

BS 6259:2015



BSI Standards Publication

**Code of practice for the
design, planning,
installation, testing and
maintenance of sound
systems**

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited under licence from The British Standards Institution and came into effect on 31 March 2015. It was prepared by Technical Committee EPL/100, *Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 6259:1997, which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, updating all aspects.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard 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 British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

The recommendations of this British Standard are intended to enable a clear understanding, including understanding by non-technical users, of the functions and limitations of a proposed sound system.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Section 1: General

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for the design, planning, installation, testing and maintenance of sound systems intended for communicating speech, music and/or other signals, including systems conveying emergency messages or signals that are not connected to a fire detection system.

NOTE 1 For systems used for conveying emergency messages, recommendations are given in BS 5839-8.

This standard is intended for use by clients, designers, installers and those responsible for commissioning, testing, operation and maintenance of sound systems.

This standard is not applicable to:

- a) voice alarm systems within the scope of BS 5839-8 or BS EN 54-16 or BS EN 54-24;
- b) emergency voice communication systems within the scope of BS 5839-9;
- c) emergency sound systems within the scope of BS 7827;
- d) simultaneous interpretation systems (see ISO 2003);
- e) some of the aspects associated with recording studios, and applies only to some types of broadcasting studio;
- f) home entertainment systems;
- g) systems intended only to modify the perceived acoustic characteristics of the space;
- h) manual fire detection systems; or
- i) audio conferencing systems.

This standard is not applicable to cinema sound systems.

NOTE 2 Cinema sound technology is evolving very rapidly at present, due partly to the elimination of film stock in favour of digital distribution and the increased practicality of multichannel sound systems with tens of channels. Existing standards such as BS 5550-3.4.9 are likely to be replaced by completely new standards within a few years. It is therefore not at present practicable to give advice on these systems in this standard.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7671:2008+A3:2015, *Requirements for electrical installations – IET Wiring Regulations (Seventeenth edition)*