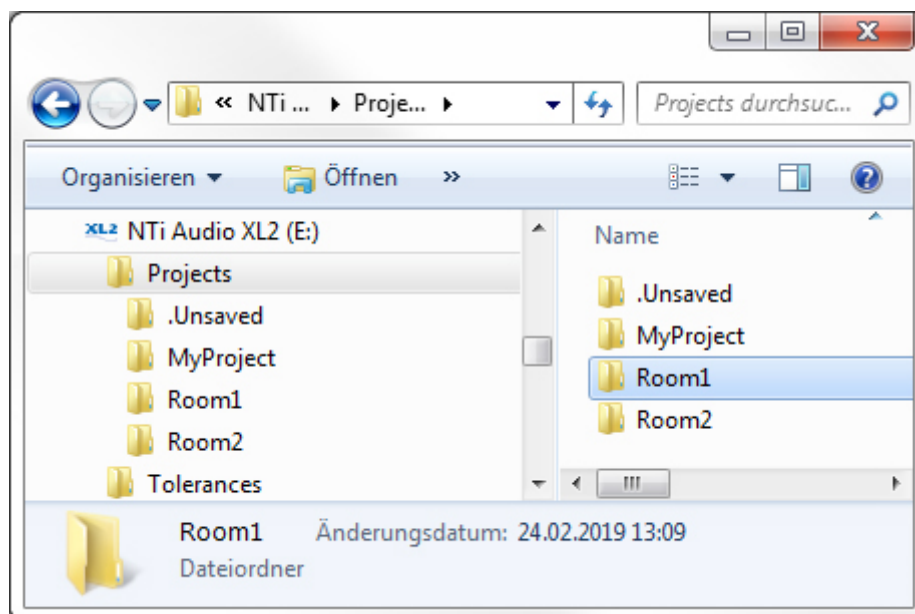
- Next select "Autosave: Off" in the XL2 memory menu. This allows you to store each individual measurement with the desired mapping. The XL2 then uses the same mapping for subsequent measurements by default.



Set XL2 Memory Structure for Multiple Rooms

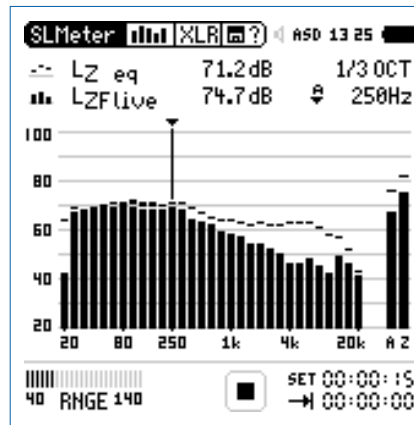
In applications with multiple rooms, it is recommended to use a separate memory folder on the XL2 Sound Level Meter for each room. All measurements belonging to a single room are then stored in the same folder on the XL2 memory card. Each room will be an individual project later on in the Room Acoustics Reporter software.

- Connect the XL2 to the computer and select "Mass Storage"
- Open the folder "Projects"
- Generate new subfolders for each room, e.g. Room 1, Room 2, ...



Perform Frequency Response Measurements

- Select the SLMeter measurement function on the XL2.
- Select the RTA screen and 1/3 octave resolution measurements.
- Ensure the frequency weighting **Z** is selected (= no weighting).
- Start the measurement.
- Stop the measurement after 15 seconds.



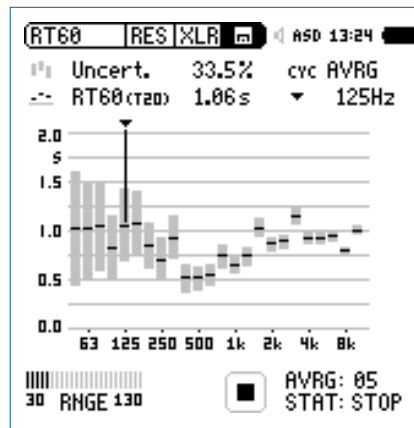
- Open the memory menu and select **Save Test**.
- The XL2 displays the **Save Test** pop-up; select **Room-Acoustic** at the right end of the first line.



- Select the applicable mapping
- Confirm your selection with the enter key and save the measurement. The XL2 saves the measurement data with a file name such as "L1_SLM_003_RTA_3rd_Report.txt"
- Continue with the further measurements "L1...", etc." in the same manner.

Perform Reverberation Time Measurements

- Select the RT60 measurement function on the XL2.
- Select 1/1 octave or 1/3 octave resolution (requires the optional Extended Acoustic Pack pre-installed in the XL2).
- Perform the reverberation time measurement.



- Open the memory menu and select **Save Test**.
- The XL2 displays the **Save Test** pop-up; select **Room-Acoustic** at the right end of the first line.



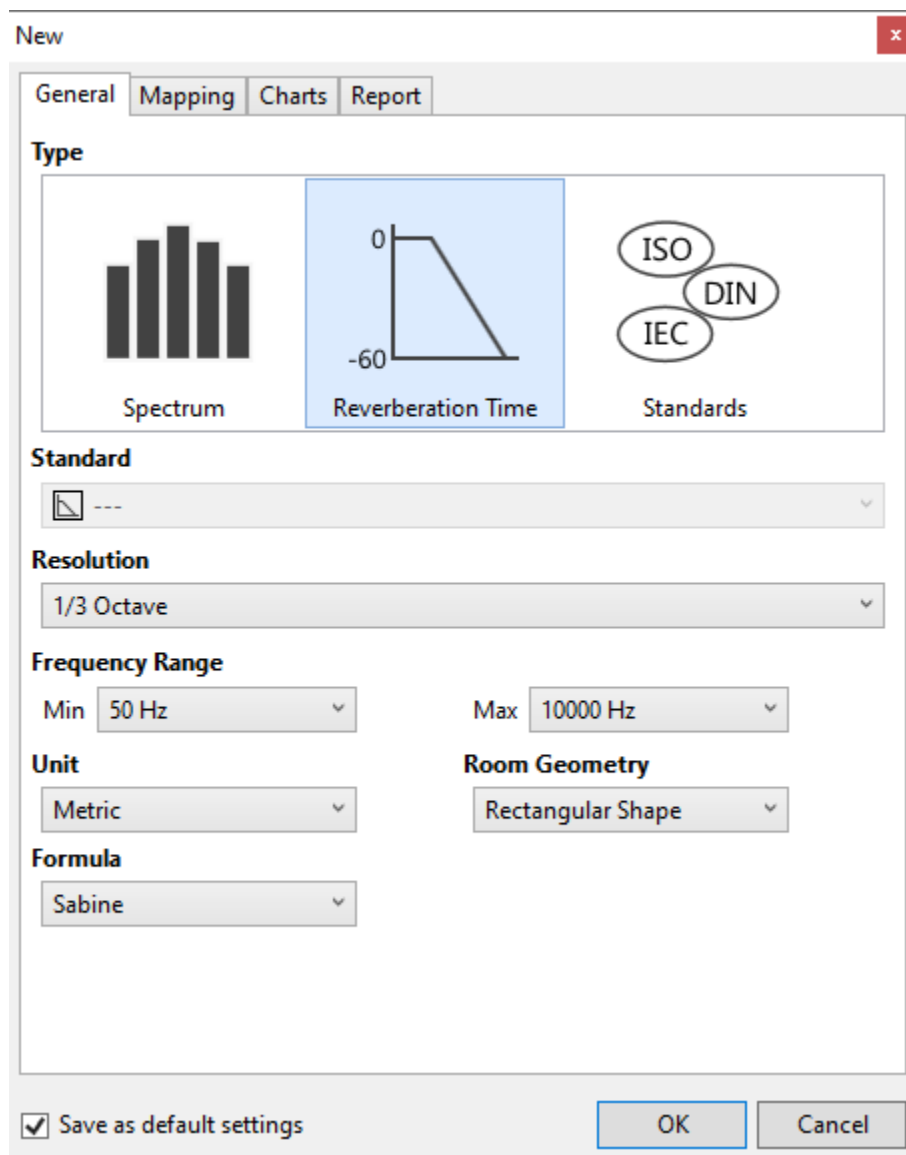
- Select the applicable mapping
- Confirm your selection with the enter key and save the measurement. The XL2 saves the measurement data with a file name such as "T1_RT60_001_Report.txt"
- Continue with the further measurements in the same manner.

4. My First Steps using Room Acoustics Reporter

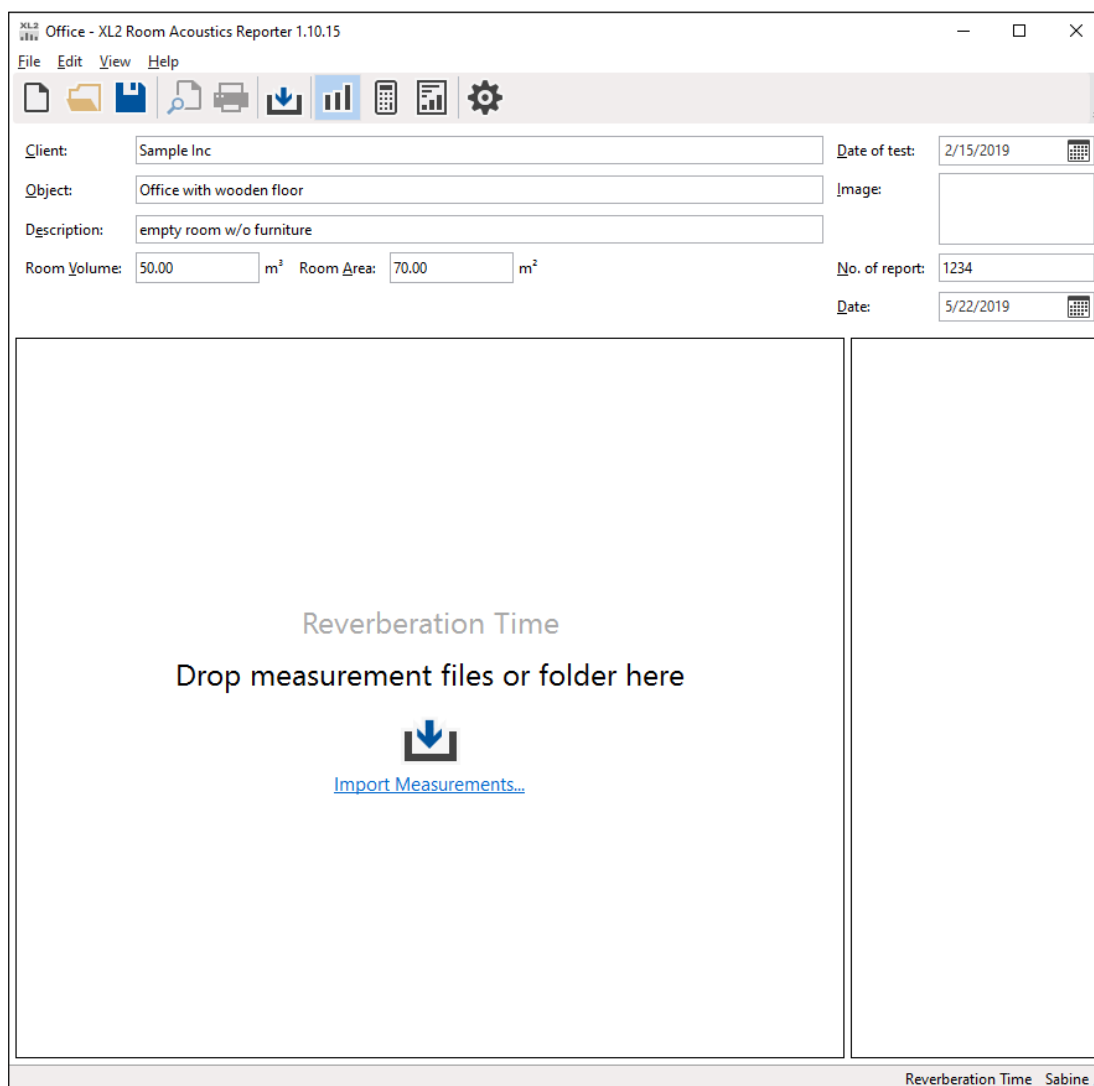
Data Import

The XL2 measurement data may be imported into the software by drag and drop. The minimum requirement for a successful data import is an XL2 with firmware V4.20 or higher. Instruments using an older firmware will benefit from the online activation of the option. The Room Acoustics Reporter software verifies the available annual subscription online during the data import.

- Start the Room Acoustics Reporter software.
- Click on **File** -> **New**



- The **New** panel opens with the default settings.
- Confirm with **OK**.

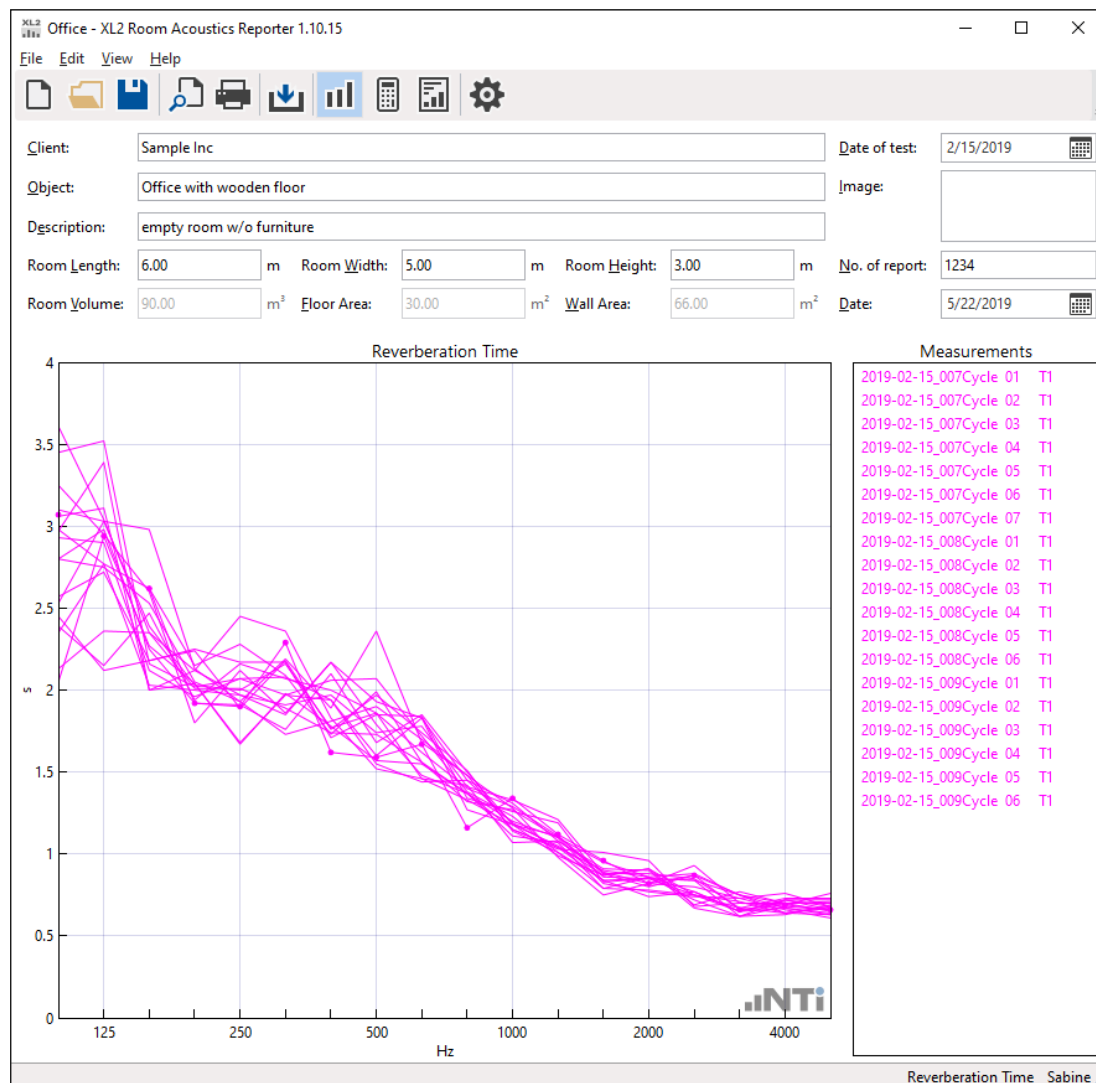


👉 The measurement view with the message “Drop measurement files or folder here” is displayed.

- Kindly ensure, prior the data import, that the room folder contains all required measurement data (*.txt) and *.xl2 system files of each recorded measurement.
- Drag and drop the complete room folder from the XL2 memory card into the field **Drop measurement files or folder here**.
- Third-octave data may be imported into projects with octave band setting based on a linear average calculation (based on the German VMPPA-Beschlussbuch 2015)

Room Acoustics Reporter offers further possibilities to import measurement data:

- Select all *.xl2 files in the room folder with all measurement data. Drag and drop the data into the **Drop measurement files or folder here** field.
- Click on **File -> Import** in the main window and select the **File...** or **Folder...**
- Select the data set and confirm the selection.



👉 The measurement data is imported.

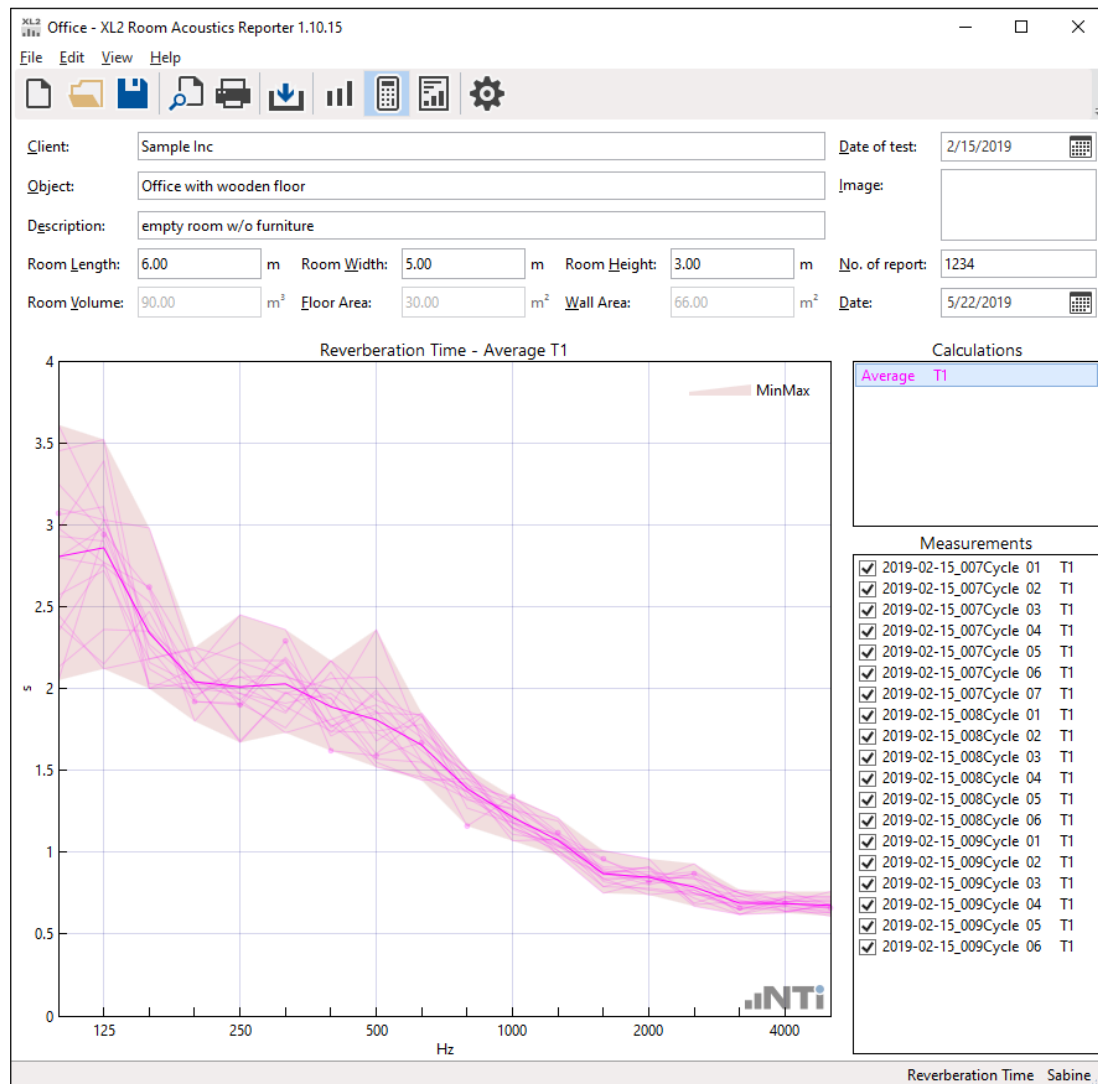
The software offers the assignments T1 and T2. Measurement data may be assigned to T1 or T2 for comparison at a glance; e.g. before and after an acoustic treatment. By default, all measurement data are assigned to the mapping T1.

In case you recorded the measurement data with mapping information in the file name, then the software assigns these data sets automatically; e.g. "T2_RT60_001.txt" is assigned to T2. Alternatively, the mapping may be assigned manually:

- Select the measurement with the mouse.
- Click on the right mouse button.
- Select **Assign To**.
- Assign the measurement.
- Verify the measurement data and delete any false readings from the **Measurements** list on the right.

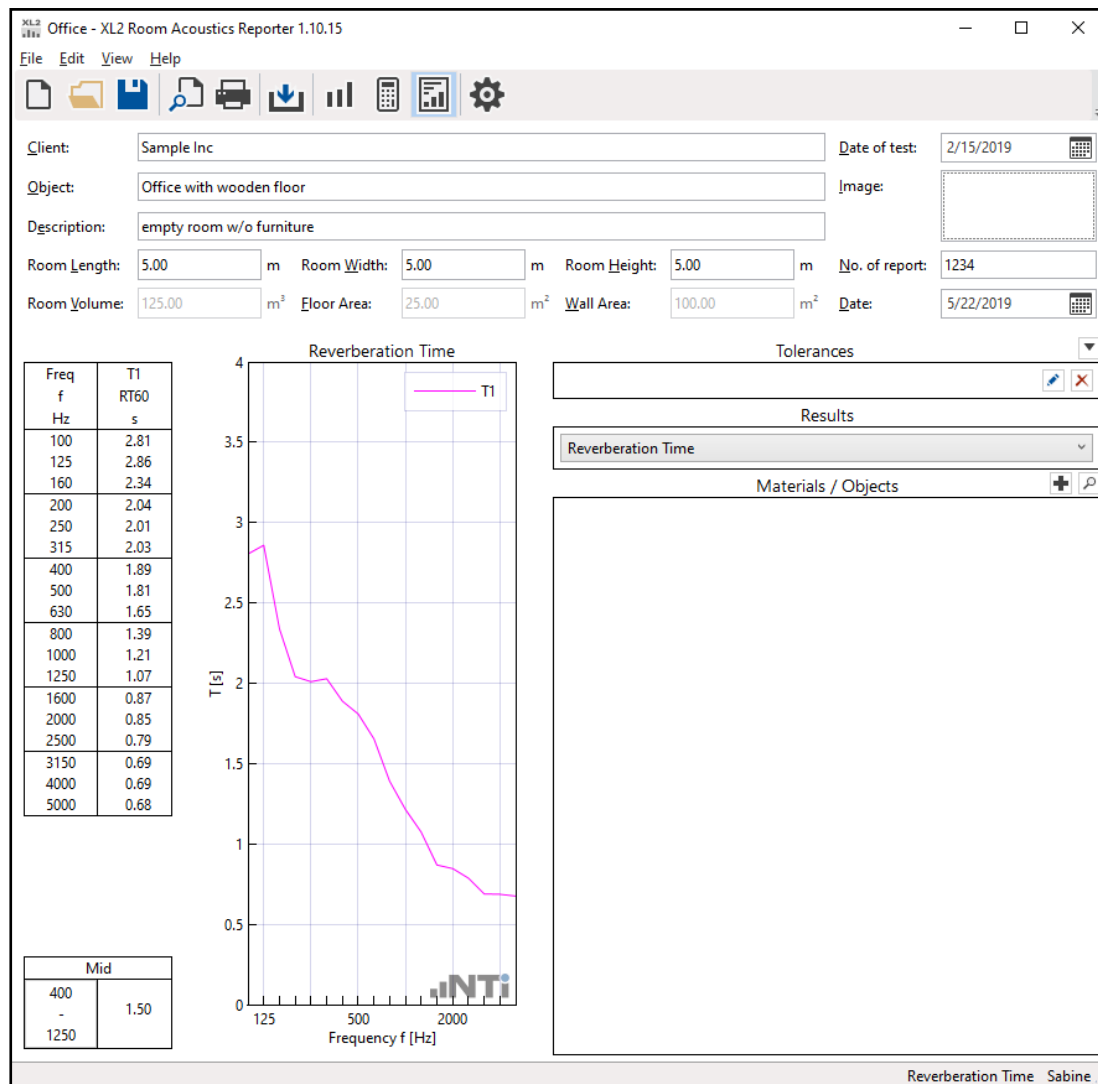
Measurement Report

- Select **View** -> **Calculations** in the menu.
- Verify the individual averaged results - the shaded area presents the measurement data span,



- Select the **View -> Results**.

👉 The averaged data is presented in a chart and a table.

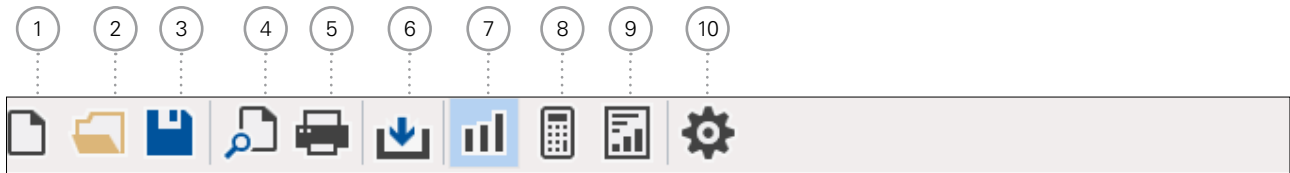


- Below the result table is the average reverberation time of the frequency bands 400 Hz to 1250 Hz in third-octave resolution reported.
- Complete the header data with information about client, object, description, room dimensions and room volumes.
- Print the Room Acoustics report.
Alternatively save the report as pdf file, e.g. using <https://www.tracker-software.com/product/pdf-xchange-lite>.

👉 Congratulations, your report is completed!

5. Main Menu

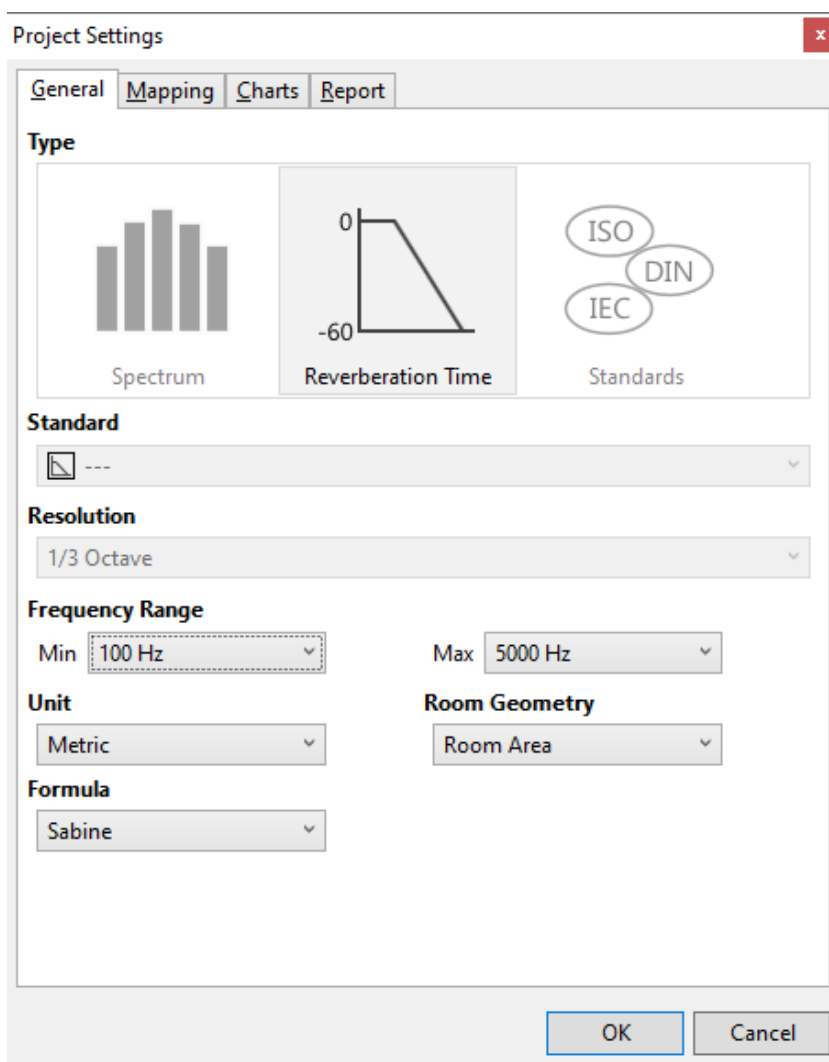
Toolbar



- ① **New Project**
A project contains the measurement data of one room. The reporting is in accordance with the selected standard.

 - Select **Spectrum** or **Reverberation Time** for general data analysis or go for one of the dedicated standards.
 - Select the settings for the measurement data analysis and reporting.
 - Confirm with **OK**.
- ② **Open Project File**
Select an existing project file *.xlr.
- ③ **Save Project File**
Save the actual data as room acoustics project file *.xlr.
- ④ **Print Preview**
The measurement report for printing is displayed.
- ⑤ **Print**
The measurement report is printed.
- ⑥ **Import**
Select the folder containing the original XL2 measurement data, *.txt and *.xl2 files, and confirm with "Select folder". All measurement files within the selected folder are imported into the software. Any recorded spectrum data with A- or C-weighting is automatically corrected to Z-weighting (=no weighting).
- ⑦ **Measurements View**
The spectrum or reverberation time data is visualized in the selected frequency range. By default, the measurement data are automatically assigned to either L1 or T1. For comparison one or multiple data sets may be assigned with L2 or T2 manually.

- 8 **Calculations View**
Displays the average of the measurement data. Individual data sets, e.g. outliers, may be removed from the average calculation.
- 9 **Results View**
Displays the following results based on the selected result type; e.g. for reverberation time:
 - Table from 50 Hz - 10 kHz
 - Chart from 50 Hz - 10 kHz
 - Average reverberation time of selected frequency range
- 10 **Settings**
 - General**
 - Select settings for data analysis and reporting.



The screenshot shows the 'Project Settings' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The dialog has a title bar with a close button (X). Inside, there are four tabs: 'General', 'Mapping', 'Charts', and 'Report'. The 'General' tab contains the following settings:

- Type:** Three icons are shown: 'Spectrum' (a bar chart), 'Reverberation Time' (a graph showing a decay from 0 to -60 dB), and 'Standards' (three overlapping circles labeled ISO, DIN, and IEC). The 'Reverberation Time' icon is currently selected.
- Standard:** A dropdown menu showing a small icon and '---'.
- Resolution:** A dropdown menu showing '1/3 Octave'.
- Frequency Range:** Two dropdown menus. 'Min' is set to '100 Hz' and 'Max' is set to '5000 Hz'.
- Unit:** A dropdown menu showing 'Metric'.
- Room Geometry:** A dropdown menu showing 'Room Area'.
- Formula:** A dropdown menu showing 'Sabine'.

At the bottom right of the dialog are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

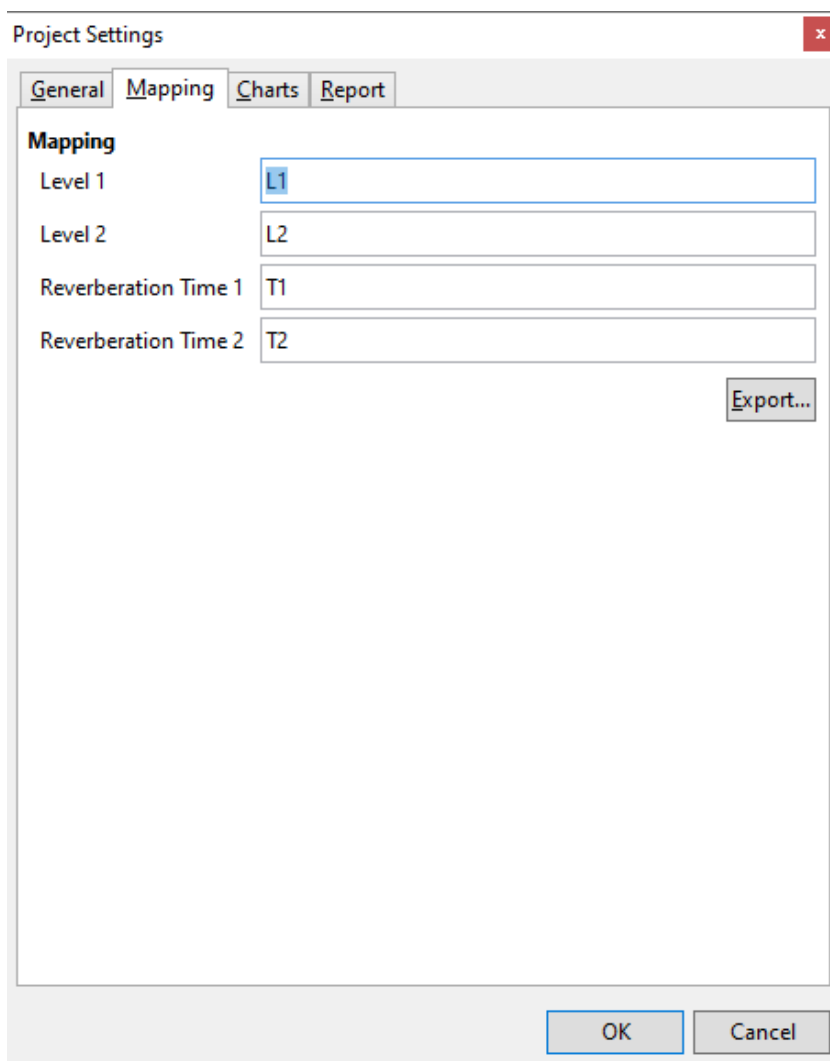
10 Settings

Mapping The measurement task onsite is made up of by multiple individual measurements. The XL2 with firmware V4.20 or higher simplifies the data handling of these measurements by recording each data set with a dedicated before/after acoustic room treatments.

Storing the measurement data with this mapping on the XL2 supports the automated data assigning during the data import into the Room Acoustics Reporter software.

- Click on **Export...**; this generates the text file savenames.txt
- Load the txt-file "savenames.txt" with the various mappings, like "L1", "T1"... onto the SD card of the XL2.
- Copy this file onto the root directory of the XL2 memory card
- Select the memory menu on the XL2 and set **Autosave: Off**

👉 Each measurement can be manually stored on the XL2 with one of the pre-defined mappings.



Project Settings

General Mapping Charts Report

Mapping

Level 1 L1

Level 2 L2

Reverberation Time 1 T1

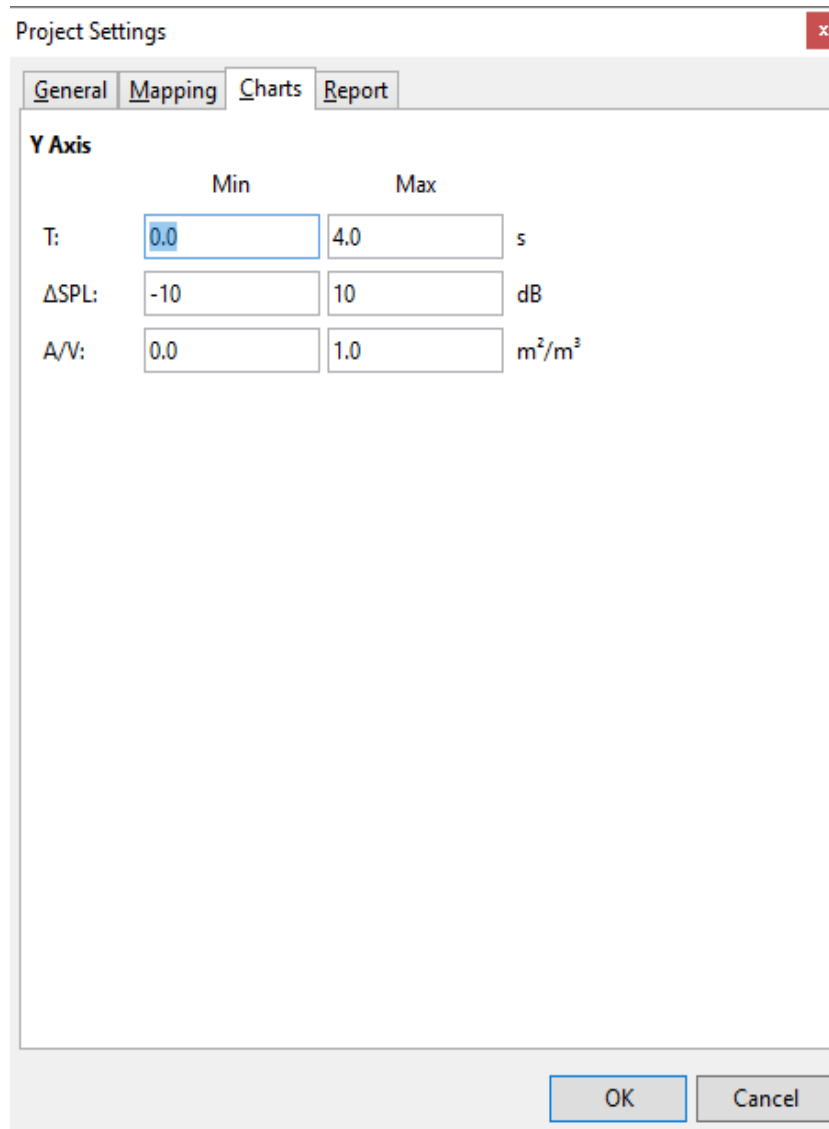
Reverberation Time 2 T2

Export...

OK Cancel

10 Settings

Charts Set the Y-axis scaling for all views.



The image shows a screenshot of the 'Project Settings' dialog box, specifically the 'Charts' tab. The dialog has a title bar with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar are four tabs: 'General', 'Mapping', 'Charts' (which is selected), and 'Report'. The 'Charts' tab contains a section titled 'Y Axis' with two columns: 'Min' and 'Max'. There are three rows of input fields:

	Min	Max	
T:	0.0	4.0	s
Δ SPL:	-10	10	dB
A/V:	0.0	1.0	m ² /m ³

At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: 'OK' and 'Cancel'.

10 Settings

Report

- Load your company logo for the printed measurement reports
- **Align title to the left** offers more space for your company logo in the report header.
- **Hide equipment** offers more space for the description in the report.
- Set the **Name of the test institute**, e.g. your company name
- Load your **Signature** for the printed measurement reports



The recommended maximum size for the imported picture is

- Logo: 120 x 30 px @ 96 dpi
- Signature: 350 x 70 px @ 96 dpi

Menu

The software offers the following menu functionalities:

File	New...	A project contains the measurement data of one room. The reporting is in accordance with the selected standard. • Select RTA or Reverberation Time for general data analysis or go for one of the dedicated standards. • Select the settings for the measurement data analysis and reporting. • Confirm with OK.
	Open...	Select an existing project file *.xlr.
	Save	Save the actual Room Acoustics data as project file *.xlr.
	Save as...	Save the project with selectable name and path.
	Print Preview	The measurement report for printing is displayed.
	Print	The measurement report is printed.
	Import	File... Select a single measurement data file *.xl2
		Folder... Select a folder in order to import all measurement data stored in this folder
		Measurements from Project... Select an old project and the measurement data of this project is imported
	Preferences...	General The Room Acoustics Reporter software is available in English and German language. The default setting uses the language of the operating system installed on your computer. Changing the language will require a restart of the software.
		Tolerances Maintain your list of tolerances for good/bad decision for all your reporting here.
		Materials Maintain your list of materials with absorption data for all your reverberation time reporting here.
	Recent	Select a recently-opened project.

File	Exit	Close the software.
Edit	Cut	Cut the text from any text box.
	Copy	Copy the measurement data selected in the right-hand Measurements , Calculations or Results box (e.g. for using it in Microsoft Excel).
	Paste	Paste the copied text into any text box.
	Delete	Delete the data selected in the right-hand selection box in Measurements .
	Select All	Select all data in the right-hand Measurements box (applicable in Measurements View only).
	Deselect All	Deselect all earlier selected data in the right-hand Measurements box (applicable in Measurements View only).
	Mid Frequency Range...	Set the frequency range for the calculation of the average reverberation time in accordance with ISO 3382-1 (applicable at reverberation time projects only)
View	Measurements	Select the Measurements View.
	Calculations	Select the Calculations View.
	Results	Select the Results View.
	Settings	Opens the Project Settings window.
Help	Online Help	Link to download the user manual in PDF form
	Check for Updates...	Checks online for available updates of the XL2 Room Acoustics Reporter software.
	About	Lists version and copyright details of the software.

6. Analysis and Reporting Views

The Room Acoustics Reporter software offers three views for fast data analysis and straight-forward reporting in accordance with the standard.



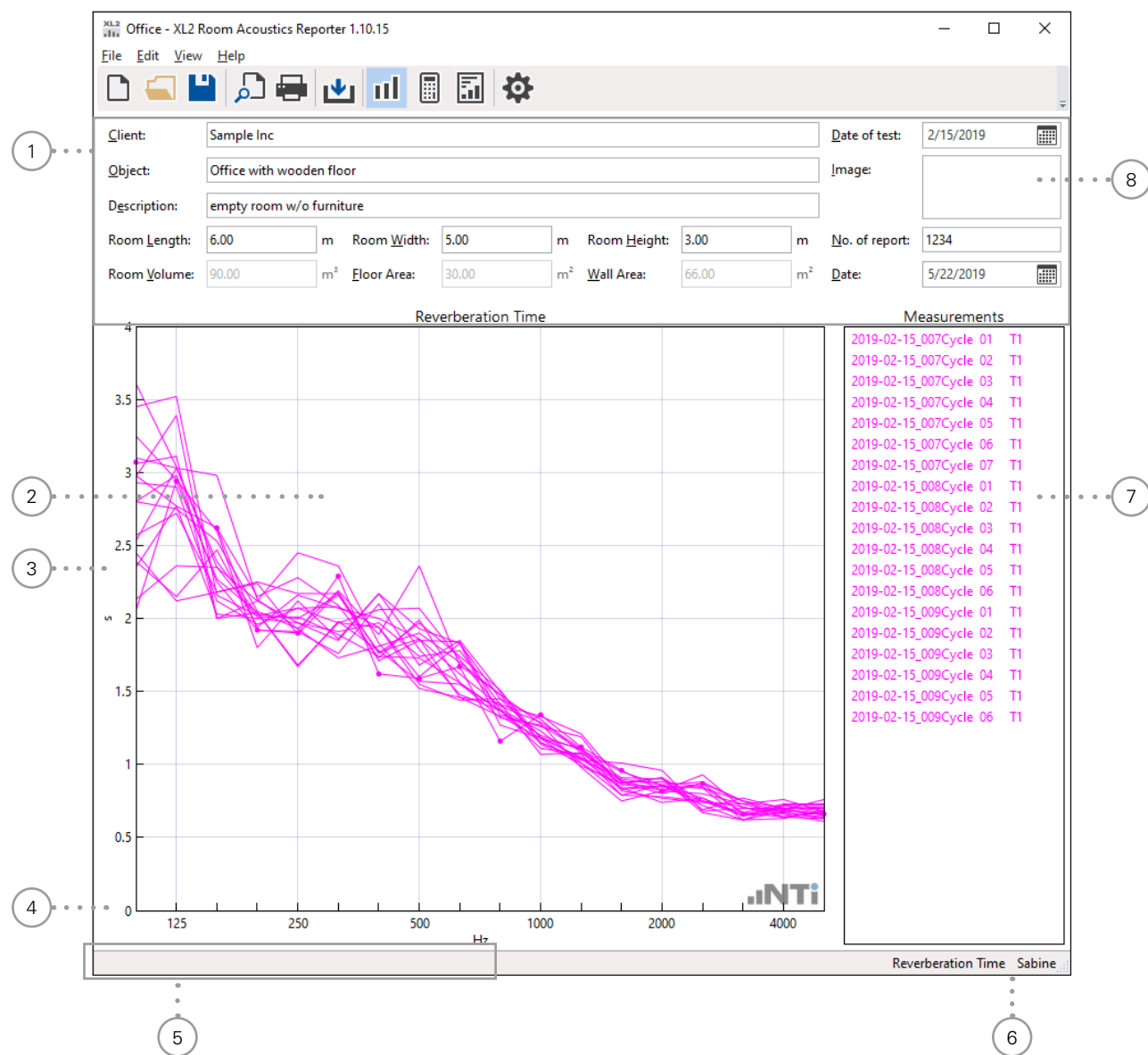
① **Measurements View**

② **Calculations View**

③ **Results View**

Measurements View

The software allows to assign reverberation time measurement data to the data set T1 or T2 for direct comparison; e.g. before/after room acoustic treatments. By default, all data is automatically assigned to T1.

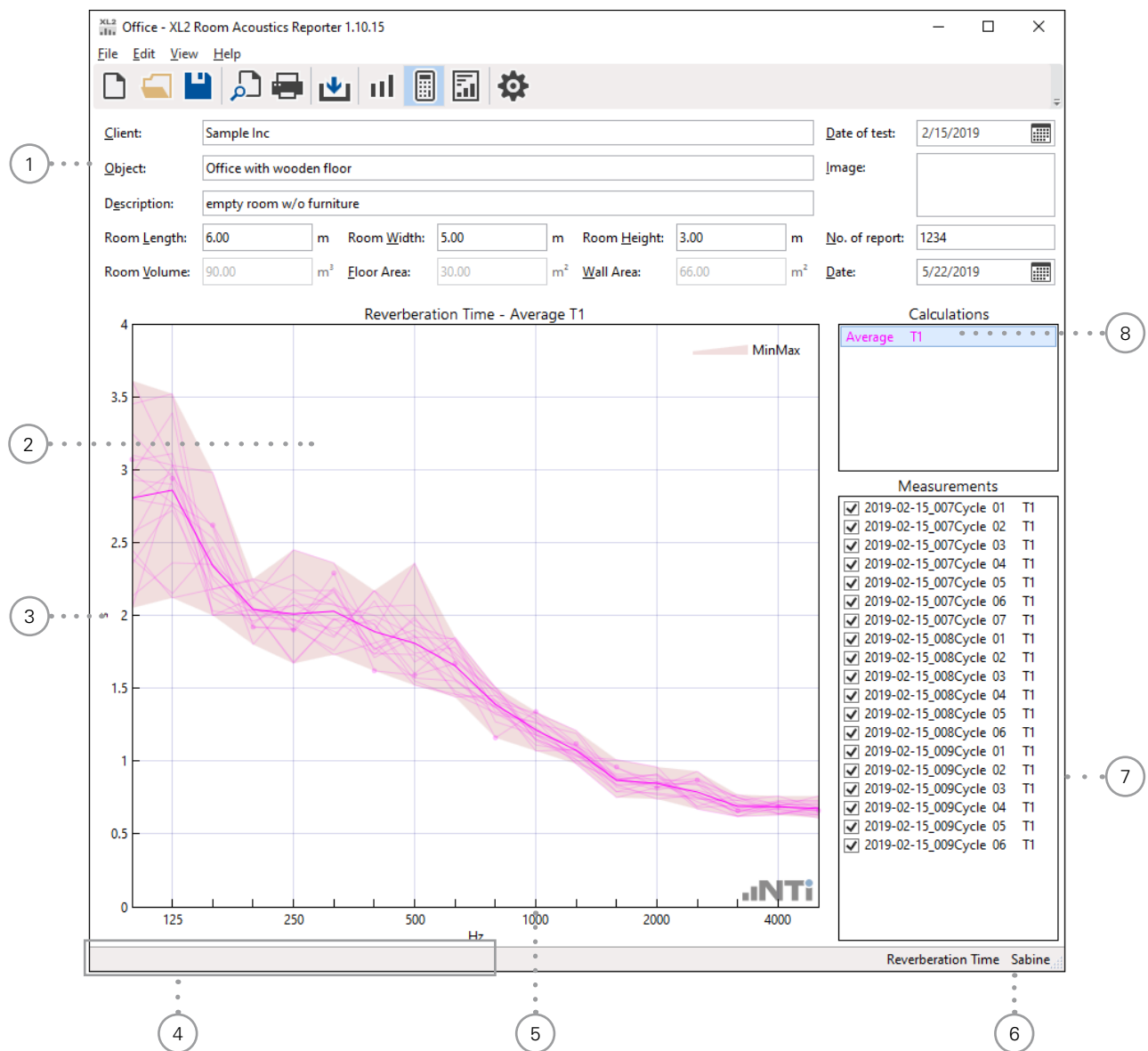


1 Details

Header data of the measurement report. The room area (= sum of floor, wall and ceiling surface) and volume are used to calculate predicted reverberation time with added absorption materials.

- ② **Measurements Chart**
The original XL2 measurement data is visualized in the selected frequency range.
- ③ **Y-Axis of Measurements Chart**
Set the Y-axis in **Settings** -> **Charts**.
- ④ **X-Axis of Measurements Chart**
Set the X-axis in **Settings** -> **General** (as applicable).
- ⑤ **Guideline Bar**
Additional information about displayed measurement data is listed here.
- ⑥ **Standard**
Selected standard for the data analysis and reporting and formula for reverberation time projects.
- ⑦ **Measurements List with Mappings**
The software allows to assign reverberation time measurement data to the data set T1 or T2 for direct comparison; e.g. before/after room acoustic treatments. By default, all data is automatically assigned to T1. The mapping T2 may be assigned manually:
 - Select the measurement after room acoustic treatments with the mouse
 - Click on the right mouse button
 - Select **Assign To**
 - Assign the measurement to T2
- ⑧ **Image**
Click into the image field and load a drawing or picture describing the room. The recommended maximum size is for
 - A4 Reporting: 340 x 160 px
 - Letter Reporting: 350 x 130 px

Calculations View

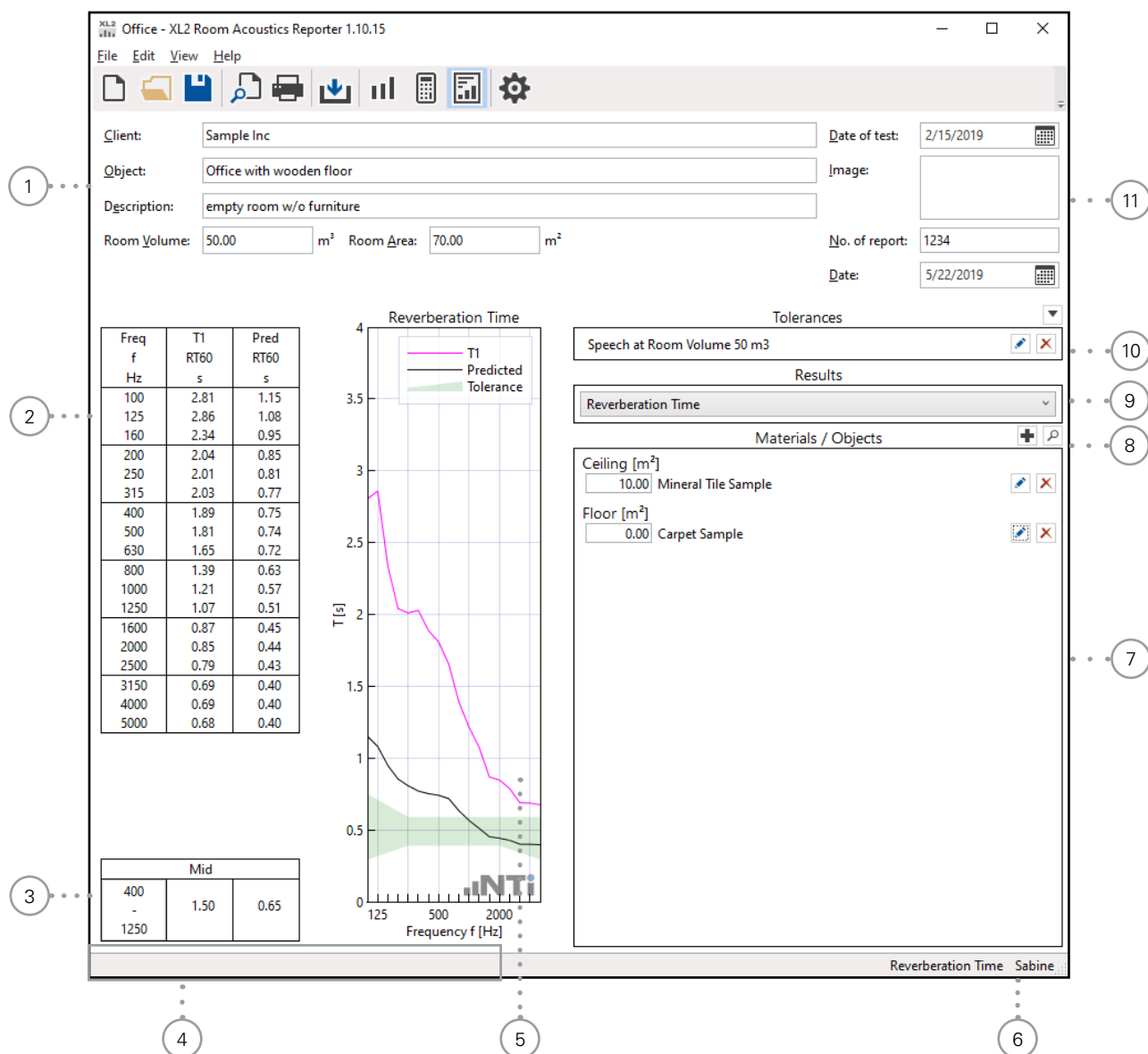


- ① **Details**
Header data of the measurement report. The room area (= sum of floor, wall and ceiling surface) and volume are used to calculate predicted reverberation time with added absorption materials.
- ② **Chart**
The averaged measurement data is visualized in the selected frequency range. The grey area marks the measurement data span.
- ③ **Y-Axis**
Set the Y-axis in **Settings** -> **Charts**
- ④ **Guideline Bar**
Additional information about displayed measurement data is listed here.
- ⑤ **X-Axis**
Set the X-axis in **Settings** -> **General** (as applicable).
- ⑥ **Standard**
Selected standard for the data analysis and reporting and formula for reverberation time projects.
- ⑦ **Measurements Selection**
Disable any measurement data, which shall not be used for the average calculation.
- ⑧ **Average**
 - Averaged data sets
 - Select e.g. Average T1 for detailed verifications of the measurement data used for the average calculation.
 - Press ESC on the keyboard to return to the default view with all averaged measurements

Results View

The Result View displays the following results:

- Table of the selected frequency range
- Standardized chart
- Calculated result
 - Reverberation Time: Average reverberation time of selected frequency range
 - Spectrum: Sum of all frequency bands



- ① **Details**
Header data of the measurement report. The room area (= sum of floor, wall and ceiling surface) and volume are used to calculate predicted reverberation time with added absorption materials.
- ② **Results Table**
Averaged results in the selected frequency range.
- ③ **Calculated result**
 - Reverberation Time: Average reverberation time of selected frequency range
 - Spectrum: Sum of all frequency bands
- ④ **Guideline Bar**
Additional information about displayed measurement data is listed here.
- ⑤ **Chart**
The averaged measurement data is visualized in the selected frequency range.
You may export the data set in your own individual reporting. Just click with the right mouse button into the chart and copy/paste the data.
- ⑥ **Standard**
Selected standard for the data analysis and reporting and formula for reverberation time projects.
- ⑦ **Materials / Objects**
Specify the area of plane absorbers or the quantity of objects selected.
- ⑧ **Add Material / Objects**
Add or remove plane absorbers or objects in the room.

Add...	Add a new material and specify the absorption coefficients. The new material may be stored in the Preferences for other projects.
Search...	Select an existing material from your database.
- ⑨ **Results**
Select the applicable result.
- ⑩ **Tolerances**
Select the applicable tolerance for passed/failed decision.

11

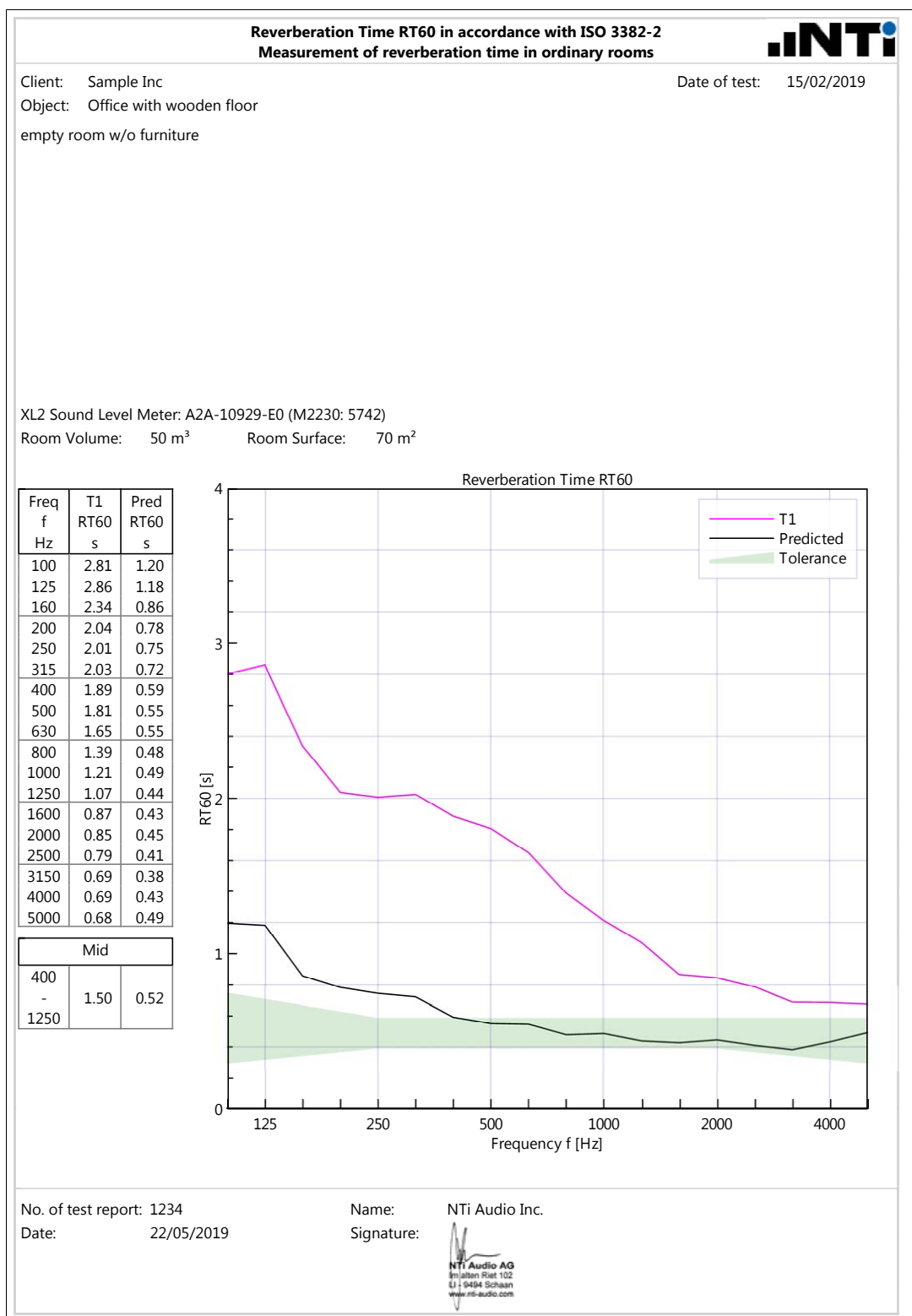
Image

Click into the image field and load a drawing or picture describing the room. The recommended maximum size is for

- A4 Reporting: 340 x 160 px
- Letter Reporting: 350 x 130 px

7. Measurement Report

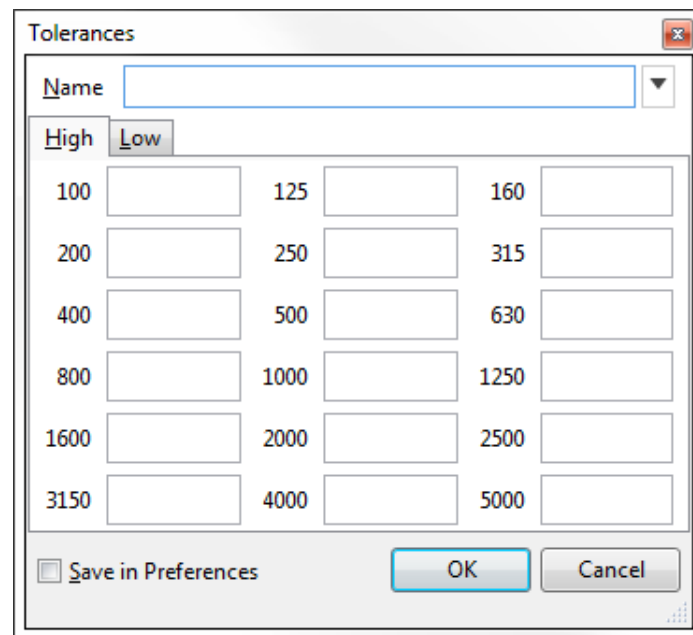
The software generates automated reports in accordance with the supported standards. Print the reports for the selected results.



8. Tolerances

Add Tolerance Band

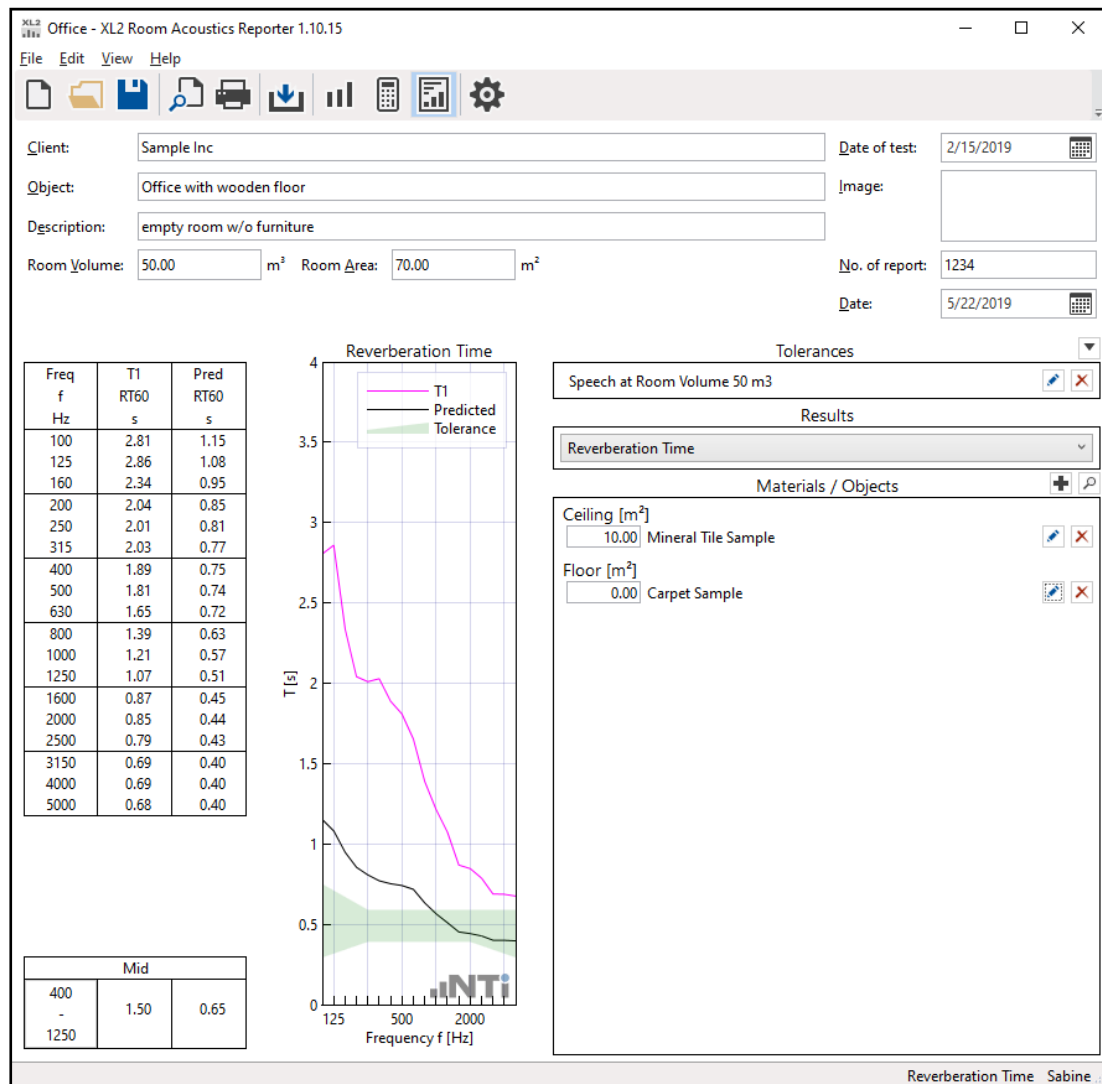
- Click on the Edit Tolerance button in the right-hand column. The empty **Tolerance** window is displayed:



Tolerances		
Name		
<input checked="" type="button" value="High"/> Low		
100		125
200		250
400		500
800		1000
1600		2000
3150		4000
		160
		315
		630
		1250
		2500
		5000

☐ Save in Preferences

- Complete the table with the upper tolerance. You may keep frequency bands without a tolerance empty.
- Repeat the same for the **Low** tolerance.
- Confirm with **OK**.

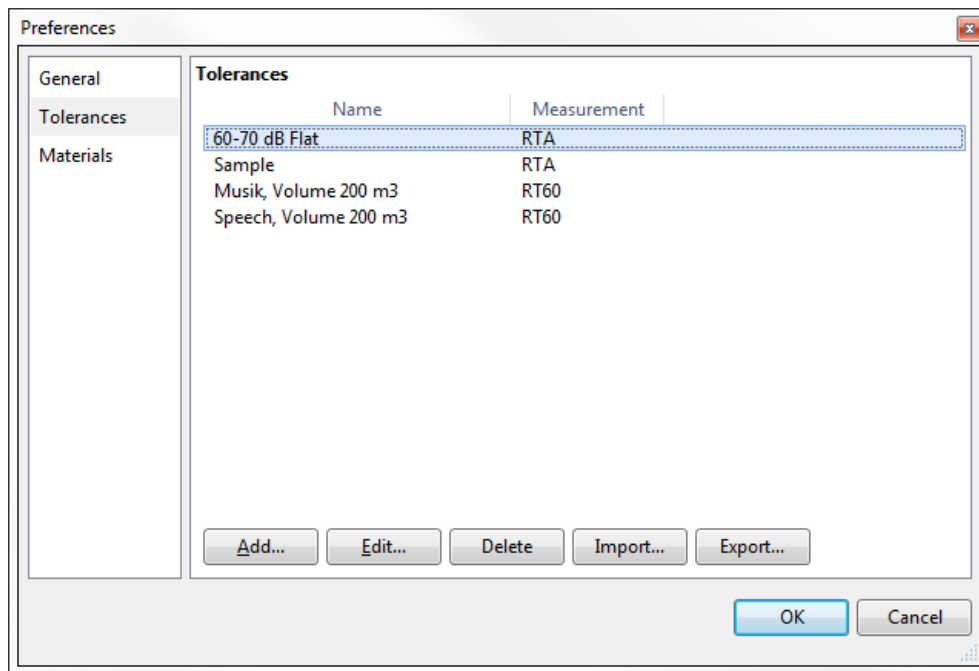


👉 The result view displays the design goal tolerance.

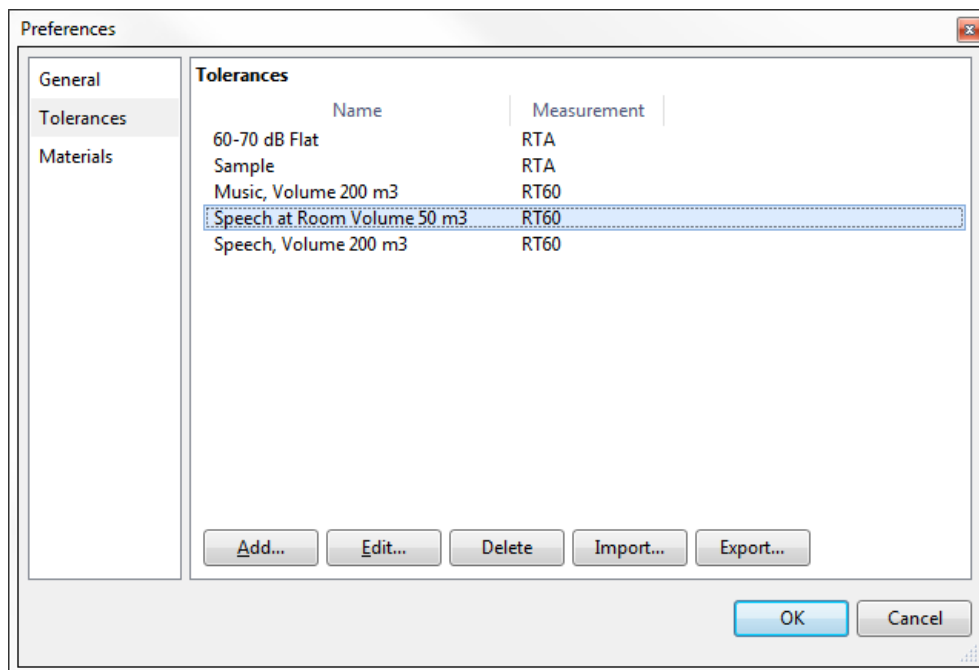
Import Tolerance

- Select **File** -> **Preferences...** in the menu.
- Select **Tolerances**.

👉 A table with demo tolerances is presented.



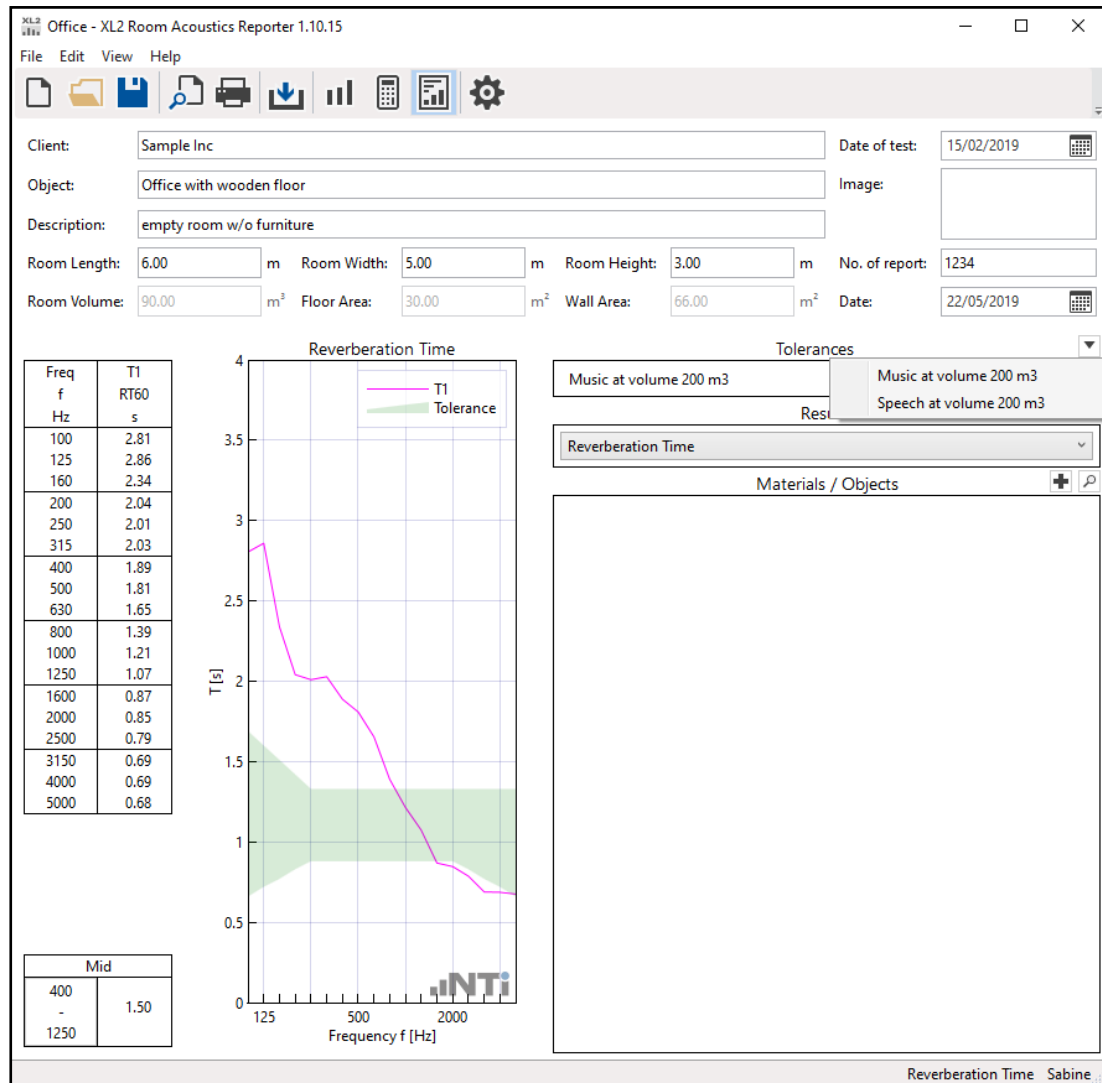
- Export the tolerances; an *.xml file is generated.
- Open the exported tolerance file using e.g. Microsoft Excel.
- Add your tolerances using the format of the demo tolerances.
- Save the data in *.xml format (e.g. Microsoft Excel offers "Save as type: XML Data")
- Import the updated list of tolerances.



👍 Your list with tolerances is available within the software now.

- Confirm with **OK** and return to the **Results View**.

- Click on the drop-down menu at **Tolerances** and select your preferred tolerance from the drop-down list.



9. Simulation - Optimizing Room Acoustics

Theory

The reverberation time in rooms can be reduced with additional acoustic absorbers in the room; such absorbers are e.g. a fabric couch, a carpet, an acoustic picture or a special ceiling plaster. A reduced reverberation time also leads to a reduction in the sound level in the room.

The Room Acoustics Reporter software can be used to simulate the effects of additional acoustic absorbers installed in the room. The software calculates the expected reduced reverberation time T and the resulting sound pressure level change in the room. In addition, the A/V ratio and the mean sound absorption coefficient in the room are presented.

The standard simulation is carried out using Sabine's formula in accordance with the DIN EN 12354-6: 2004 standard. The Sabine' formula was developed by the physicist Wallace Clement Sabine (1868-1919).

$$T = \frac{0.16 * V}{A} = \frac{0.16 * V}{S * \alpha_{\text{room}}}$$

with

T ... reverberation time [s]

V ... net volume of the room [m3]

A ... total or energy equivalent absorption area in the room [m2]

S ... sum of floor, wall and ceiling area [m2]

α_{room} ... mean sound absorption coefficient of the room, without unit

Room Acoustics Reporter calculates the mean sound absorption coefficient in the room α_{room} based on the measured reverberation time T_1 . For simplicity, possible sound absorption in the air and a reduced volume due to objects in the room are not taken into account. The sound velocity is assumed to be 345.6 m / s in accordance with the standard DIN EN 12354-6: 2004, so that the factor 0.16 can be used in Sabine's formula.

The software simulates the effect of additional sound-absorbing materials, objects or people in the room. This allows to take the necessary measures for improved audibility in accordance with the specified tolerances. The absorbers are taken into account with the following formula:

$$\alpha_{\text{room}} = \frac{(S_1 * \alpha_1 + S_2 * \alpha_2 + \dots + S_i * \alpha_i + A_{\text{obj}_1} + A_{\text{obj}_2} + \dots + A_{\text{obj}_j})}{S}$$

with

S ... sum of floor, wall and ceiling area [m²]

α_{room} ... mean sound absorption coefficient of the room, without unit

α_i ... sound absorption coefficient of absorber i, without unit

Aobj_j ... absorption area of object j [m²]

Example 1

A rectangular room is 8 m long, 7 m wide and 3 m high. This results in a floor area of 56 m², a total surface of 202 m² and a room volume of 168 m³. The measured reverberation time at 1 kHz is 2 seconds. An acoustic ceiling with an area of 56 m² and a sound absorption coefficient of 0.8 at 1 kHz is placed in the room.

$$\alpha_{\text{room}} = \frac{0.16 * V}{S * T} = \frac{0.16 * 168}{202 * 2} = 0.07$$

The software now replaces an area of 56 m² with the mean sound absorption coefficient of the room against the acoustic ceiling with a sound absorption coefficient of 0.8.

$$\alpha_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{56 * 0.80 + (202 - 56) * 0.07}{202} = 0.27$$

$$T_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{0.16 * 168}{202 * 0.27} = 0.49 \text{ s}$$

Example 2

Continuing with example 1, the sound absorption coefficient of the ceiling, wall and floor is mostly different, so the accuracy of the simulation can be increased by removing the area of 56 m² with the actual sound absorption coefficient of the raw ceiling, e.g. 0.03 for concrete, and the 56 m² acoustic ceiling is added.

$$\alpha_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{202 * 0.07 + 56 * 0.80 - 56 * 0.03}{202} = 0.28$$

$$T_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{0.16 * 168}{202 * 0.28} = 0.48 \text{ s}$$

In practice, Sabine's formula is used to optimize room acoustics. This formula is based on the following assumptions:

- diffuse field in space
- evenly distributed absorbent surfaces in the room; In the case of opposing surfaces, the sound absorption coefficient should maximum differ by a factor of 3
- typical shoe box shape with dimensions with a maximum ratio of 1: 5 to each other
- not too many objects in the room; they may take up a maximum of 20% of the room volume

If these requirements are not met, the real reverberation time is often longer than the simulated reverberation time.

For applications with an average sound absorption coefficient greater than 0.30, the Sabine's formula results in a longer reverberation time than actual. Therefore, in Room Acoustics Reporter you can alternatively select the formula of Eyring (1930), which provides the recommended and more representative reverberation time for an absorption coefficient > 0.30.

$$T = \frac{0.16 * V}{-S * \ln(1 - \alpha_{\text{room}})}$$

with

T ... reverberation time [s]

V ... net volume of the room [m3]

S ... sum of floor, wall and ceiling area [m2]

α_{room} ... mean sound absorption coefficient of the room, without unit

Example 3

The calculation is carried out using the same information as in Example 1 - but using Eyring's formula. A rectangular room is 8 m long, 7 m wide and 3 m high. This results in a floor area of 56 m2, a total surface of 202 m2 and a room volume of 168 m3. The measured reverberation time at 1 kHz is 2 seconds. An acoustic ceiling with an area of 56 m2 and a sound absorption coefficient of 0.8 at 1 kHz is placed in the room.

$$\alpha_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = 1 - e^{\left(\frac{0.16 * 168}{-202 * 2} \right)} = 0.06$$

The software now replaces an area of 56 m2 with the mean sound absorption coefficient of the room against the acoustic ceiling with a sound absorption coefficient of 0.8.

$$\alpha_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{56 * 0.80 + (202 - 56) * 0.06}{202} = 0.27$$

$$T_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{0.16 * 168}{-202 * \ln(1 - 0.27)} = 0.43 \text{ s}$$

Example 4

Continuing with example 3, the sound absorption coefficient of the ceiling, wall and floor is mostly different, so the accuracy of the simulation can be increased by using an area of 25 m² with the actual sound absorption coefficient of the raw ceiling, e.g. 0.03 for concrete, removed and the 25 m² carpet added.

$$\alpha_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{202 * 0.06 + 56 * 0.80 - 56 * 0.03}{202} = 0.28$$

$$T_{\text{with acoustic sealing}} = \frac{0.16 * 168}{-202 * \ln(1 - 0.28)} = 0.41 \text{ s}$$

The room becomes quieter with a reduced reverberation time - the direct sound component remains unaffected, but the sound reflections from the room boundary surfaces are reduced. This results in a lower sound pressure level. The Room Acoustics Reporter software shows the expected change in sound level; this is calculated from the following formula

$$\text{Sound Pressure Level Change} = 10 * \log \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2} \right)$$

with

T1 ... reverberation time [s]

T2 ... expected reverberation time [s]

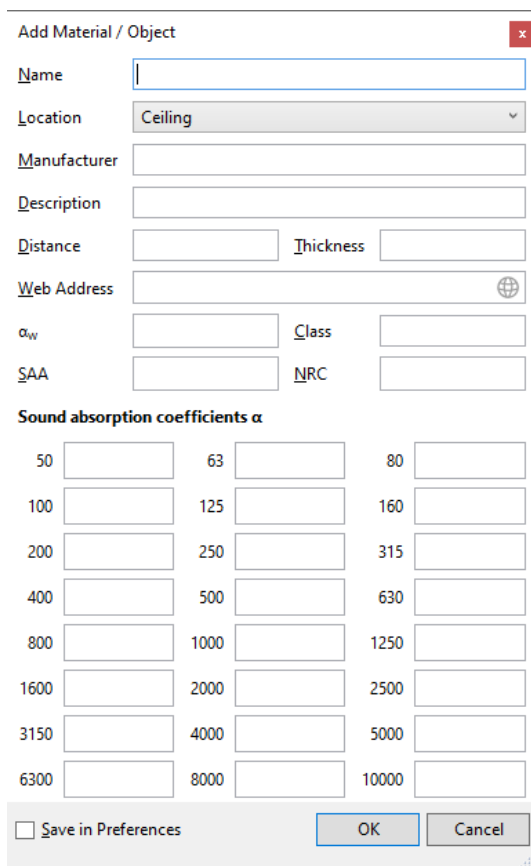
Example 5

With the results from example 1, the following change in sound pressure level results:

$$\text{Sound Pressure Level Change} = 10 * \log \left(\frac{2.00}{0.49} \right) = 6.1 \text{ dB}$$

Add Material / Object

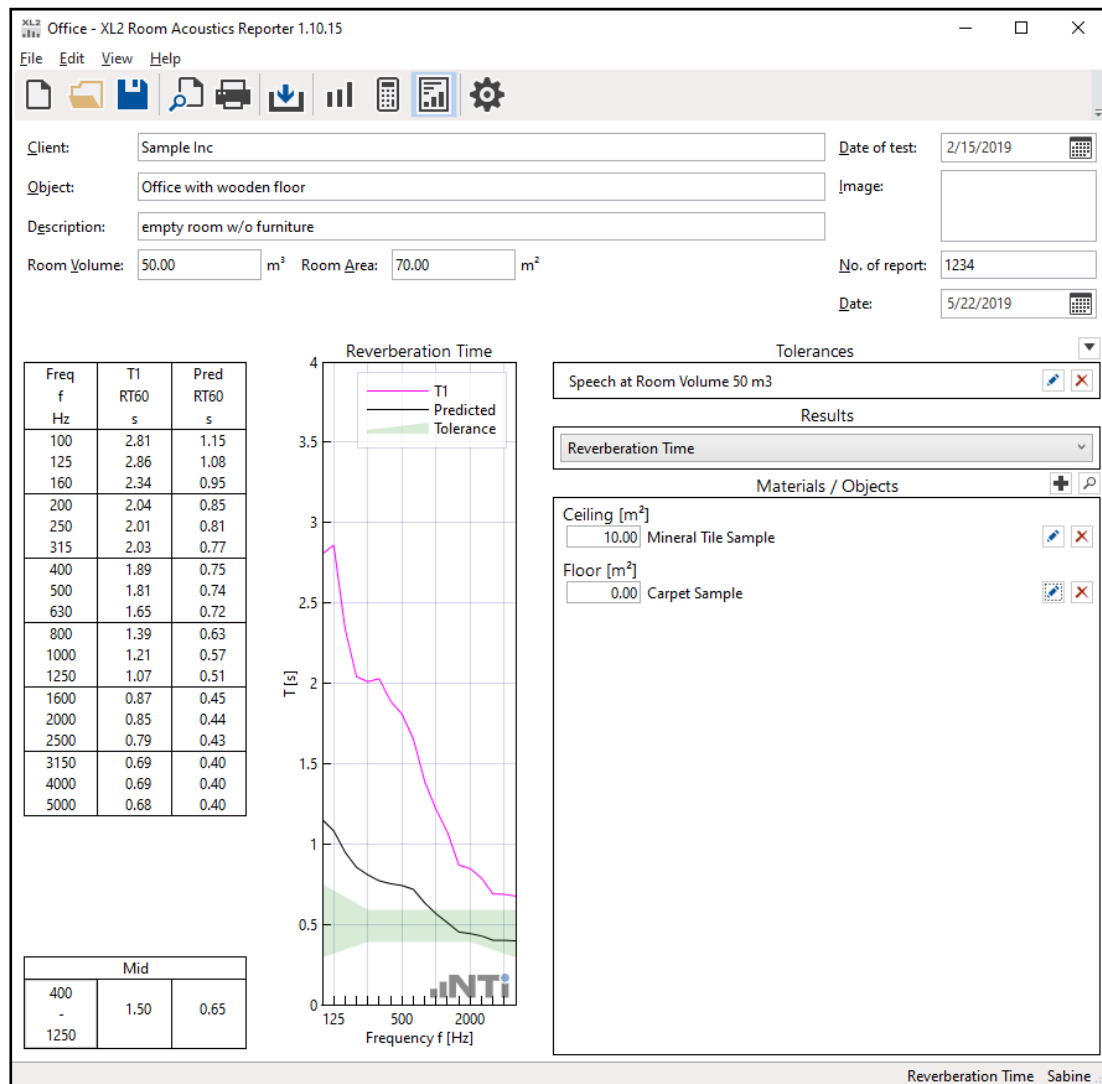
- Click on **+** next to **Materials** in the right-hand column.
- The following window is displayed:



- Enter **Name** and select the **Location** of the material in the room.
- **Manufacturer** and **Description** is optional.
- Complete the table with the **Sound absorption coefficients α** .
- Confirm the data entry with **OK**.

 The material is listed in the **Materials** field.

- Now enter the area of the absorption material in m².



👉 The result view displays the predicted reverberation time adding the entered absorption material.

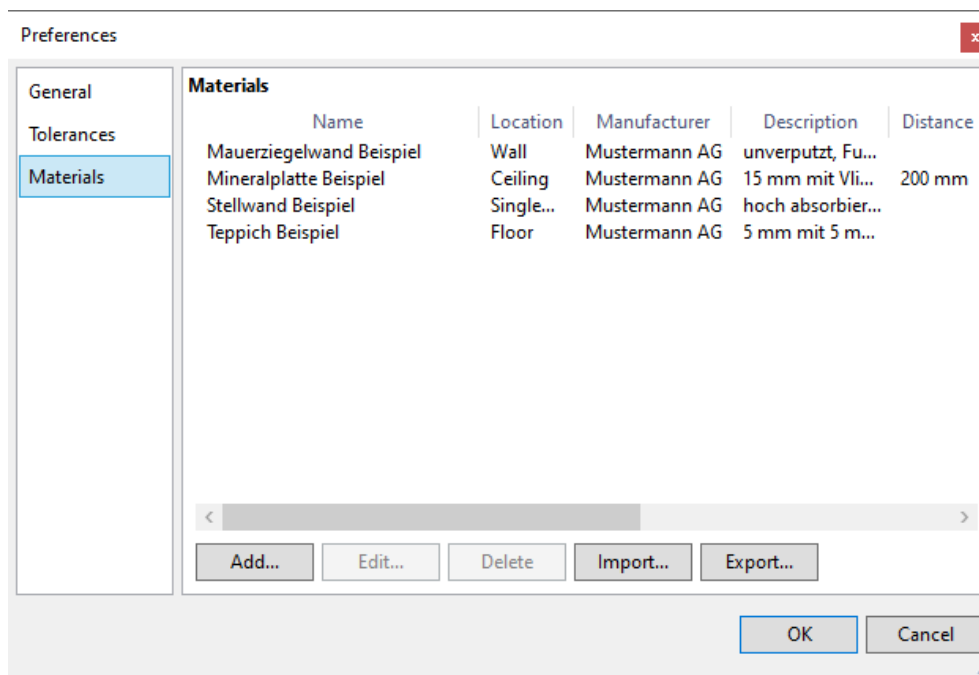
Note:

The absorption data is stored locally within the project. In case you like to have materials with absorption data available in all your reverberation time projects, then proceed with the next chapter.

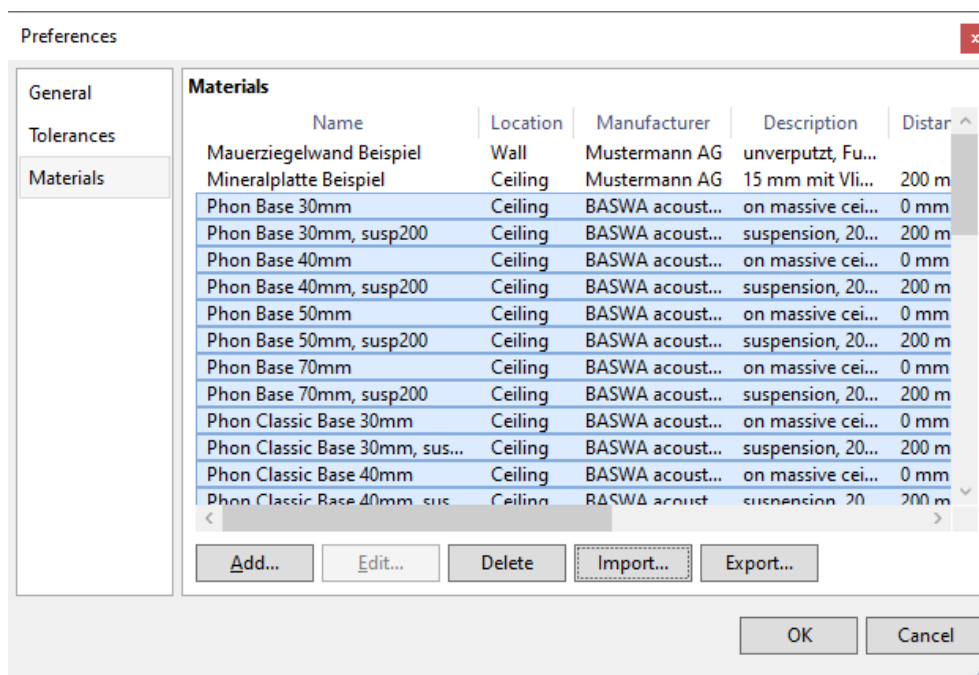
Import Material / Object

- Select **File** -> **Preferences...** in the menu.
- Select **Materials**.

👉 A table with demo absorption materials is presented.

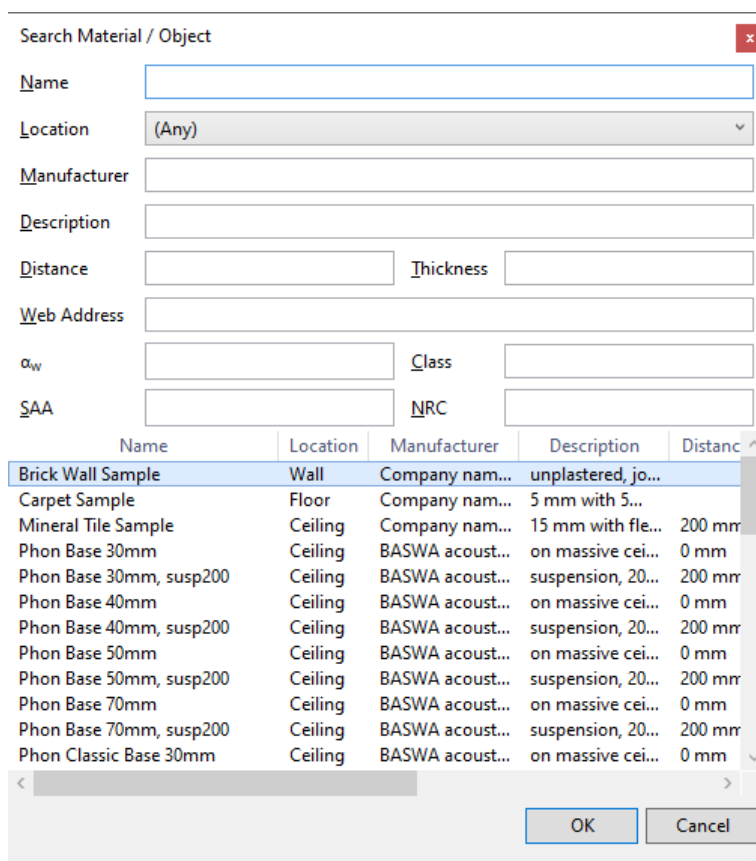


- Export the materials; an *.xml file is generated.
- Open the exported material file using e.g. Microsoft Excel.
- Add your list of materials using the format of the demo materials.
- The **Name** of the material and **Location** in the room is required. Use **(Any)** in case the material can be used for the ceiling, the wall or the floor. **Manufacturer** and **Description** is optional like all other descriptors of the material or object.
- Save the data in *.xml format (e.g. Microsoft Excel offers "Save as type: XML Data")
- Import the updated list of materials.

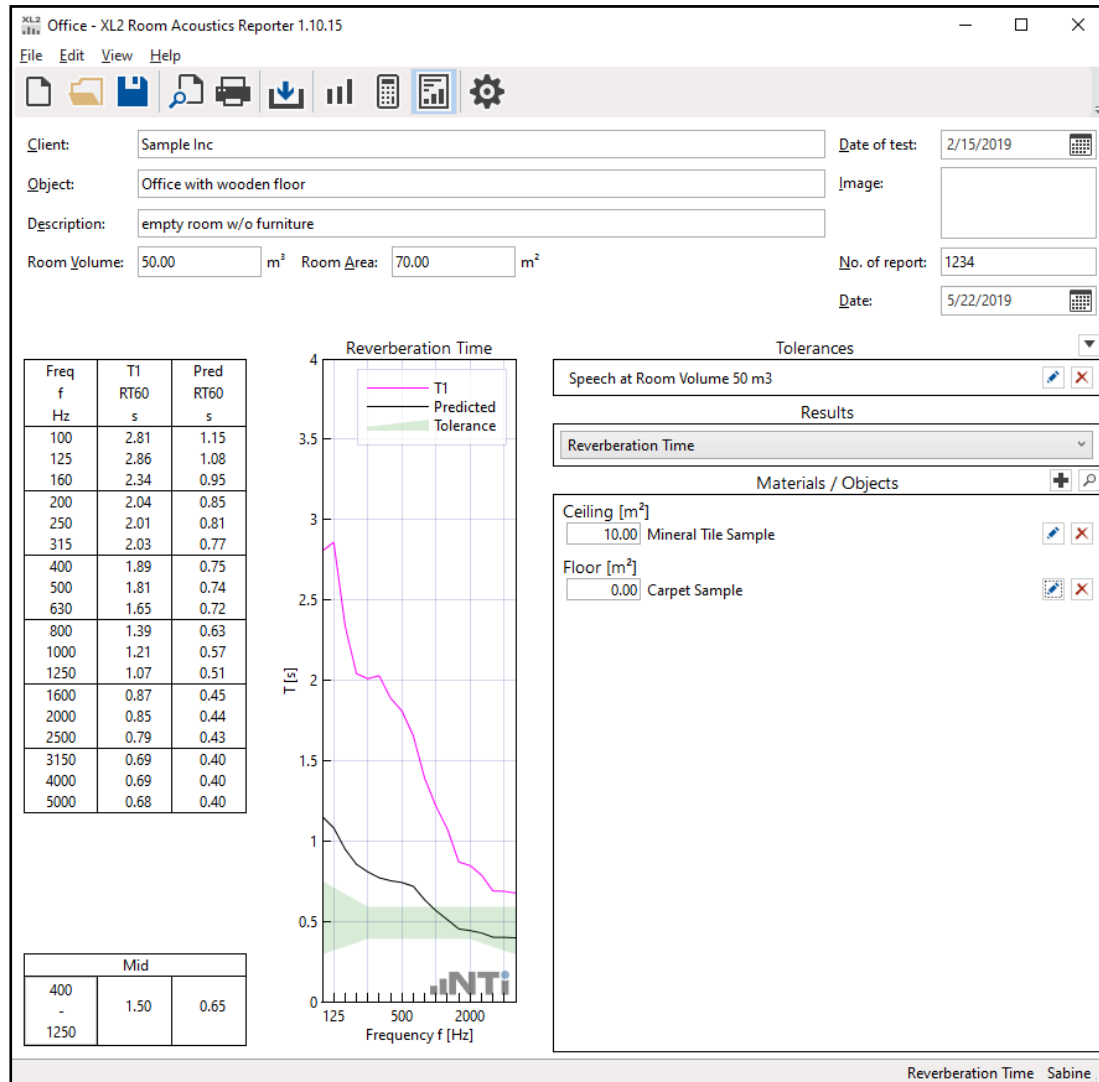


👉 Your list of materials with absorptions materials is available for all reverberation time projects now.

- Confirm with **OK** and return to the **Results View**.
- Select the search icon  next to **Material / Object**.



- Select the material of interest for your evaluation.
- Confirm the data entry with **OK**.
- Enter the area of the absorption material in m².



👉 The result view displays the predicted reverberation time with the selected absorption material.

10. Standards

The Room Acoustics Reporter software measures and reports in accordance with the following standards:

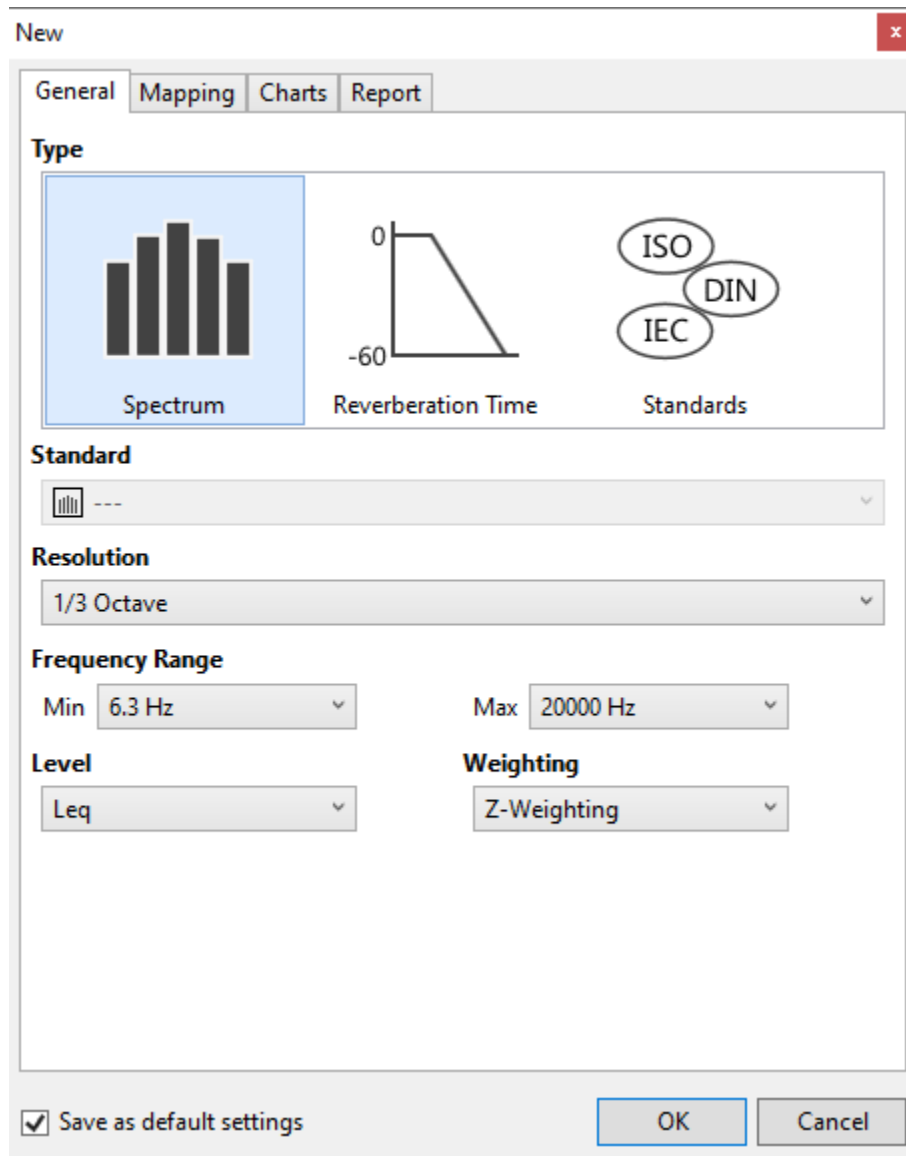
IEC 61260 - Octave or Third-Octave Spectrum

Selecting the standard IEC 61260 enables to drag and drop noise spectrum data sets into the software Room Acoustics Reporter. With regards to the frequency band resolutions are octave and third-octave data supported. Data sets recorded with higher resolution are automatically calculated into third-octave band resolution.

Software Features

- Import of noise spectrum data for analysis and reporting
- Comparing two noise spectrum data sets (L1) and (L2)
- Standardized measurement reports
- Calculating Sum L1+L2 (log), Background Noise Correction L1-L2 (log) and Difference L1-L2 (lin)
- Calculating sum of user-specified frequency bands
- Import of data sets recorded with XL2 functions "1/12 Oct" or "Noise Curves"
- Automated aggregation of 1/12 octave and 1/6 octave data into one-third octave resolution
- Analysis of data sets based on frequency weighting A, C or Z

Alternatively, you may also select **Spectrum** at starting a new project. The settings and functionalities are in accordance with the standard selection IEC 61260.



New

General Mapping Charts Report

Type

Spectrum Reverberation Time Standards

Standard

Resolution

1/3 Octave

Frequency Range

Min 6.3 Hz Max 20000 Hz

Level

Leq

Weighting

Z-Weighting

☒ Save as default settings OK Cancel

GB 50371 - Code for sound reinforcement system design of auditorium

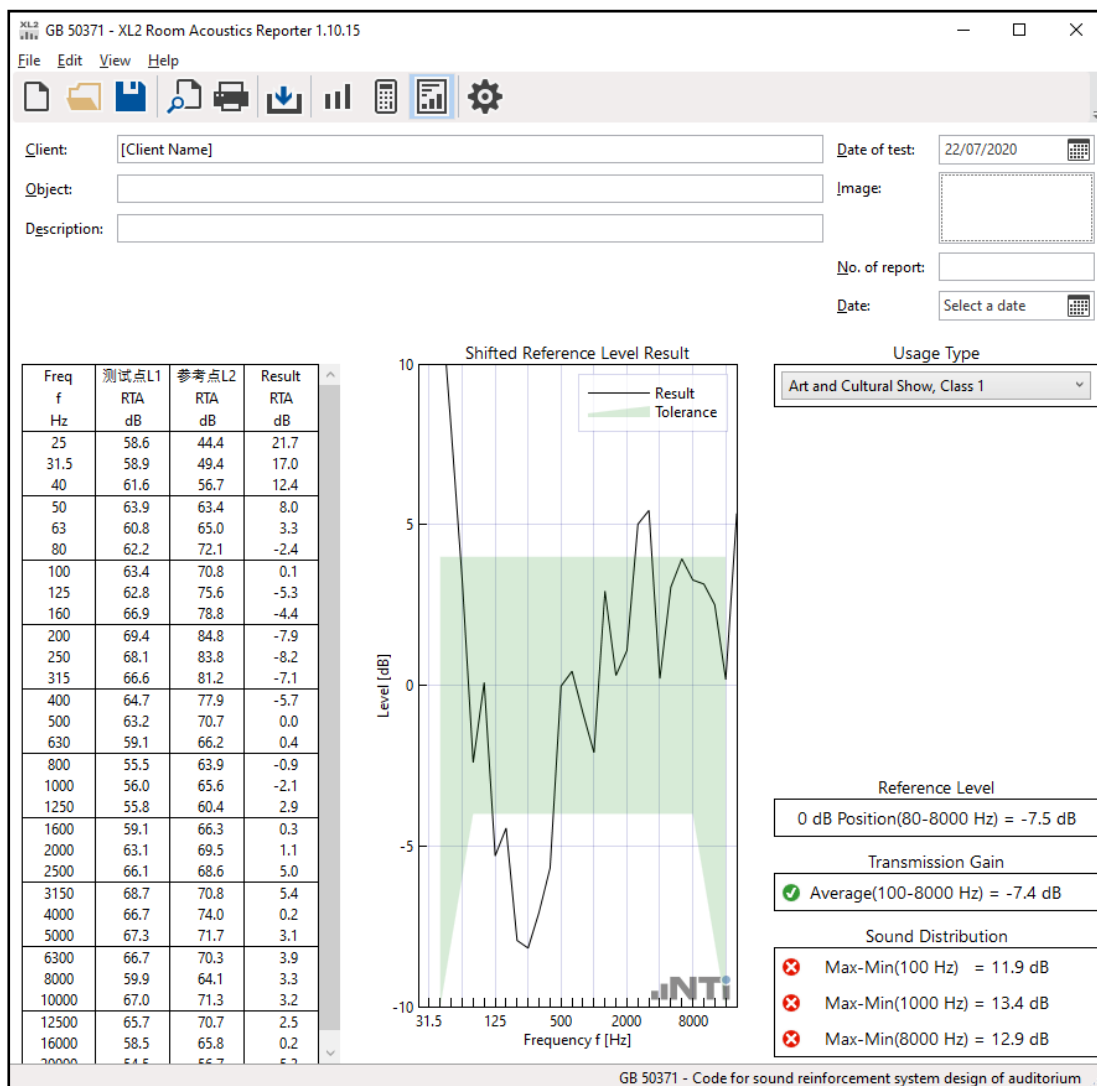
This Chinese standard specifies the sound distribution and transmission gain of conference and multipurpose rooms with sound reinforcement systems.

Application

- The TalkBox is positioned in front of the speaker's microphone within the auditorium. The pink noise test signal is selected and played into the microphone.
- The sound level meter measures the reference spectrum in one-third-octave resolution at the microphone position and the sound spectrum and multiple positions throughout the room.
- All measurement data is imported into the Room Acoustics Reporter software.
- The measurements in the room are assigned as L1 and the reference reading as L2.

Software Features

- Import of the noise spectrum measured in auditorium and reference
- Comparing sound level distribution with tolerance band specified by usage type
- Calculating transmission gain and sound distribution factors
- Copy/paste data set into customized reporting templates using e.g. Excel
- Standardized measurement reports with customer's logo and information
- Passed / Failed result



ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Noise criteria curves NC

The standard ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 specifies a method how to quantify a background noise level in a room or other environment as a single value. The NC rating of a spectrum is designated as the value of the lowest NC curve above the measured octave-band spectrum. The designating number for any NC curve is, approximately, its Speech Interference Level (SIL): the average of the levels in the 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz octave bands. SIL is a simple metric, which measures the effects of noise on speech intelligibility.

Software Features

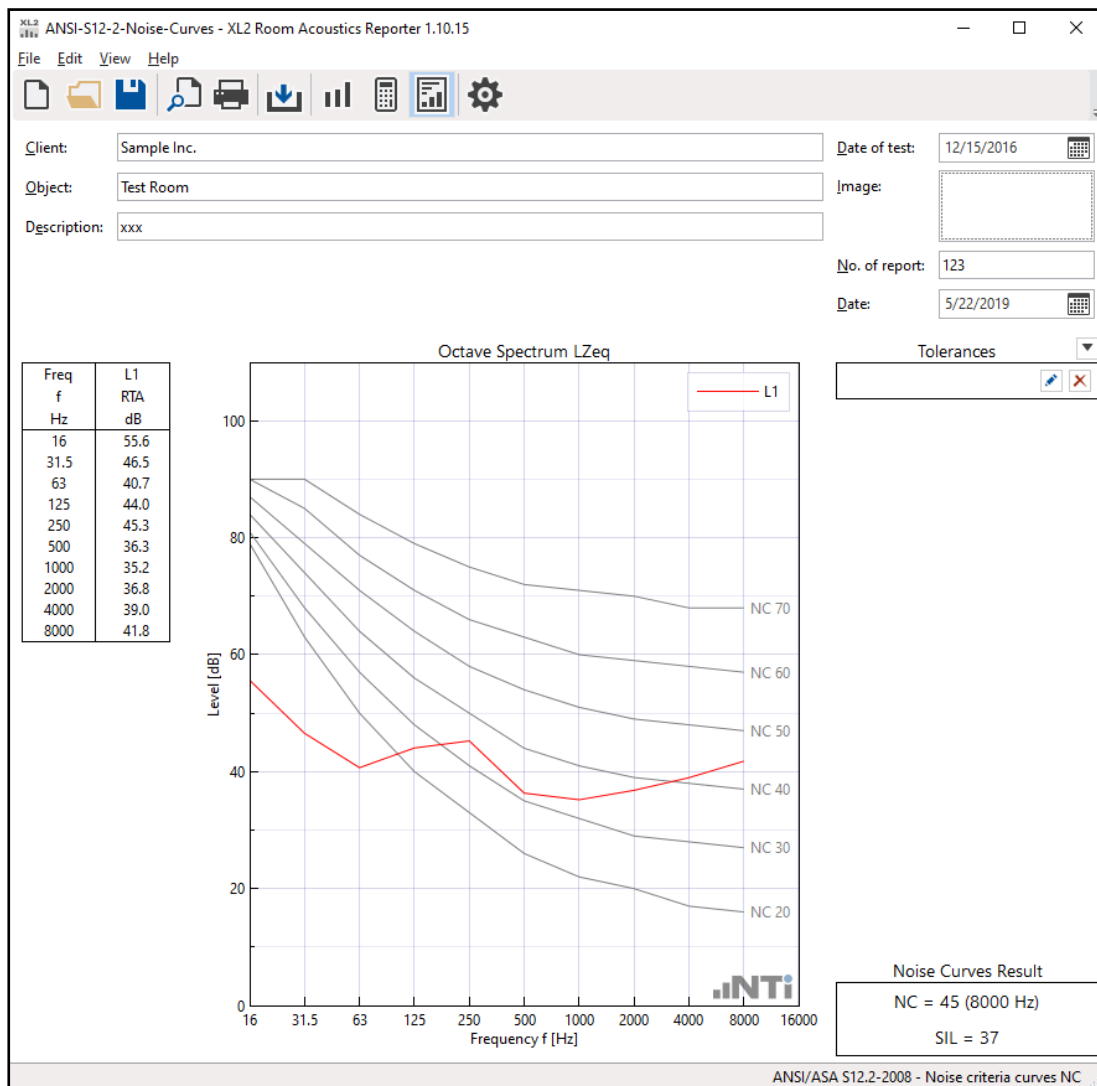
- Analysis of octave band spectra
- Automatic averaging of several spectra
- Calculates noise curve NC and speech interference level SIL
- Adding user-defined tolerances for pass/fail
- Third-octave band data or higher resolutions is aggregated in octave spectra
- Supports data from the functions SLMeter / RTA, Noise Curves, 1/12 Oct and Cinema Meter
- Flexible frequency weighting A, C and Z
- Analysis of Leq, Lmin, Lmax or L90 levels
- Tangency method adaptation according to ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008

ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Room noise criterion RNC

The standard ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 specifies a method how to quantify a background noise level in a room or other environment as a single value. The RNC method is used to determine noise ratings when the noise from HVAC systems at low frequencies is high, and which is also suspected of containing sizeable fluctuations or surging. It essentially represents a rumble criterion. The RNC curves also provide a procedure that reduces the result essentially back to the NC curves when systems are well designed and acoustically well-behaved. Following the RNC specification, the XL2 measures the octave-band sound pressure level every 100 ms, followed by processing to determine the applicable room noise criterion (RNC) curve.

Software Features

- Analysis of octave band spectra
- Automatic averaging of several spectra
- Calculates room noise criterion RNC
- Adding user-defined tolerances for pass/fail
- Third-octave band data or higher resolutions is aggregated in octave spectra
- Supports data from the functions SLMeter / RTA, Noise Curves, 1/12 Oct and Cinema Meter
- Flexible frequency weighting A, C and Z
- Analysis of Leq, Lmin, Lmax or L90 levels
- Tangency method adaptation according to ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008

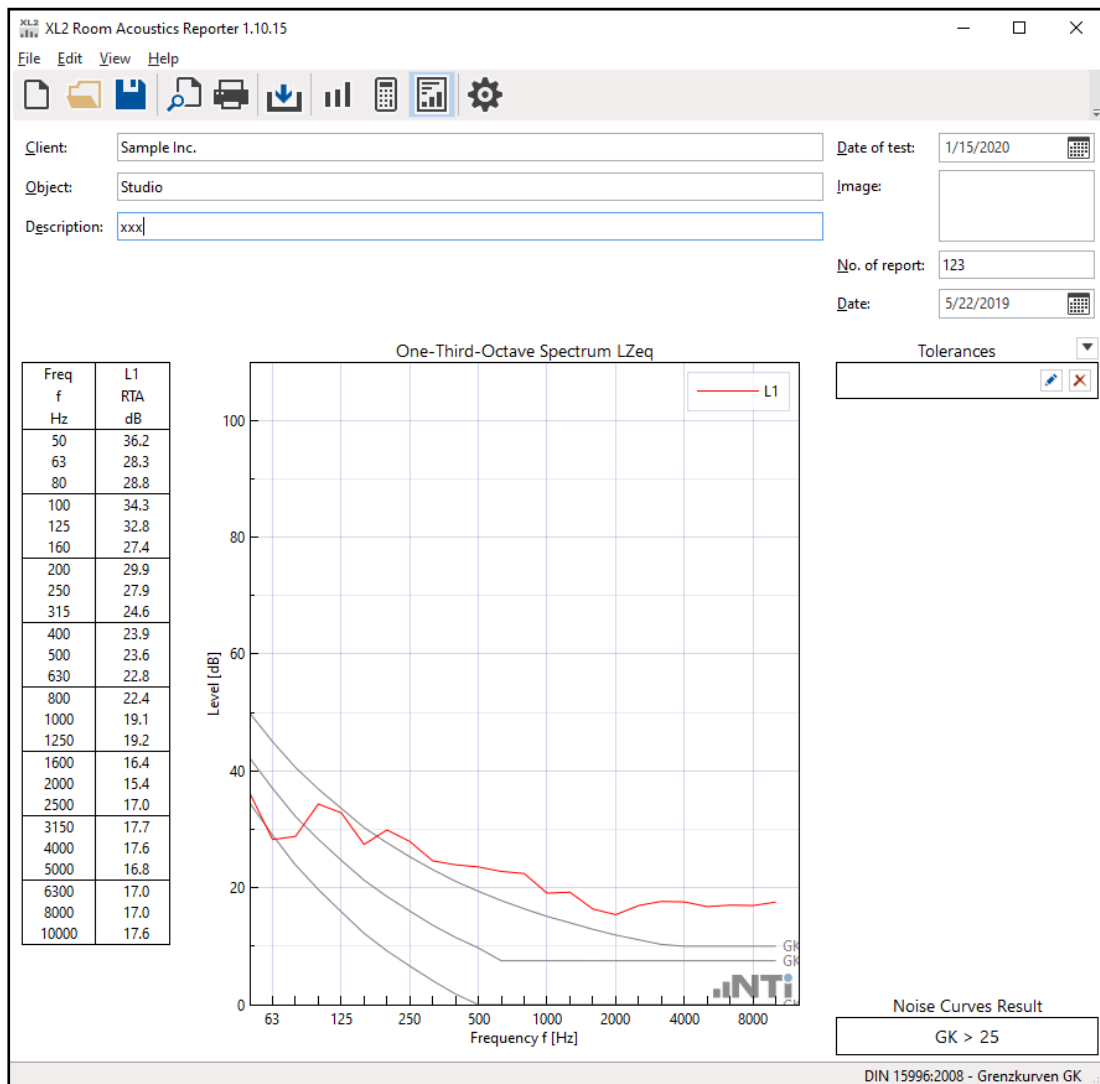


DIN 15996:2008 - Grenzkurven GK

The standard DIN 15996:2008 specifies a method for the qualification of background noise as a single value in studios and processing rooms for radio and television. During the production, assessment and processing of sound events, certain acoustic conditions in the rooms provided for this must be observed. An important criterion is the background noise level. Continuous noises occurs when the studio systems are switched on. Typical continuous noise sources are the background noise caused by the air conditioning system or other technical devices installed in the room.

Software Features

- Analysis of third-octave band spectra
- Automatic averaging of several spectra
- Calculates Grenzkurve GK
- Adding user-defined tolerances for pass/fail
- Data with 1/6 or 1/12 octave band resolution is aggregated in octave spectra
- Supports data from the functions SLMeter / RTA, 1/12 Oct and Cinema Meter
- Flexible frequency weighting A, C and Z
- Analysis of Leq, Lmin, Lmax or L90 levels

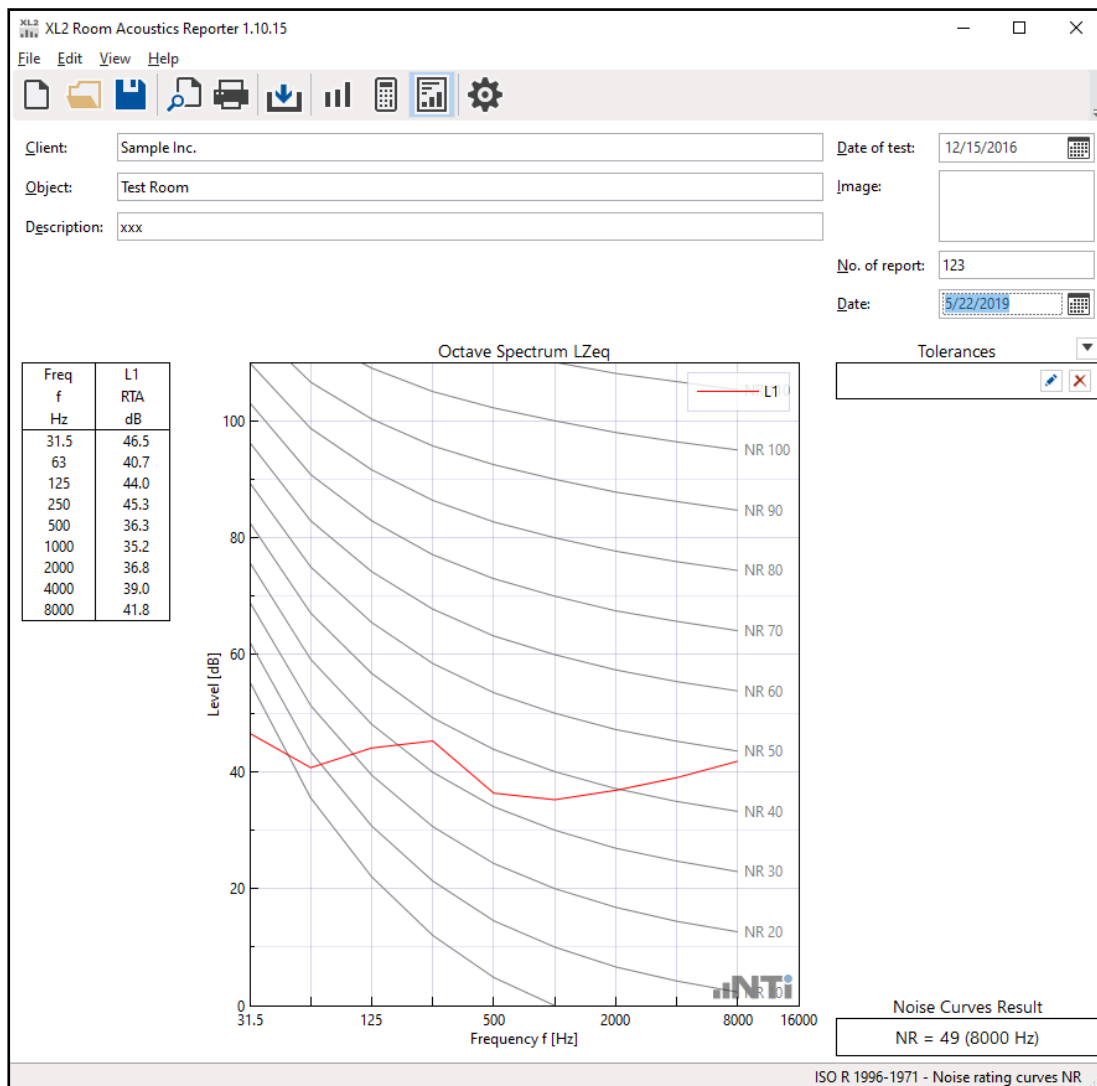


ISO R 1996-1971 - Noise rating curves NR

The standard ISO R 1996-1971 specifies a method how to quantify a background noise level in a room or other environment as a single value. Noise rating (NR) is a graphical method for assigning a single number rating to a noise spectrum. It can be used to specify the maximum acceptable level in each octave band of a frequency spectrum, or to assess the acceptability of a noise spectrum for a particular application. The method was originally proposed for use in assessing environmental noise, but it is now used frequently for describing noise from mechanical ventilation systems in buildings. To make a rating, the measured noise spectrum is superimposed on a family of NR contours; the NR of the spectrum corresponds to the value of the first NR contour that is entirely above the spectrum.

Software Features

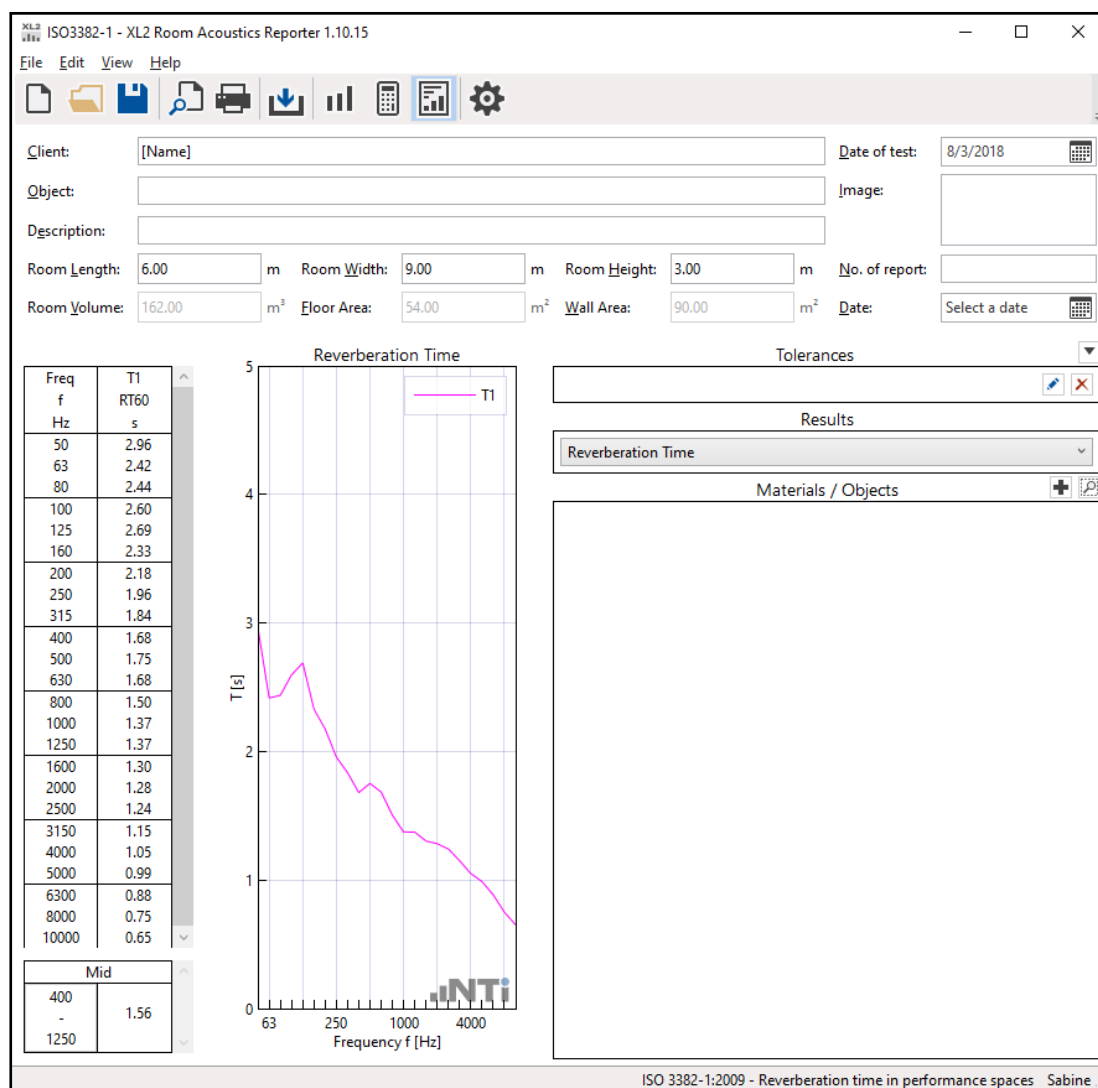
- Analysis of octave band spectra
- Automatic averaging of several spectra
- Calculates noise rating NR
- Adding user-defined tolerances for pass/fail
- Third-octave band data or higher resolutions is aggregated in octave spectra
- Supports data from the functions SLMeter / RTA, Noise Curves, 1/12 Oct and Cinema Meter
- Flexible frequency weighting A, C and Z
- Analysis of Leq, Lmin, Lmax or L90 levels



ISO 3382-1:2009 - Reverberation time in performance spaces

The international standard ISO 3382-1 specifies methods for the measurement of reverberation time in performance spaces.

The “Room Acoustics Reporter” software supports the import of recorded measurement data, data analysis and standardized reporting. The software features are identical to the standard ISO 3382-2.



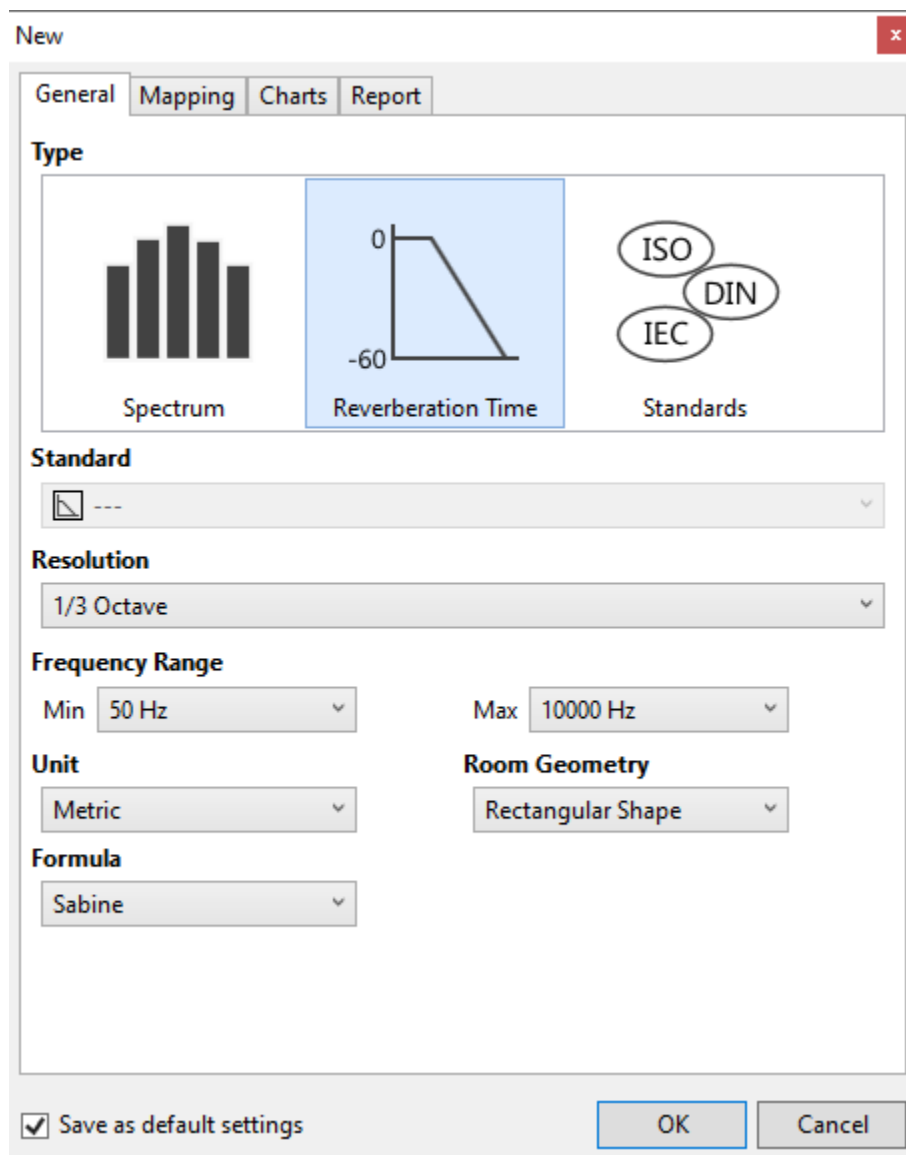
ISO 3382-2:2008 - Reverberation time in ordinary rooms

The international standard ISO 3382-2 specifies methods for the measurement of reverberation time in ordinary rooms, such as domestic rooms, stairway, workshops, industrial plants, class rooms, offices, restaurants exhibition centers, sport halls, railway and airport terminals.

The measurement of reverberation time is of interest to evaluate

- the sound pressure level from noise sources, the speech intelligibility and the privacy perception in a room
- the correction term for room absorption applicable e.g. at sound insulation measurements or sound power measurements

Alternatively you may also select **Reverberation Time** at starting a new project. The settings and functionalities are in accordance with the standard selection ISO 3382-2:2008.



New

General Mapping Charts Report

Type

Spectrum Reverberation Time Standards

Standard

Resolution

1/3 Octave

Frequency Range

Min 50 Hz Max 10000 Hz

Unit

Metric

Room Geometry

Rectangular Shape

Formula

Sabine

☒ Save as default settings OK Cancel

ASR A3.7 - Working Place

The Technical Rules for Workplaces (ASR) represent the state of the art for setting up and operating workplaces in Germany. The ASR A3.7 specifies the requirements for reducing the sound pressure level at workplaces.

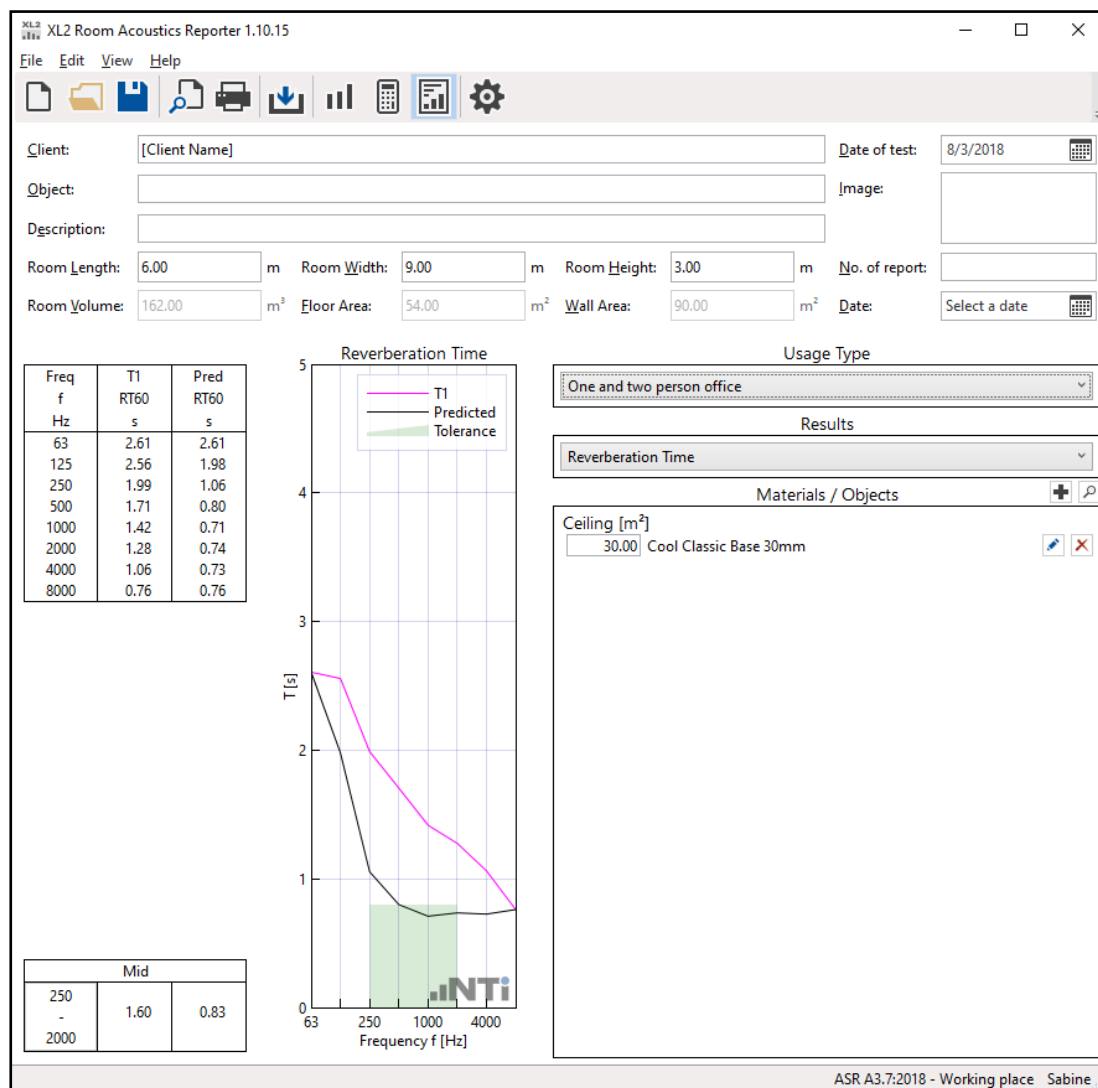
The "Room Acoustics Reporter" software compares the measured reverberation time at workplaces with the limit values specified in ASR A3.7; these limit values depend on the type of workplace and, in the case of educational institutions, also on the room volume. The corresponding selection can be made by the "Usage Type" in the software.

Software Features

- Import of reverberation time data before (T1) and after (T2) acoustic improvements
- Comparing reverberation time with limits and tolerance band
- Standardized measurement reports
- Simulating effect of added sound absorbing materials according to EN 12354-6
- Using Sabine or Eyring formula
- Presents sound pressure level change caused by added people and sound absorbing materials
- Calculates average sound absorption coefficient
- Calculates single number result (average of multiple frequency bands)

Differences to DIN 18041:2016

- Other Usage Types and limits
- No direct selection of person for 80% of the normal state of occupancy in the room



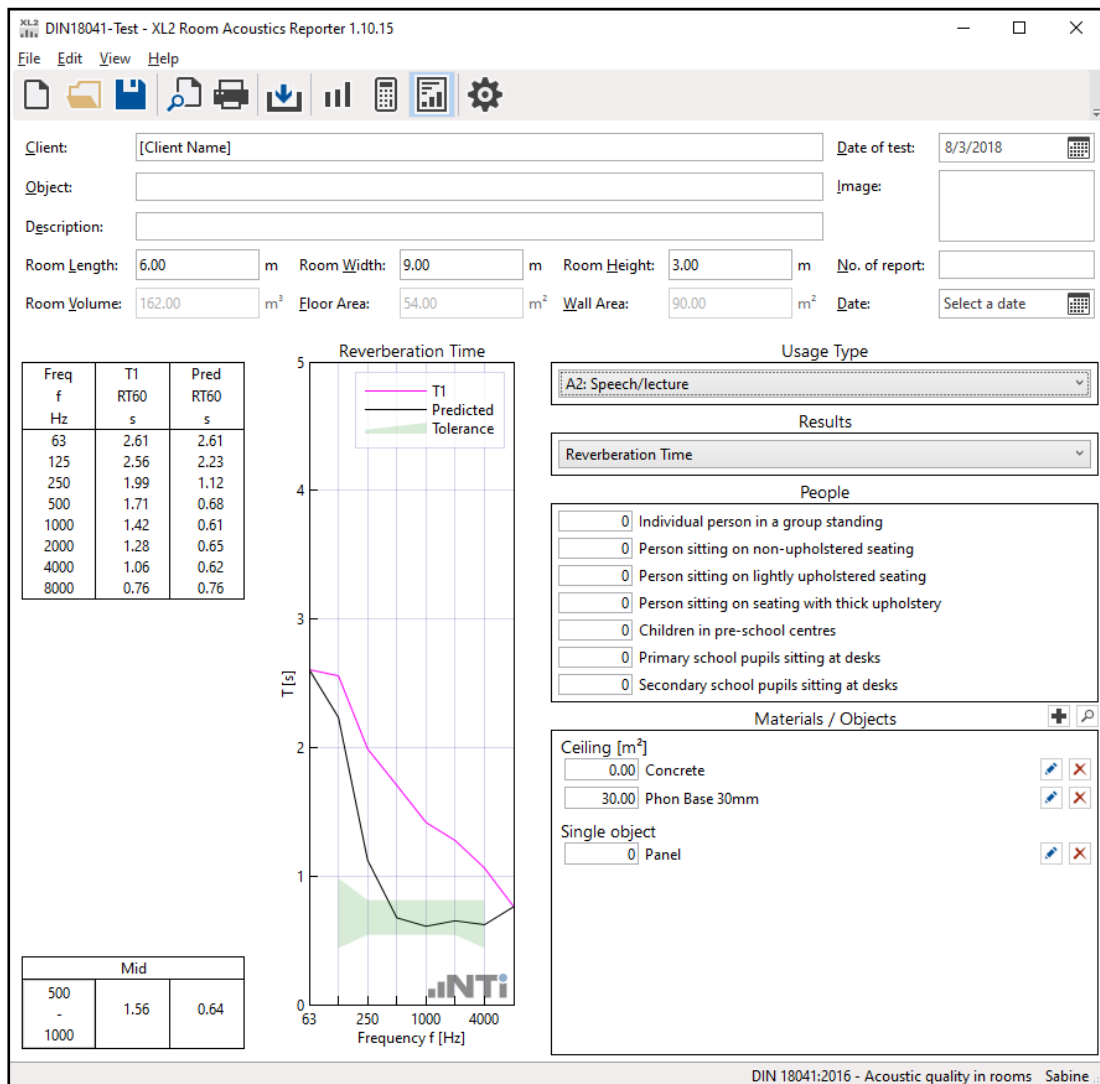
DIN 18041:2016 - Acoustic quality in rooms

This German standard specifies the minimum acoustic quality of a room for a good speech intelligibility. It applies for rooms with a volume up to about 5'000 m³ and specifies room acoustic requirements and recommendations to ensure audibility. Sport halls and indoor swimming pools are supported up to 30'000 m³. The standard differentiates between the following two room groups:

- Group A
 - rooms with acoustic quality over medium and long distances
 - the acoustic quality is ensured by suitably adapting the reverberation time according to the specified tolerance band
 - typical rooms are e.g. classrooms in schools, group rooms in child day-care centres, conference rooms, court rooms, seminar rooms, lecture theatres, conference rooms, sport halls or indoor swimming pools
- Group B
 - rooms with acoustic quality over smaller distances
 - the acoustic quality is achieved by sound absorption and noise reduction according to the specified tolerance
 - people spend just a short period in these rooms
 - typical rooms are e.g. dining spaces, canteen, play hallways, changing areas in schools, exhibition rooms, entrance halls, offices or service counter areas

Software Features

- Import of reverberation time data before (T1) and after (T2) acoustic improvements
- Comparing reverberation time with tolerance band based on selected usage type for group A
- Comparing A/V-Ratio with tolerance band based on selected usage type for group B
- Standardized measurement reports
- Simulating effect of persons in the room for 80% of the normal state of occupancy
- Simulating effect of added sound absorbing materials according to EN 12354-6
- Using Sabine or Eyring formula
- Presents sound pressure level change caused by added people and sound absorbing materials
- Calculates average sound absorption coefficient
- Calculates single number result (average of multiple frequency bands)



ÖNORM B 8115-3:2015 - Room Acoustics

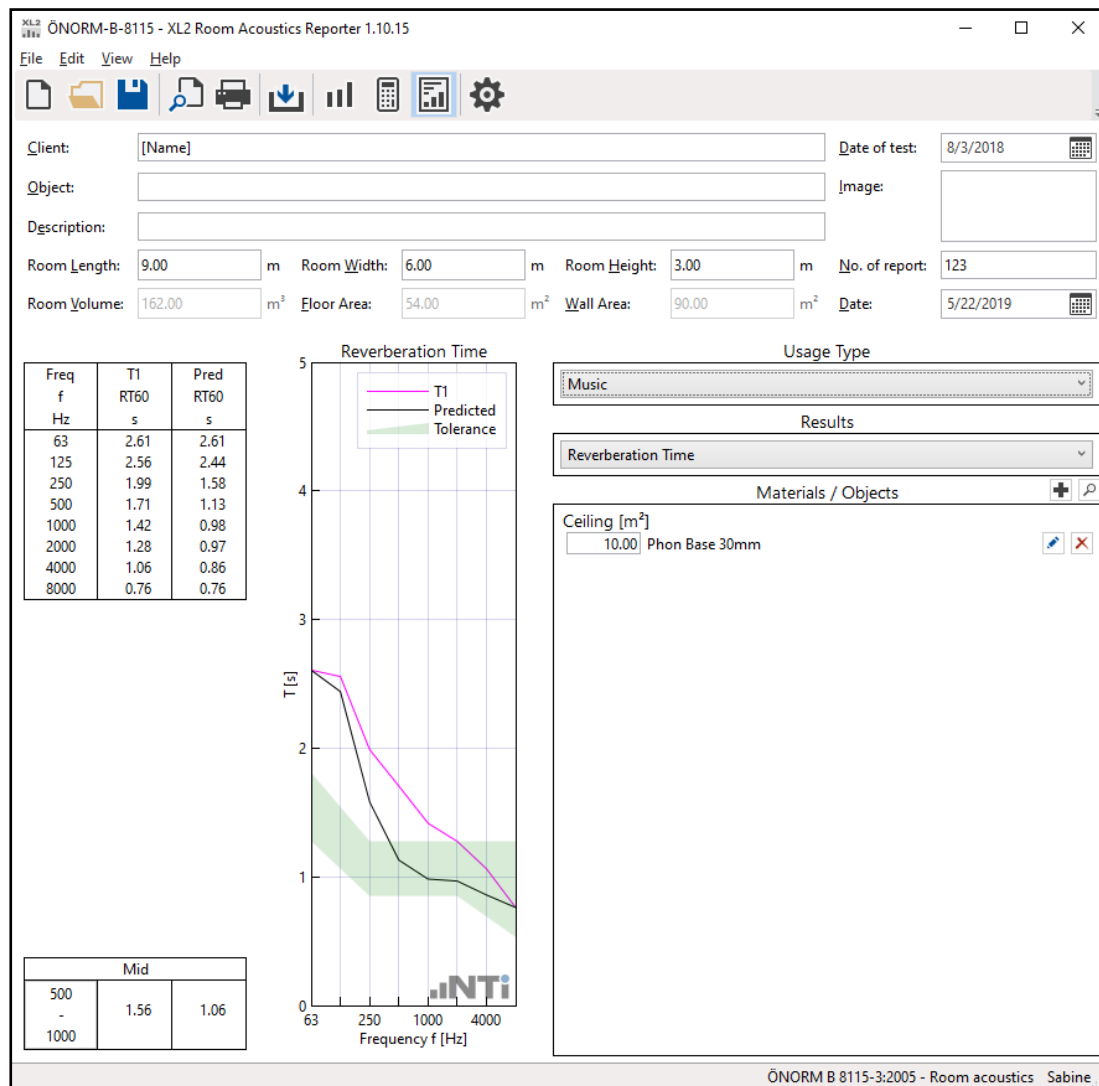
This Austrian standard specifies the requirements for rooms in which, on the one hand, good audibility is to be ensured and, on the other hand, noise reduction is the primary goal.

The standard differentiates between the following usage types:

- Music
- Communication
- Speech Presentation
- Music
- Music Rehearsal
- Noise Reduction: furnished rooms
- Noise Reduction: no / less furnishing

Software Features

- Import of reverberation time data before (T1) and after (T2) acoustic improvements
- Comparing reverberation time with tolerance band based on selected usage type
- Comparing sound absorption coefficient with tolerance band based on selected noise reduction usage type
- Flexible frequency range setting
- Standardized measurement reports
- Simulating effect of added sound absorbing materials according to EN 12354-6
- Using Sabine or Eyring formula
- Presents sound pressure level change caused by added people and sound absorbing materials
- Calculates average sound absorption coefficient
- Calculates single number result (average of multiple frequency bands)



ASTM C423-17 - Sound Absorption by the Reverberation Room Method

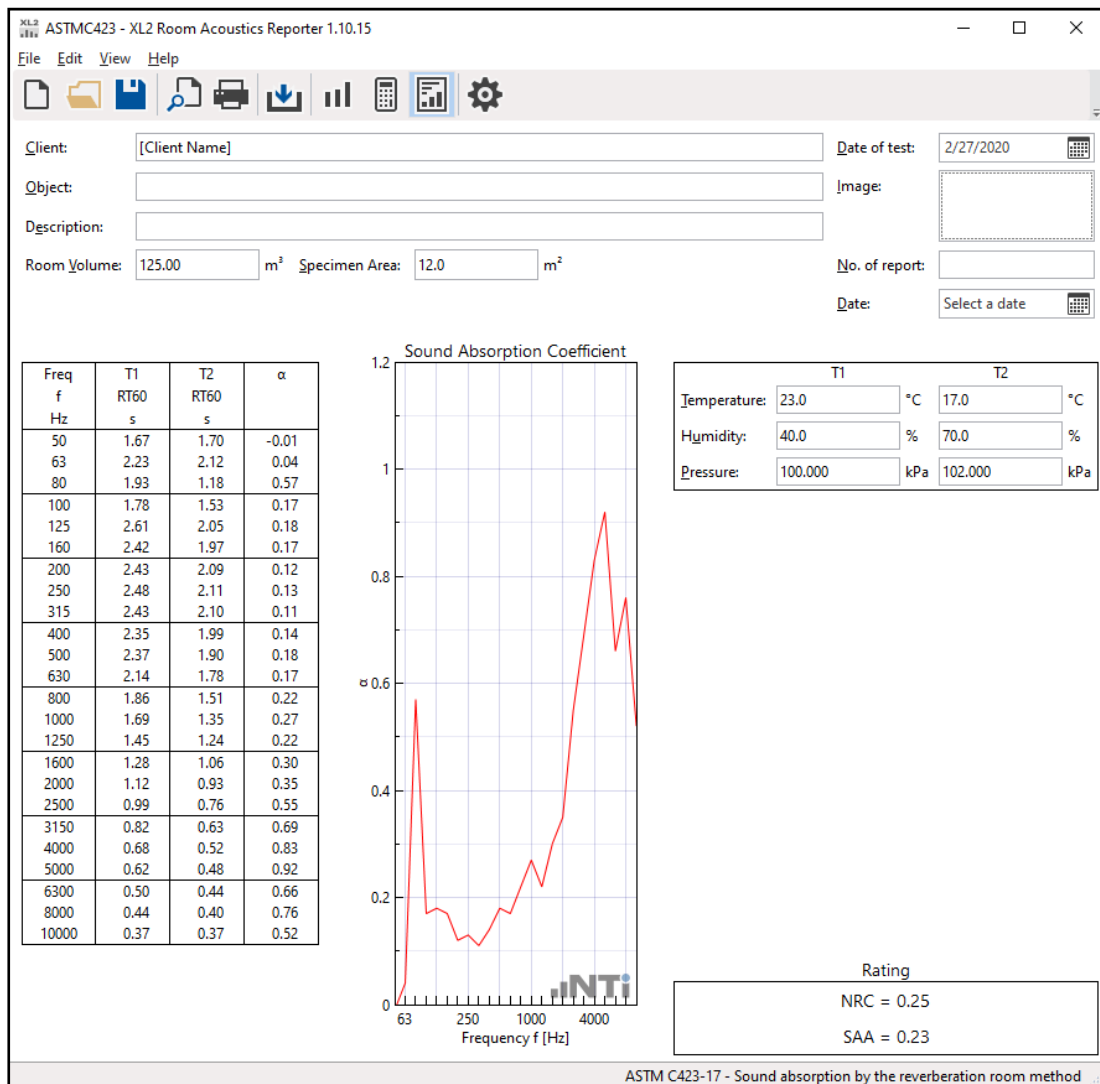
The standard ASTM C423 specifies a test method for the measurement of sound absorption in a reverberation room by measuring the decay rate. Procedures for measuring the absorption of a room, the absorption of an object, such as an office screen, and the sound absorption coefficients of a specimen of sound absorptive material, such as acoustical ceiling tile, are described.

Software Features

- Import of reverberation time data of empty room (T1) and room with acoustic absorber (T2)
- Direct comparison of reverberation time T1 and T2
- Calculates sound absorption coefficient α_s
- Standardized measurement reports
- Select the specimen types plane absorber, single object or array of objects
- Speed of sound calculated with actual temperature
- Calculation of attenuation coefficient according to ANSI S1.26

Differences to ISO 354:2003

- Speed of sound calculation
- Single number readings NRC (noise reduction coefficient) and SSA (sound absorption average) are used instead of α_w (weighted sound absorption coefficient)
- No specified calculation of absorption coefficients in octave-band resolution
- Sound absorption coefficients may differ by 0.01 - 0.02 to ISO 354



ISO 354:2003 - Sound absorption in a reverberation room

The international norm ISO 354 specifies a method of measuring the sound absorption coefficient of acoustic materials used as wall or ceiling treatments, or the equivalent sound absorption area of objects, such as furniture, persons or space absorbers, in a reverberation room.

Software Features

- Import of reverberation time data of empty room (T1) and room with acoustic absorber (T2)
- Direct comparison of reverberation time T1 and T2
- Calculates sound absorption coefficient α_s
- Standardized measurement reports
- Select the specimen types plane absorber, single object or array of objects
- Speed of sound calculated with actual temperature
- Calculation of power attenuation coefficient according to ISO 9613-1
- Practical sound absorption coefficient α_p in accordance with ISO 11654:1997
- Weighted sound absorption coefficient α_w
- Shape indicators L, M, H reported
- Classification of sound absorbers A - E

ISO354-Test-2020-04-20 - XL2 Room Acoustics Reporter 1.10.15

File Edit View Help

Client: [Client Name] Date of test: 1/30/2020

Object: [] Image: []

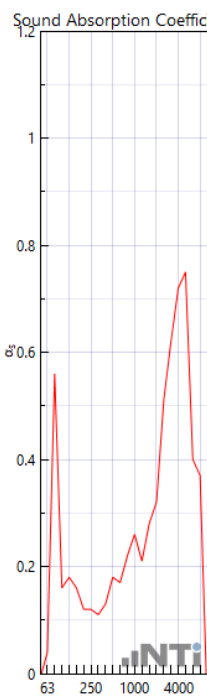
Description: []

Room Volume: 125.00 m³ Specimen Area: 12.0 m² No. of report: []

Date: Select a date

Freq f Hz	T1 RT60 s	T2 RT60 s	α_s	α_p
50	1.67	1.70	-0.01	0.20
63	2.23	2.12	0.04	
80	1.93	1.18	0.56	
100	1.78	1.53	0.16	
125	2.61	2.05	0.18	0.15
160	2.42	1.97	0.16	
200	2.43	2.09	0.12	
250	2.48	2.11	0.12	0.10
315	2.43	2.10	0.11	
400	2.35	1.99	0.13	
500	2.37	1.90	0.18	0.15
630	2.14	1.78	0.17	
800	1.86	1.51	0.22	
1000	1.69	1.35	0.26	0.25
1250	1.45	1.24	0.21	
1600	1.28	1.06	0.28	
2000	1.12	0.93	0.32	0.35
2500	0.99	0.76	0.51	
3150	0.82	0.63	0.62	
4000	0.68	0.52	0.72	0.70
5000	0.62	0.48	0.75	
6300	0.50	0.44	0.40	
8000	0.44	0.40	0.37	0.25
10000	0.37	0.37	-0.07	

Sound Absorption Coefficient



Temperature: 23.0 °C 20.0 °C

Humidity: 50.0 % 50.0 %

Pressure: 101.325 kPa 101.325 kPa

Rating

$\alpha_w = 0.25$ (H)

Class E

ISO 354:2003 - Sound absorption in a reverberation room

11. Specifications

Standards	Spectrum • IEC 61260: Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters • GB 50371 - Code for sound reinforcement system design of auditorium Noise Curves • ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Noise criteria curves NC • ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Room noise criterion RNC • DIN 15996:2008 - Grenzkurven GK • ISO R 1996-1971 - Noise rating curves NR Reverberation Time • ASR A3.7:2018 - Working Place • DIN 18041: 2016 - Acoustic quality in rooms • ISO 3382-1:2009 - Reverberation time in performance spaces • ISO 3382-2:2008 - Reverberation time in ordinary rooms • ÖNORM B 8115-3:2015 - Room Acoustics Sound Absorption • ASTM C423-17 - Sound Absorption by the Reverberation Room Method • ISO 354:2003 - Sound absorption in a reverberation room
Reverberation Time	• 1/1 or 1/3 octave resolution • Averaging of multiple readings • Loading individual cycle results of measurement • Calculation of average reverberation time T_{mid} in accordance with ISO 3382-1:2009 • Result simulation with added acoustic-absorbing materials or additional persons in the room according to EN 12354-6 • Import or export materials with absorption coefficients • Edit absorption coefficients • Estimate predicted reverberation time • Upper and lower tolerance for passed/failed decision
Spectrum (RTA)	• 1/1 or 1/3 octave resolution • Averaging of multiple readings • A, C and Z-weighting • Calculations - Sum of multiple noise spectra - Background noise correction - Difference D - Broadband level • Import or export tolerances • Upper and lower tolerance for passed/failed decision

Reporting	• PDF via PDF-printer • XPS • Data Export: Copy/paste data as image or text into User Reports
Languages	• English, German, Chinese
Operating System	• Windows Vista, 7, 8.x and 10
Licensing	• Activated annual subscription service "Room Acoustics Reporter 365" on-line at my.nti-audio.com or permanently installed "Room Acoustics Option" in XL2; this enables the import of measurement data into the software • Room Acoustics Reporter can be installed on multiple computers.
XL2 Requirements	• Installed optional Extended Acoustic Pack to measure the reverberation time in 1/3 octave band resolution.
Order Information	• Room Acoustics Reporter 365 (annual subscription service) NTi Audio # 600 000 441 • XL2 Room Acoustics Option (permanently installed option in XL2) NTi Audio # 600 000 440

All information is subject to change without notice.

12. Revision-History

Release V1.10, Sep 2019

- Enable third-octave data import into reverberation time octave project
- Increased maximum for room parameters and material area

Release V1.20, Sep 2020

- Added standards
 - GB 50371 - Code for sound reinforcement system design of auditorium
 - ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Noise criteria curves NC
 - ANSI/ASA S12.2-2008 - Room noise criterion RNC
 - DIN 15996:2008 - Grenzkurven GK
 - ISO R 1996-1971 - Noise rating curves NR
 - ASR A3.7:2018 - Working Place
 - ISO 3382-1:2009 - Reverberation time in performance spaces
 - ÖNORM B 8115-3:2015 - Room Acoustics
 - ASTM C423-17 - Sound Absorption by the Reverberation Room Method
 - ISO 354:2003 - Sound absorption in a reverberation room
- Reverberation Time
 - View the parameters sound pressure level change, sound absorption coefficient α and A/V-ratio with individual tolerance setting
 - Support negative area for materials and negative quantities for objects
 - Sound absorption formula according to Eyring
 - Flexible room volume and room boundary surface calculation
 - Generate a T2 report even without T1 data available
 - Move usage type selection from project settings to result view for DIN18041
 - Add columns for website, distance, thickness, absorption coefficient α , absorption class, SAA and NRC to the materials table
 - Separate adding materials in edit and search material
 - Setting of frequency range for average reverberation time calculation
- Spectrum
 - Allow import of XL2 data recorded in the functions 1/12 Octave, Cinema and Noise Curves
- General
 - Selecting the general Spectrum and Reverberation Time reporting no longer lists an individual standard in the report header
 - Import measurements from project
 - Add Chinese language

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