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Code of practice for hearing-loop systems (HLS)

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EPL/29, Electroacoustics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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TECHNICAL REPORT

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Code of practice for hearing-loop systems (HLS)

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TECHNICAL REPORT

Code of practice for hearing-loop systems (HLS)

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HEARING-LOOP SYSTEMS (HLS)

FOREWORD

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IEC TR 63079, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 29: Electroacoustics.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
29/917/DTR	29/923/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The performance of induction-loop systems is specified in IEC 60118-4, whereas IEC TR 63079 gives recommendations and guidance for their design, planning, installation, testing, operation and maintenance. Provisions for components of a system are given in IEC 62489-1. Methods of calculation and measurement of the magnetic field, in the context of human exposure, are given in IEC 62489-2.

This document takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this document is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HEARING-LOOP SYSTEMS (HLS)

1 Scope

This document, which is a Technical Report, gives recommendations for and guidance on the design, planning, installation, testing, operation and maintenance of a hearing-loop system (HLS) intended for communicating speech, music and/or other signals. It is mainly concerned with HLS for hearing enhancement, in which the signals are communicated to users of hearing aids equipped with magnetic pick-up coils.

This document does not apply to induction-loop systems which use a carrier frequency, nor to other systems for hearing enhancement purposes which do not use magnetic induction.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms, definitions, signs and symbols

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.1
hearing-loop system
HLS
system including amplifier(s), microphones and/or other signal sources, in which magnetic fields are created by the flow of audio-frequency current in a conductor arranged in the form of one or more loops or a coil or solenoid

Note 1 to entry: The technical term for a hearing-loop system is "audio-frequency induction-lop system" (AFILS).

3.1.2
HLS for hearing enhancement
HLS in which the intended receivers are hearing aids or specially designed listening devices equipped with coils acting as magnetic antennas

3.1.3
direct-to-reverberant ratio
ratio, at a given point in the sound field, of the sound pressure due to the wanted sound source to the sound pressure due to reverberation

3.1.4
hearing aid
personal amplification system, worn entirely on the listener, which is designed to enable a person with impaired hearing to hear more easily