



**CO-ORDINATION OF NOTIFIED BODIES**  
**PPE Regulation 2016/425**

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Version 01

**RECOMMENDATION FOR USE**

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Origin : VG 4 Hearing protection (submitted by BIA, Germany)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vertical Group	21.04.2018
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Question related to	<input type="checkbox"/> PPE Regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EN/prEN: EN 352-4:2001 EN 352-7:2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: EN 352-1: 2002, EN 352-2:2002, EN 352-3:2002
Article:	Annex:	Clause: 4.3.2 (in both standards)	
Key words: Level dependent earmuff/earplugs, minimum criterion levels			
Question: Existing standards of the EN 352 series do not specify any minimum protection requirement for level-dependent earmuffs/earplugs when worn (as designed) with the level-dependent mode in operation. In case a level-dependent earmuff/earplug provides sufficient attenuation in passive mode but exposes the user by an internal level of 86 dB(A) where the external level is 83 or 86 dB(A) when operated in level-dependent mode this hearing protector offers a lower level of protection in this mode. How shall these products be dealt with?			
Solution: All products shall at least have a criterion level (for all test noises H, M and L) of 85 dB(A). This eliminates extreme products that have a very high amplification and/or a very high standard deviation. In addition to that requirement there are minimum criterion levels derived from the minimum attenuation values for passive HPDs from EN 352-1 to -3 (H = 12 dB, M = 11 dB, L = 9 dB): Minimum criterion level H: 97 dB(A) Minimum criterion level M: 96 dB(A) Minimum criterion level L: 94 dB(A) (The determination of criterion levels is specified in EN 352-4:2001+A1:2005.) These requirements shall only be applied for products that are aimed at continuous noise situations. For products that are specifically defined for impulse noise (e.g. for hunters) it is not necessary to meet these criteria. The criterion levels shall nevertheless be mentioned in the user information with a warning that the product is not suited for high continuous noise levels.			