

Specifications Drafted for One-Inch Type B Helical Video Tape Recording Standards

The segmented helical VTR standards working group of SMPTE's Committee on Video Recording and Reproduction Technology has completed its initial assignment, it has been announced by Group Chairman Merle Thomas of PBS. It has drafted five specifications which describe basic system parameters, dimensions and locations of video, audio and control tracks, and video and audio electronic characteristics of a one-inch high-band helical video tape recorder. According to procedures of the SMPTE, these drafts have been submitted to the full Video Recording and Reproduction Technology Committee for evaluation and comment, and subsequently will be passed to the SMPTE Standards Committee. Following these review procedures, the drafts will be published in the *Journal* for public review.

The format introduced by the Robert Bosch Corporation/Fernseh Group, and known as the "BCN" one-inch helical VTR format, is the basis for the draft specification. In its policy to avoid reference to commercialized terminology, the committee has proposed the format be formally identified as "One-Inch Type B Helical Video Recording." Portable and studio VTRs built to this specification are currently commercially available from several companies throughout the world.

SMPTE will publish details on the Type B specification in the *Journal* when they have been approved by the Standards Committee, and a full presentation is expected to be made at the next National Conference, held at the Los Angeles Century Plaza Hotel from October 16th to 21st.

Standards & Recommended Practices

Approved American National Standards

On 4 May 1977, the American National Standards Institute approved two American National Standards: PH22.112-1977, Position, Dimensions and Reproducing Speed of 100-mil Magnetic Sound Record on 16-mm Motion-Picture Film, and PH22.166-1977, Specifications for 8-mm Type S (Super 8) Motion-Picture Film Camera Cartridge Notches for Exposure Control and Stock Identification.

Inasmuch as compliance with American National Standards is purely voluntary, the standards will become truly effective when broad publicity is given to their existence. ANSI and SMPTE would appreciate any personal influence to promote the use of these standards where such action is appropriate. Copies of the standards may be obtained for a nominal fee from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

Approved International Standards

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) recently approved two International Standards, the technical content of which is published here for your information. ISO 23-1976, Cinematography — Camera Usage of 35-mm Motion-Picture Film — Specifications, is in complete agreement with American National Standard PH22.2-1961 (R1972), 35-mm

Photographic Sound Motion-Picture Film, Usage in Cameras. ISO 71-1977, Cinematography — 16-mm Negative Photographic Sound Record on 16-mm, 35/16-mm and 35/32-mm Motion-Picture Film — Positions and Dimensions, has no comparable American National Standard, but is in accord with U.S. practices.

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The International Standards published here were developed by Technical Committee 36 on Cinematography. The work of this committee is administered by the Engineering Department of the Society which functions as the secretariat in ANSI's name. A report of the last meeting of the committee was published in the June 1976 *SMPTE Journal*.

Reaffirmed SMPTE Recommended Practices

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee for Standards Approval reaffirmed two SMPTE Recommended Practices on 31 March 1977: RP 4-1958, Reporting Photometric Performance of Incandescent Filament Lighting Units Used in Theatre and Television Production, and RP 40-1971, Specifications for 35-mm Projector Alignment and Screen Image Quality Test Film. — Alex E. Alden, *Manager of Engineering Services*