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Simultaneous interpreting — Quality and transmission of sound and image input — Requirements

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Translation, interpreting and related technology*.

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Introduction

In simultaneous interpreting, sound input is the interpreter's most important source of information. The image of the speaker and of all visual materials used in the conference is almost as important.

New technologies permit different forms of audio and video signals and are now being used increasingly to transmit sound and image to interpreters. Their quality determines the conditions of the interpreters' work. The transmission mode of sound and image is therefore vital and requirements should be standardized.

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Simultaneous interpreting — Quality and transmission of sound and image input — Requirements

1 Scope

This document sets out requirements for the quality and transmission of sound and image input to interpreters and specifies the characteristics of the audio and video signals. The components of typical interpreting systems are specified in ISO 20109. Together with either permanent (see ISO 2603) or mobile (see ISO 4043) booths, these interpreting systems form the interpreters' working environment. In addition to setting out the requirements for on-site interpreting, where participants (speakers and members of the audience) and interpreters are at the same location, this document specifies requirements for different varieties of distance interpreting situations in which the interpreters are not at the same location as one or more of the conference participants.

This document also addresses the work of manufacturers and providers of simultaneous interpreting equipment and technical staff.

In conjunction with either ISO 2603 or ISO 4043, this document and ISO 20109 provide the relevant requirements both for the quality and transmission of sound and image provided to interpreters and for the equipment needed in the booths, the conference room and the distant site(s).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2603:2016, *Simultaneous interpreting — Permanent booths — Requirements*

ISO 4043, *Simultaneous interpreting — Mobile booths — Requirements*

ISO 18841[1)], *Interpreting services — General requirements and recommendations*

ISO 20109:2016, *Simultaneous interpreting — Equipment — Requirements*

IEC 60268-16, *Sound system equipment — Part 16: Objective rating of speech intelligibility by speech transmission index*

ITU-R BT.1359, *Relative timing of sound and vision for broadcasting*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 2603, ISO 4043, ISO 18841 and ISO 20109 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

1) To be published.

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