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Standard Guide for Audiovisual Systems Design and Coordination Processes

InfoComm International Standard

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11242 Waples Mill Road, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22030
www.infocomm.org

703.273.7200
800.659.7469
703.278.8082 FAX

Abstract

A successful professional audiovisual system installation depends on the clear definition and coordination of processes, resources, and responsibilities of the design and installation project teams. A properly documented audiovisual system provides the information necessary to understand and implement the system goals and project requirements in a logical and efficient manner. The documentation should complement and coordinate related architectural, engineering, and construction documentation. This standard outlines a consistent set of the standard tasks, responsibilities, and deliverables required for professional audiovisual systems design and construction.

Keywords

Audiovisual, AV system, AV design, AV documentation, AV infrastructure, MasterFormat™, construction documentation, best practice, AV installation, InfoComm

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Foreword

There are many types, sizes, and complexity levels of audiovisual systems. The user should apply this standard as appropriate to fit the particular project circumstances. Two common approaches are described here, although there are many possible variations in contractual agreements and relationships between the design and construction team. For example:

Consultant-led projects when the monetary value of the audiovisual systems is high, the building design and construction timeframe is long, or the installation work must be competitively bid. Independent consultants are persons or firms having neither financial interest in the products specified nor obligations or partnerships with equipment integrators, contractors, manufacturers, and their representatives.

Design-build projects (also known as turnkey projects) when the construction timeframe is accelerated, the installation systems are proprietary, and/or the project does not require competitive bidding. Professional AV integrator firms are in the business of selling, engineering, installing and providing ongoing service and support for a wide variety of audiovisual and related technologies, systems, and equipment. Equipment manufacturers may also provide turnkey systems design, installation, and service. In addition, owners may choose to have audiovisual systems designed and/or built by their in-house staff.

About InfoComm International

InfoComm International® is the leading non-profit association serving the professional AV communications industry worldwide. Founded in 1939, the association has 5,000 members, including manufacturers, systems integrators, dealers and distributors, independent consultants, programmers, rental and staging companies, end users, and multimedia professionals from more than 80 countries. InfoComm offers industry expertise and market research serving press and others seeking information about the industry. Through activities that include tradeshow, education, certification, government relations, outreach, and information services, InfoComm promotes the industry and enhances members' ability to conduct business successfully and competently. InfoComm International is the ANSI Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) dedicated to the dissemination of the knowledge of audiovisual systems performance parameters.

About ANSI

The American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) is the national coordinator of voluntary standards development and the clearinghouse in the United States for information on national and international standards. An American National Standard implies a consensus of those substantially concerned with its scope and provisions. Consensus is established when, in the judgment of the ANSI Board of Standards Review, substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. Substantial agreement means much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered and that a concerted effort be made toward their resolution. The use of an American National Standard is completely voluntary. Its existence does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he or she has approved the standard or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standard.

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InfoComm International Standards Program Developers

STANDARD GUIDE FOR AUDIOVISUAL SYSTEMS DESIGN AND COORDINATION PROCESSES STANDARD TASK GROUP

Brian E. Huff, MBA, CTS-D, LEED® AP, ISF-C (Moderator)
Joy Caspar, CTS
Matthew Jackson, CTS-D
Ratnesh Javeri, CTS-D
John O'Brien
Howard Quinton, CTS-D
Brad Weber, PE, CTS

INFOCOMM INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Richard Derbyshire (Chair)
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Michael Carter, CTS
Joy Caspar, CTS
Barry Goldin, CTS
Gary Hall, CTS-D, CTS-I
Brian E. Huff, MBA, CTS-D, LEED® AP, ISF-C
Matthew Kosel, CTS-D, CTS-I
Greg Jeffreys
Brian R. Pipe
Peter Swanson, CTS

INFOCOMM STANDARDS STAFF

Joseph Bocchiaro III, Ph.D., AStd, CTS-D, CTS-I, ISF-C (Vice President of Standards and Best Practices)
Randal A. Lemke, Ph.D. (Executive Director and CEO)
Alex Damico (Chief Operating Officer)
Melissa Taggart (Sr. Vice President of Education and Certification)
Ann Brigida, CTS (Director of Standards)

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1. Scope, Purpose, and Application

Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide a description of the methods, procedures, tasks, and deliverables typically recommended or applied by professionals in audiovisual (AV) systems design and integration projects. The intention of the structure outlined in this Standard is to enable clients and other design and construction team members to assess confidently whether the responsible parties are providing the expected services.

Modern AV systems have become increasingly complex and interconnected to other building systems such as network, electrical, HVAC and building automation/energy conservation. In many instances, AV systems provide critical operational functions for the owner, warranting a thoughtful and well-organized approach to commonly accepted planning, design, and integration procedures.

In addition, the AV systems design and integration process may span and parallel a lengthy design and construction cycle, including input and review by many key personnel from divergent disciplines, trades, and backgrounds. This standard provides a practical guideline for defining the audiovisual system requirements and a clear accountability structure for the development and execution of the system design components. It provides a consistent reference for the project team from the initial design phase through construction, project completion, and building occupancy.

Exceptions

This document is a Standard Practice Guide outlining design considerations and accepted procedures for accomplishing the task of integrating audiovisual systems into the design and construction of facilities in the built environment. This guide outlines a comprehensive set of procedures for the design and construction of professional audiovisual systems, and does not suggest a specific course of action. Qualified, experienced professionals are required to interpret, judge, and modify this guide to suit the project needs. Some of the tasks and deliverables described in this guide may not be applicable in all circumstances. The intent of this guide is not to represent or replace the due diligence of qualified audiovisual professionals, and cannot be applied without considering each project's individual parameters and circumstances.

2. Referenced Publications

Normative References

The following standards contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document. At the time of approval, the editions indicated below were valid. Because standards are periodically revised, users should consult the latest revision approved by the sponsoring Standards Developer Organizations:

- a. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- b. The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)