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Comfort class assessment: acquisition procedures and harmonization for effective passenger comfort

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To assess passengers comfort on board of cruise ships, Classification Societies recommend specific aspects of ship design and layout, to comply with a set of suitable criteria.

These criteria take into account ambient aspects and disturbances such as whole-body vibrations, noise, indoor climate and lighting. The proper combination of those should create a suitable environment for the passenger well-being.

However, there is not much harmonization among the different requirements, with respect to the entity of the disturbing factors and the different cabin's comfort classes.

To carry out the mentioned assessments, the Classification Society allow for very short data acquisition periods, hindering the understanding the evolution of the disturbances and the averaging effects of the transients in the ships operation and activities. Combined, these effects will lead to poorly meaningful indicators' values, misrepresenting the actual cabin comfort.

The paper will show how transients in the data could modify the assessment and how very high segmentation of the comfort classes is behind human perception.

The authors would like to sensitize operators on the need of more apt measurements procedures and to ensure that the differentiation, among the cabins' comfort classes, is linked to passengers sensitivities more than instruments capabilities.

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