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Part 3: 3D audio

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Partie 3: Audio 3D

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

ISO/IEC 23008 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — High efficiency coding and media delivery in heterogeneous environments*:

- *Part 1: MPEG media transport (MMT)*
- *Part 2: High efficiency video coding*
- *Part 3: 3D audio*
- *Part 4: MMT Reference and Conformance Software*
- *Part 5: Reference software for high efficiency video coding*
- *Part 8: HEVC conformance testing*
- *Part 10: MPEG media transport forward error correction (FEC) codes*
- *Part 11: MPEG media transport composition information*
- *Part 12: Image file format*
- *Part 13: MMT Implementation Guidelines*

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Introduction

3D sound systems are able to realize a significantly enhanced sound experience relative to current widespread 5.1 channel audio programs and playback systems. These systems demand high quality audio coding and error-free transmission in order to keep the timbre, sound localization and sound envelopment of the original audio program. Presentation over headphones with suitable spatialization are also considered.

This part of ISO/IEC 23008-3 “High Efficiency Coding and Media Delivery in Heterogeneous Environments — Part 3: 3D Audio” provides means for all scenarios where there is a need to compress a multi-channel audio program (e.g. 22.2 channel program) and to render it to the native target number of loudspeakers. In order to reach a wide market, a 3D Audio program is able to be downmixed to a lower hierarchy of loudspeakers, for example 10.1 or 8.1 channels. In addition, all scenarios support a level of random access to facilitate broadcast break-in, and “trick modes” such as fast forward when playing from stored media.

The main focus of this specification are applications such as audio for Home Theatres where the audio presentation is immersive, involving many loudspeakers (e.g. from 10 to more than 20) surrounding the listener and placed below, at and above ear-level. Moreover applications as Personal TV, TV for SmartPhones and Multi-channel Audio-only Programs are envisioned. These require that 3D Audio encoding/decoding systems are able to operate at low bitrates appropriate for efficient transmission over a cellular channel. At the same time the sense of envelopment and accurate sonic localization even for systems having a tablet-sized visual displays with speakers built into the device and headphone listening are maintained.