

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Audio, video and multimedia systems – General channel assignment
of multichannel audio**

**Systèmes audio, vidéo et multimédia – Affectation générale des voies
des systèmes audio à voies multiples**



THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Copyright © 2020 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

Droits de reproduction réservés. Sauf indication contraire, aucune partie de cette publication ne peut être reproduite ni utilisée sous quelque forme que ce soit et par aucun procédé, électronique ou mécanique, y compris la photocopie et les microfilms, sans l'accord écrit de l'IEC ou du Comité national de l'IEC du pays du demandeur. Si vous avez des questions sur le copyright de l'IEC ou si vous désirez obtenir des droits supplémentaires sur cette publication, utilisez les coordonnées ci-après ou contactez le Comité national de l'IEC de votre pays de résidence.

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications

The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,...). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc

If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary

67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

A propos de l'IEC

La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

A propos des publications IEC

Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

Recherche de publications IEC - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform

La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études,...). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished

Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc

Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: sales@iec.ch.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org

Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 000 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 16 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

Glossaire IEC - std.iec.ch/glossary

67 000 entrées terminologiques électrotechniques, en anglais et en français, extraites des articles Termes et Définitions des publications IEC parues depuis 2002. Plus certaines entrées antérieures extraites des publications des CE 37, 77, 86 et CISPR de l'IEC.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Audio, video and multimedia systems – General channel assignment
of multichannel audio**

**Systèmes audio, vidéo et multimédia – Affectation générale des voies
des systèmes audio à voies multiples**

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 33.160.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-7762-1

**Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.
Attention! Veuillez vous assurer que vous avez obtenu cette publication via un distributeur agréé.**

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| FOREWORD..... | 4 |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 6 |
| 1 Scope..... | 7 |
| 2 Normative reference..... | 7 |
| 3 Terms and definitions..... | 7 |
| 4 General channel assignment..... | 16 |
| 4.1 General..... | 16 |
| 4.2 Model..... | 16 |
| 4.3 Channel maps and labels..... | 19 |
| 5 Metadata..... | 21 |
| 5.1 General..... | 21 |
| 5.2 Metadata list..... | 22 |
| 5.3 Definition of loudspeaker position..... | 23 |
| Annex A (normative) Channel maps and labels in edition 1..... | 25 |
| A.1 General..... | 25 |
| A.2 Terms and definitions..... | 25 |
| A.3 General channel assignment..... | 29 |
| A.3.1 General..... | 29 |
| A.3.2 The model..... | 29 |
| A.4 Channel maps and labels..... | 30 |
| Annex B (informative) Comparison table..... | 32 |
| B.1 General..... | 32 |
| B.2 Comparison table for each edition of IEC 62574..... | 32 |
| B.3 Comparison table for numbering of the channel..... | 33 |
| B.4 Comparison table for surround sound amplifier in consumer market..... | 34 |
| B.5 Comparison table between this document and ITU-R BS2051-1..... | 38 |
| B.6 Comparison table between this document and ITU-R BS2094-1..... | 40 |
| B.7 Comparison table between this document and ISO/IEC 23001-8..... | 46 |
| Bibliography..... | 49 |
| Figure 1 – Model of channel spaces..... | 17 |
| Figure 2 – Overhead layer..... | 17 |
| Figure 3 – High layer..... | 18 |
| Figure 4 – Middle layer..... | 18 |
| Figure 5 – Bottom layer..... | 19 |
| Figure 6 – Channel assignment on the display..... | 19 |
| Figure 7 – Scope of metadata..... | 22 |
| Figure 8 – Loudspeaker location..... | 23 |
| Figure A.1 – Model of channel spaces..... | 29 |
| Figure A.2 – Top layer..... | 29 |
| Figure A.3 – Middle layer..... | 30 |
| Figure A.4 – Bottom layer..... | 30 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 1 – General channel assignment | 20 |
| Table 2 – Metadata | 23 |
| Table 3 – Definition of loudspeaker angle | 24 |
| Table A.1 – General channel assignment table in IEC 62574:2011 | 31 |
| Table B.1 – Comparison table for each edition of IEC 62574..... | 32 |
| Table B.2 – Comparison table for numbering of the channel | 33 |
| Table B.3 – Comparison table for surround sound amplifier in consumer market (1 of 3)..... | 34 |
| Table B.4 – Comparison table between this document and ITU-R BS2051-1 (1 of 2)..... | 38 |
| Table B.5 – Comparison table between this document and ITU-R BS2094-1 (1 of 6)..... | 40 |
| Table B.6 – Comparison table between this document and ISO/IEC 23001-8 (1 of 3)..... | 6 |

Currently in preview, click buy full version

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

AUDIO, VIDEO AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS –

GENERAL CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT OF MULTICHANNEL AUDIO

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and, in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
- 3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
- 4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
- 5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
- 6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
- 7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
- 8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
- 9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 62574 has been prepared by technical area 20 of IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2011. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) model of channel assignment spaces is changed;
- b) definition of channel maps and labels is changed;
- c) metadata is newly specified;
- d) channel maps and labels from the first edition are included in Annex A.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

| CDV | Report on voting |
|--------------|------------------|
| 100/3198/CDV | 100/3246/RVC |

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard 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.

INTRODUCTION

There are many multichannel audio formats and there will be new formats. These formats have a specific channel assignment, such as a channel mapping and channel labels, but the basic channel assignments are not so different from each other. These can be unified to one common channel assignment as the general channel assignment. This general channel assignment provides audio devices and digital audio interfaces with the usage of unified channel assignments for any multichannel audio formats. This second edition provides consistency with various standards. The channel names have changed in this second edition; the differences are shown in Annex B. Since there are standards that refer to the first edition of this document (see Clause A.1), IEC 62574:2011 (the first edition) is cited at length in Annex A. The first edition (IEC 62574:2011) and the second edition (this document) can be distinguished by the numbering of the channels.

AUDIO, VIDEO AND MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS –

GENERAL CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT OF MULTICHANNEL AUDIO

1 Scope

This document specifies the general channel assignment and the metadata for multichannel audio format. This document, with its channel mapping and labelling content, provides the unified usage of channel assignments for source devices, digital audio interfaces and sink devices. The general channel assignment excludes the specification of the exact position of each loudspeaker. The metadata has the exact position of each loudspeaker; however, since the position of the loudspeaker is different in various surround sound formats, the position information of the metadata is not standardized. It is aimed at consumer applications; it is not targeted at theatrical environments. Up to 65 labels for loudspeaker positions and 15 labels for loudspeakers on the display are specified, which can be used for all current multichannel audio formats. The channel assignment concept is room centric and listener centric. This general channel assignment specifies the position of the loudspeaker as seen from the listener.

2 Normative reference

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

overhead layer

loudspeaker-layer located vertically above the high layer, nominally near or on the ceiling (overhead), labelled beginning with the letter designation "Oh"

3.2

high layer

loudspeaker-layer located vertically below the overhead layer and above the middle layer, nominally located above the screen, or near the ceiling, labelled beginning with the letter designation "H"

3.3

middle layer

loudspeaker-layer located nominally in the vertical plane at height of the listeners ears, or alternatively at the centre of the screen, whose labels do not carry a letter designation

3.4

bottom layer

loudspeaker-layer located nominally below the screen, or near the floor, labelled beginning with the letter designation "Bt"