



Recommendation ITU-R BT.1702-1
(07/2018)

**Guidance for the reduction of photosensitive
epileptic seizures caused by television**

BT Series
Broadcasting service
(television)



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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 BT.1702-1

Guidance for the reduction of photosensitive epileptic seizures caused by television

(2005-2018)

Scope

Extensive studies on the subject of photosensitive epilepsy, which have taken place around the world, have led to formulation of this Recommendation. The guidance proposed in this Recommendation is for the protection of the vulnerable section of the viewing population who have photosensitive epilepsy, and who are therefore prone to seizures triggered by flashing lights, including certain types of flashing television images. Broadcasting organizations are encouraged to raise awareness among programme producers of the risks of creating television image content which may induce photosensitive epileptic seizures in susceptible viewers. Annexes 1 to 5 provide additional information on this subject.

Keywords

Photosensitive, epilepsy, seizures, flashing images

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that several cases of individual or collective photosensitive epileptic seizures in vulnerable persons, in particular children, induced by flickering television images have been reported from various parts of the world;
- b) that while television images displayed on television receivers do not themselves cause photosensitive epilepsy, they can be a trigger of seizures in individuals who happen to be prone to photosensitive epilepsy;
- c) that it is useful to identify measures to help avoid the inadvertent creation of material for transmission on broadcast television that would be likely to induce photosensitive epileptic seizures;
- d) that measures should be proportionate to the risks and should not place undue burdens on broadcasting organizations or programme producers;
- e) that the impact of measures on broadcasters or programme producers may vary with their programme genres;
- f) that, to be applied effectively, such measures should be simple and easy to understand by non-technical programme producers:
 - that in the case of some live programming, such as news, programme production is often beyond the control of the broadcaster;
 - that measurement results to check compliance with the guidelines depend on a number of measurement parameters;
 - that the viewing environment and the display device, which can affect the likelihood of problems arising in susceptible viewers, may be different depending on a style of living around the world;
- g) that the risk of seizures cannot be eliminated for the most susceptible viewers:
 - that a small number of highly susceptible viewers may benefit from protection by means of filtering applied in the receiver;