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## Information technology — User interface component accessibility —

Part 25:

### Guidance on the audio presentation of text in videos, including captions, subtitles and other on-screen text

*Technologies de l'information — Accessibilité du composant interface utilisateur —*

*Partie 25: Lignes directrices sur la présentation audio de texte dans des vidéos, y compris les légendes, sous-titres et autres textes à l'écran*



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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.

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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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## Introduction

Videos are omnipresent in our digital society and are used to inform, educate and entertain audiences. Videos often contain text, which cannot be easily accessed by a wide section of the audience. This text includes captions/subtitles and other on-screen text that is part of the visual content.

Captions/subtitles provide text alternatives to audio elements. Other on-screen text may have various functions. It can be part of the story, as a message written on a piece of paper by one of the characters. It can also provide additional information, such as graphs, emergency alerts or superimposed titles.

Persons who, for different reasons, cannot access on-screen text will benefit from an audio presentation. This oral rendering is often part of audio description (see ISO/IEC/TS 20071-21), an access service providing a description of audiovisual content auditorily, including captions/subtitles and other on-screen text if present. However, some users may only require captions/subtitles and other on-screen text to be made accessible because they already have access to other visual content such as the images.

This document provides guidance for video producers, distributors and exhibitors on the audio presentation of captions/subtitles and other on-screen text. It acknowledges the relationship with existing access services such as audio description. While considering current implementations, as well as future possibilities suggested by research, and bearing in mind possible trade-offs between quantity and quality, this document positions itself for situations in which various access services coexist and users are given the choice to select those best suited to their needs.