INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 20108

First edition
2017-10

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

Interprétation simultanée — Qualité et transmission des signaux audio-vidéo — Exigences

Reference number
ISO 20108:2017(E)

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Foreword

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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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3.1
interpreting
rendering of spoken or signed information from a source language to a target language in oral or signed form, conveying both the register and meaning of the source language content

[SOURCE: ISO 18841:2016, 3.1.2]

3.2
simultaneous interpreting
mode of *interpreting* (3.1) performed while a speaker is still speaking or signing

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the activity requires specialized equipment.

[SOURCE: ISO 2603:2016, 3.1, modified — Note 1 to entry has been modified.]

3.3
booth
booth for simultaneous interpreting
self-contained unit enclosing the interpreter's work space

Note 1 to entry: One of the purposes of simultaneous interpreting booths is to provide sound insulation, both from the noise transmitted from the booth's external environment to the booth and vice versa, and from noise passing from one booth to another.

Note 2 to entry: ISO 2603 applies to permanent booths; ISO 4043 applies to mobile booths.

[SOURCE: ISO 2603:2016, 3.2, modified — Note 2 to entry has been added.]

3.4
distance interpreting
remote interpreting
interpreting (3.1) of a speaker in a different location from that of the interpreter, enabled by information and communications technology (ICT)

[SOURCE: ISO 20109:2016, 3.10, modified — The term "simultaneous" has been deleted.]

3.5
video display
electronic device that represents information in a visual form

[SOURCE: ISO 20109:2016, 3.9]

4 Sound input to interpreters

4.1 General

The overall sound input to interpreters shall comply with ISO 20109:2016, Clause 4.

4.2 Microphones

4.2.1 Conference system microphones

Conference system microphones shall have the same characteristics as interpreter console microphones set out in ISO 20109:2016, 4.1 and 6.3.

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