5. Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication System (EVC) Acceptance Test

5.1. Intelligibility of Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication Systems shall comply with Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Acceptance Test of Emergency Voice Evacuation or Communication Systems

ITEMS	REQUIREMENTS
1. ACCEPTANCE TEST	i. Speech intelligibility is not a physical quantity like meters, feet, amperes, volts, or even decibels. It is a benchmark of the degree to which we understand spoken language, and as such is a complex phenomenon affected by many variables ii. There are two basic categories of intelligibility testing: a. Subject (human) based testing b. Instrument based test methods. iii. Test methods that use human subjects are only statistical predictions of how well speech might be understood at any other time for any other group of listeners. Several subject based test methods have been extensively researched, tested for reliability, and standardized. Examples include the Phonetically Balanced (PB) word scores (256 words or 1000 words) and Modified Rhyme Test (MRT). iv. Subject based test methods can gauge how much of the spoken information is correctly understood by a person or group of persons for that particular test. When properly done, that resulting value is a prediction of how much of the spoken word will be correctly understood by others at some other time. Therefore, the results of speech intelligibility testing are usually described as predictions, not measurements. v. However, most users of the instruments refer to the results as measurements, not as predictions. Since the use of portable instruments is the more common method in the alarm and emergency communications industries, in this document the results will be referred to as measurements to avoid confusion. However, in scientific and general acoustic literature, readers can see the measured values correctly referred to as predictions. vi. Thus acceptance test for Voice evacuation Systems shall be completely based on the clear audibility, intelligibility and understanding of the voice messages delivered in a particular building.