



ISO/TC 36 Cinematography

By Thomas Bause Mason and Andy Maltz

SMPTE standards have been and continue to be adopted at the international level through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technology Committee (TC) 36 Cinematography. ISO/TC 36 is one of ISO's 67 original technical committees, and publishes globally recognized standards for the motion picture industry. Since the committee's first meeting in 1952, SMPTE has served as ISO/TC 36's secretariat, delegated to this role by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI is a full member of ISO and its sole U.S. representative.

The secretariat provides the committee's administrative leadership, under the direction of committee manager Thomas Bause Mason (Director of Standards Development). The chair of ISO/TC 36 is Andy Maltz, Founder and Principal, General Intelligence.

ANSI also accredits Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) to serve as national representatives to ISO technical committees. The chair of the U.S. TAG is David Schnuelle, and TAG members include Andy Maltz/General Intelligence, Jerry Pierce/Executive Director of the InterSociety and chair of InterSociety Digital Cinema Forum, Steve LLamb/Deluxe Entertainment Services Group. Ioan Allen/Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Dave Schnuelle/Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Mike Radford/Walt Disney Studios, Wendy Aylsworth/Walden Pond, Michael Zink/LG Electronics, Alexander Forsythe/Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, George Joblove/Prima Lumina Consulting, Michael Dolan/Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Brian Long/Skywalker Sound, Bill Mandel/Samsung Electronics, Thomas Bause Mason/SMPTE

ISO technical committees have a membership structure similar to SMPTE's: participating members, observing members, working group convenors (or "WG chairs"), and various liaisons. As of this writing, ISO/TC 36's 11 participating member countries are Belgium/NBN, China/SAC, France/AFNOR, Germany/DIN, India/BIS, Japan/JISC, Republic of Korea/KATS, Russian Federation/GOST R, Sri Lanka/SLSI, United Kingdom/BSI, United States/ANSI. The 22 observing member countries may be found on the ISO/TC 36 Committee webpage.¹

ISO/TC36's work program is organized under four working groups (WG):

- WG1 Production Technology; Convenor: Steve LLamb, Vice President, Media Technology and Standards for Deluxe Media, Inc.
- WG2 Laboratory and Distribution Services Technology; Convenor: Dr. Siegfried Foßel, Head of Moving Picture Technologies for Fraunhofer IIS
- WG3 Audio Technology; Convenor: Brian Long, Skywalker Sound

- WG4 Presentation Technology; Convenor: Hans-Nikolas Locher, Director of Development at Commission Supérieure Technique de l'image et du son (CST)

The full committee meets in a plenary session approximately every two to three years, with the most recent plenary, the 28th, being held in March 2024. A Chair Advisory Group (CAG) was instituted in 2019 to facilitate coordination of committee and working group progress between plenaries.

This year's work of ISO/TC 36 consisted of:

- Establishing a liaison relationship to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 42 "Artificial Intelligence" with Michael Zink (ANSI) being appointed the liaison representative.
- Establishing an Ad Hoc Group (AHG) under ISO/TC 36 on Artificial Intelligence with leadership from Gong Bo (China) as the AHG chair.
- Conducting a Chair Advisory Group (CAG) meeting
- Starting a new standardization effort on "Optical technical requirements and measurement methods for digital cinema LED auditoria"
- Reappointing the WG1, WG2, WG4 and CAG convenors
- Appointing Brian Long (ANSI) as convenor of WG3 Audio Technology
- Substantial progress towards improving the harmonization of SMPTE-sourced ISO digital cinema standards revisions

The committee's strategic business plan was approved in 2024 and is available on the ISO Publicly Available Resources webpage.²

The members of ISO/TC36 are hopeful that the 29th Plenary will be held "in person." For additional information on ISO/TC36's 114 published standards and nine standards under development or review, please visit the ISO website.³

About the Authors



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Andy Maltz, Founder and Principal of General Intelligence. He is the chair of ISO/TC 36.

DOI: 10.5594/JMI.2025/USHQ6604

Date of publication: 15 November 2025

¹ <https://www.iso.org/committee/48090.html?view=participation>

² <https://www.iso.org/resources/publicly-available-resources.html?t=olqlxjs1rVetPgmT17hclvNPGI0PNzEkA-il64jELRf4dGwdhEO1R2etGoqfhp&view=documents#section-isodocuments-top>

³ <https://www.iso.org/committee/48090.html#:~:text=Standardization%20of%20definitions,%20dimensions,%20methods%20of>