

ITU-R

Radiocommunication Sector of ITU

Recommendation ITU-R BS.1738-1 (10/2015)

Identification and ordering of 4 and 8 track audio channels carried on international contribution circuits

BS Series
Broadcasting service (sound)



Foreword

The role of the Radiocommunication Sector is to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including satellite services, and carry out studies without limit of frequency range on the basis of which Recommendations are adopted.

The regulatory and policy functions of the Radiocommunication Sector are performed by World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences and Radiocommunication Assemblies supported by Study Groups.

Policy on Intellectual Property Right (IPR)

ITU-R policy on IPR is described in the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC referenced in Annex 1 of Resolution ITU-R 1. Forms to be used for the submission of patent statements and licensing declarations by patent holders are available from <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/patents/en> where the Guidelines for Implementation of the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC and the ITU-R patent information database can also be found.

Series of ITU-R Recommendations

(Also available online at <http://www.itu.int/publ/R-REC/en>)

Series	Title
BO	Satellite delivery
BR	Recording for production, archival and play-out; film for television
BS	Broadcasting service (sound)
BT	Broadcasting service (television)
F	Fixed service
M	Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services
P	Radiowave propagation
RA	Radio astronomy
RS	Remote sensing systems
S	Fixed-satellite service
SA	Space applications and meteorology
SF	Frequency sharing and coordination between fixed-satellite and fixed service systems
SM	Spectrum management
SNG	Satellite news gathering
TF	Time signals and frequency standards emissions
V	Vocabulary and related subjects

Note: This ITU-R Recommendation was approved in English under the procedure detailed in Resolution ITU-R 1.

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RECOMMENDATION ITU-R BS.1738-1

**Identification and ordering of 4 and 8 track audio channels
carried on international contribution circuits**

(Question ITU-R 37/6)

(2007-2015)

Scope

This Recommendation provides the means to identify the allocation of multiple audio signals on international contribution circuits as well as the preferred ordering of these signals.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that the exchange of television programmes is very important and extensive;
- b) that there is a requirement to transmit more than one sound signal including stereophony with a television picture;
- c) that within a television channel as used in present systems several sound channels could be accommodated;
- d) that Recommendation ITU-R BR.779 – Operating practices for digital television recording; contains allocation of mono, stereo and multichannel audio channels, and the use of audio channels as data recording channels for international exchange of digitally recorded television programmes;
- e) that Recommendation ITU-R BS.1726 – Signal level of digital audio accompanying television in international programme exchange recommends reference level and permitted maximum level (PML) of digital audio signal for international programme exchange;
- f) that international identification of media content and of the format used for programme exchange offers both economical and operational advantages;
- g) that an alignment of operational practices used in connection with the identification of the content and format of sound programmes is highly desirable;
- h) that a technique is applied where simultaneous availability of a line-up tone on the channels present in stereo and multi-channel modes so that the phase relationship between channels can be checked to mitigate a 180° phase reversal;
- i) that transmission systems with bit-rate reduced coding for multichannel sound transmission are in use in several countries;
- j) that production scenarios increasingly involve eight audio channels for 5.1 surround sound;
- k) that coding of multi-track sound into an audio multiplex for audio production in many programme genres is increasing as a requirement for international programme exchange for sound and television broadcasting;
- l) that specifications for international exchange of programmes with multiple channel audio is subject to contractual and commercial arrangements among the broadcasters and programme rights holders;
- m) that many administrations are becoming increasingly involved in the exchange of television programme material,