

## International Standardization London, June 24–July 1, 1985

By Alex E. Alden

The United Kingdom honored the International Organization for Standardization by inviting its Technical Committee 36 (ISO/TC 36) on Cinematography to hold its 12th Plenary Meeting in London. The meeting took place June 24–July 1, 1985, at the facilities of the British Standards Institution (BSI). Delegates were welcomed to London by Deputy Director L. Robinson, BSI.

Robinson, noting the high degree of standardization enjoyed by the motion-picture and television industries, congratulated the committee for its diligent efforts over the years. He further reflected on the large number of ISO Standards which are paralleled in BSI Standards, and urged the committee to continue its efforts.

Hosted by the BSI with the cooperation of the British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society (BKSTS), the sister society of the SMPTE on cinematography in London, the meeting was held at the BSI's Hampden House. The warmth of the English decor added charm to the activities making the meeting very pleasant. Congratulations are due to the staff of the BSI, and especially, I. Shreeve, technical officer. Their close cooperation and thoughtfulness helped ensure the success of the event.

### Background

The demand for a common language and the need for mutual agreement on technical items prompted the beginning of international work which dates back to the establishment of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in 1875 and the International Electrotechnical

Commission (IEC) in 1904. The ISO began in 1926 with the establishment of the International Federation of National Standardizing Associations (ISA). Although the ISA disbanded in 1942, its work was resumed by the United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee (UNSCC), and within six years it was reorganized as the ISO. Since then, the ISO has grown so that it now includes 54 member countries which participate through some 145 technical committees.

ISO/TC 36 on Cinematography activities began in 1949, with its first meeting in 1952. Since that date the committee has met regularly at approximately three-year intervals:

1952 — New York City, U.S. (October 1952 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 349-355)

1955 — Stockholm, Sweden (February 1956 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 102-107)

1958 — Harrogate, England (January 1959 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 32-37)

1961 — Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany (January 1962 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 32-37)

1965 — Milan, Italy (December 1965 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 1112-1116)

1967 — Moscow, USSR (November 1967 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 1113-1115)

1971 — London, England (October 1971 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 832-833)

1973 — Williamsburg, Va., U.S. (February 1974 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 134-136)



Delegation from the U.K.: I Shreeve, C. Crawhurst, D. Watts, J. Aldred, M. Milne-Smith.



A. Alden, secretariat; N. Schmitz, chairman; L. Robinson, deputy director, BSI.



Members of the delegation from France: J. Bouchet, P. Baby, and P. Offensteln.

1976 — Paris, France (June 1976 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 409-412)

1979 — Antwerp, Belgium (February 1980 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 120-123)

1982 — Berlin, F. R. Germany (September 1982 *SMPTE Journal*, pp. 834-837)

The Committee on Cinematography can be proud of its achievements without which there could not be an international motion-picture industry.

### Participants

Technical Committee 36 now consists of 13 Participating Member Bodies and 16 Observer Member Bodies, listed below:

#### Participating Member Bodies

Australia	Germany, F.R.	Sweden
Belgium	Japan	U.K.
Canada	Peoples Republic of China	U.S.
Czechoslovakia	Poland	USSR
France		

#### Observer Member Bodies

Austria	India	Portugal
Chile	Italy	Romania
Columbia	Iran	Spain
Cuba	Mexico	Tunisia
Greece	Pakistan	Yugoslavia

#### Liaison Organizations

The committee also works closely with four IEC and ISO Committees and eight other international organizations:

- ISO/TC 42 — Photography
- ISO/TC 73 — Consumer Questions
- ISO/TC 60 — Recording
- ISO/TC 84 — Equipment and Systems Field of Audio and Audiovisual Engineering
- CCC — Customs Cooperation Council
- CCIR — International Radio Consultative Committee of the ITU
- CIE — International Commission on Illumination
- CMEA — Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
- EBU — European Broadcasting Union (participates

actively on Working Group 5, Film/Electronic Interface Technology, of ISO/TC 36)

ITU — International Telecommunication Union

OIRT — International Radio and Television Organization

UNESCO — United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

The work of the committee is carried on during the interim period between Plenary Meetings through the activities of five working groups. U.S. specialists are assigned to each group and, while not actually representing the U.S., they are especially chosen for their knowledge of our national engineering practices and procedures. Currently the U.S. specialists are:

#### Working Group 1: Film Technology

Convener: P. Baby, France

U.S. specialists: L. Endelman, Perkin-Elmer; R. Zavada, Eastman Kodak Co.

#### Working Group 2: Laboratory Services Technology

Convener: Holodov, USSR

U.S. specialists: S. Becker, Allied Film & Video; F. Scobey, Technicolor Laboratories; R. Smith, DuArt Film Laboratories

#### Working Group 3: Audio Technology

Convener: J. Aldred, U.K.

U.S. specialists: I. Allen, Dolby Laboratories; F. Kolb, Eastman Kodak Co.

#### Working Group 4: Presentation Technology

Convener: G. Berggren, U.S.

U.S. specialists: G. Berggren, Optical Radiation Corp.; J. Pytlak, Eastman Kodak Co.

#### Working Group 5: Film/Electronic Interface Technology

Convener: R. Zavada, U.S.

U.S. specialists: R. Zavada, Eastman Kodak Co.; E. Knutsen, Post Perfect Telecommunications, Inc.

Since the SMPTE had assumed the responsibility in July 1970 for administering in ANSI's name the International Secretariat TC 36, Alex Alden, SMPTE Manager of Engineering, officiated as the secretary at the London meeting. He was assisted by Peg Caggiano, who handles the International Secretariat activities at SMPTE Headquarters. Alden, speaking on behalf of the ANSI Secretariat, welcomed the delegates, wished them a gratifying and productive meeting, and commended the large number of delegates who have regularly attended the Plenary Meetings.



*U.S. delegation: (back row) S. Becker, J. Pytlak, T. Holman, J. Mosely; (front row) L. Endelman, G. Berggren, F. Kolb, R. Zavada.*

Opening the meeting, Alden noted that Dr. Norbert Schmitz, of the Germany, F.R., delegation, who chaired the 1982 meeting in Berlin (West), had indicated that he would be pleased to accept the responsibility again if the delegates wished it, and recommended that he be appointed. The Plenary unanimously accepted this suggestion and approved the nomination. Dr. Schmitz, director of Kodak-AG, Stuttgart, Germany, F.R., has a long history with TC 36. In addition to acting as chairman of the 1982 meeting, he has attended, as a delegate, all six Plenary Meetings since 1965 in Milan, Italy, and acted as leader of the Germany, F.R., delegation at the 10th Plenary Meeting in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1979. When not chairing the Plenary Meetings, Dr. Schmitz participates actively as the Germany, F.R., specialist on TC 36 Working Group 5, dealing with film/electronic interface.

The U.S. delegation, as before, was under the able leadership of Roland Zavada, Eastman Kodak Co., SMPTE Past Engineering Vice-President and Chairman of ANSI's Image Technology Standards Board. Zavada has led the U.S. delegation to ISO/TC 36 for five previous meetings. The delegation at London was comprised of the following specialists:

Ioan Allen, Dolby Laboratories, Inc.  
 Sherwin Becker, Allied Film & Video  
 Glen Berggren, Optical Radiation Corp.  
 Lincoln Endelman, Perkin-Elmer  
 Tomlinson Holman, Lucasfilm Ltd.  
 Fred Kolb, Jr., Eastman Kodak Co.  
 John Mosely, Consultant  
 John Pytlak, Eastman Kodak Co.  
 Roland Zavada, Eastman Kodak Co.

### **Agreements**

As in the past, the first session of the Plenary was used to assign the 55-item agenda to appropriate working group meetings which were held during the following four days. These meetings proved to be successful and productive as reflected through the 67 resolutions adopted at the final Plenary Session, and documented in the following agreements:

### **Recommendations for Approval as International Standards**

The following subjects were completed by TC 36 and recommended for ISO Council approval as International Standards:

DIS 1039, Cores for Motion Picture and Magnetic Film Rolls — Dimensions (revision of ISO 1039-1975)

DIS 2404, Six-Track Magnetic Sound Records on 70 mm Film for Striped Release Prints — Location and Dimensions (revision of ISO 2404-1979)

DIS 7831, A-Chain Frequency Response for Reproduction of 35 mm Photographic Sound — Reproduction Characteristics

ISO 2939-1975, Picture Image Area and Photographic Sound Record on 35 mm Motion Picture Release Prints — Pictures and Dimensions (to be confirmed)

DIS 5758, Minimum Technical Information for the Interchange of Motion Picture Films and Magnetic Materials

DIS 4834, Magnetic Sound Test Films, Excluding Striped Prints — Specifications

DIS 8567, Safe Subtitle Area on 35 mm and 16 mm Motion Picture Prints — Position and Dimensions

ISO 1020-1974, Spools, Daylight Loading Type for Double 8 mm Motion Picture Cameras — Dimensions (to be confirmed)

ISO 3025-1974, Motion Picture Camera Cartridge, 8 mm Type S, Model II — Film Load Position (to be confirmed)

DIS 8395, Test Films for the Reproduction of 35 mm and 70 mm Magnetic Striped Release Prints — Specifications

### **Draft International Standards**

The following Draft Proposals were approved for circulation as Draft International Standards:

DP 1189, Recorded Characteristic for Magnetic Sound Record for 35 mm Motion Picture Film, Excluding Striped Release Prints — Specifications (revision of ISO 1189-1975)

DP 1223, Picture Areas for Motion Picture Films and

Slides for Television — Position and Dimensions (revision of ISO 1223-1981)

DP 6036, Density of Films for Television — Specifications

DP 8622, A-Chain Frequency Response for Reproduction of 35 mm and 70 mm Magnetic Striped Release Prints

#### **Draft Proposals**

The following subjects are to be reviewed as Draft Proposals:

Motion-Picture Projector Test Films — Specifications and Methods

Time and Control Code for 24, 25 or 30 Frames per Second Motion-Picture Systems — Specifications

16 mm Motion-Picture Raw Stock Film — Cutting and Perforating Dimensions (revision of ISO 69-1972)

Screen Luminance for the Projection of Motion-Picture Prints in Indoor Theatres and Review Rooms (revision of ISO 2910-1974)

Projection Screens for Indoor Rooms — Specifications  
Granularity of Motion-Picture Films Used for Television — Method of Measuring

Data Tracks on Low-Dispersion Magnetic Coatings on 35 mm Motion-Picture Film — Positions and Width Dimensions

Background Acoustic Noise Level for Dubbing Theatres and Review Rooms — Specification and Method of Measuring

Recording Head Gaps for Two Sound Records on 17.5 mm Magnetic Films — Positions and Width Dimensions

#### **New Work**

The following subjects were recommended as items of new work:

35 mm Full Camera Aperture — Position and Dimensions

Aspect Ratio for Original Photography for Material Intended for High-Definition Television — Dimensions of Film Image Area

Rooms and Surround Conditions for Evaluating Video Display Film via Telecine — Specifications

Telecine Test Films for Image Alignment and Evaluation



Members of the U.S.S.R. delegation: V. Kalodov, G. Junina, and V. Isaev.



Peoples Republic of China delegation: W. Shaoming and J. Jladong.

#### **Withdrawal**

The Committee recommended the withdrawal of:

ISO 358-1975, Maximum Aspect Ratio of Projector Aperture for Projection of 35 mm Non-anamorphic Motion Picture Film — Specification (thought to be redundant and no longer necessary)

#### **Future Work**

Technical Committee 36 was honored by receiving invitations from Canada, Japan, Peoples Republic of China, and the USSR to hold its next Plenary Meeting in their countries. In view of the importance of holding sequential meetings with ISO/TC 42 on Photography in the same location, the committee accepted the invitation to hold its 13th Plenary Meeting in Beijing, Peoples Republic of China, in the fall of 1987.

The committee's agenda now includes some 55 subjects in addition to the supervision of the 95 approved International Standards in the field of cinematography. This actively parallels the work of our own standards program in the U.S. The subjects are not listed in this report; however, they and any other desired information on the work of TC 36 are available through the Engineering Dept. at SMPTE Headquarters in Scarsdale, New York.

With the expansion of international exchange of motion-picture and television programs, the importance of international agreements becomes more obvious. Organizations that expect to compete in the foreign market are finding it mandatory to participate in the formulation of the documents with which they will be forced to comply. This compliance can be costly, but the investment through early participation in this work is far outweighed by the benefits gained.

Although the voluntary nature of standardization in the U.S. is desirable, it contributes greatly to the problem of finding appropriate talent to carry on the activity and necessitates private financing of the program. While the SMPTE assumes a major portion of the responsibility, we cannot overlook the generosity and thoughtfulness of the many organizations that understand the significance of the U.S. participation and leadership in international standardization, and assist in financing the activity as well as underwriting the time of the specialists themselves.