



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 17651-2**

**Simultaneous interpreting —  
Interpreters' working  
environment —**

**Part 2:  
Requirements and  
recommendations for mobile  
booths**

*Interprétation simultanée — Environnement de travail des  
interprètes —*

*Partie 2: Exigences et recommandations pour les cabines mobiles*

**First edition  
2024-01**

This document is a preview generated by AI



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2024

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Location</b>	<b>2</b>
4.1 Room characteristics	2
4.2 Siting and visibility	3
4.3 Accessibility	4
4.4 Technical control and technical support staff	4
<b>5 Design</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1 General requirements	5
5.2 Dimensions, mass and handling	5
5.2.1 Dimensions	5
5.2.2 Mass and handling	7
5.2.3 Transport and storage	7
5.3 Doors	7
5.4 Windows	8
5.5 Acoustics	8
5.5.1 Sound insulation	8
5.5.2 Sound absorption	8
5.6 Ventilation	9
5.7 Cable passages	9
5.8 Language displays	9
<b>6 Booth interior</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1 General requirements	9
6.2 Colours	9
6.3 Lighting	10
6.4 Work surface	10
6.5 Electricity supply	10
6.6 Internet access	11
6.7 Furniture	11
6.8 Video displays	11
6.9 Storage for documents and equipment	11
<b>7 Amenities for interpreters</b>	<b>11</b>
7.1 Toilets	11
7.2 Interpreters' room	11
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>12</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37, *Language and terminology*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Translation, interpreting and related technology*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/SS A07, *Translation and Interpretation services*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition cancels and replaces the third edition of ISO 4043:2016, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the document has been generally updated due to technological developments;
- requirements have been formulated in a technology-neutral way;
- the structure of the various parts of the ISO 17651 series has been aligned;
- a novel approach to booth ventilation has been introduced.

A list of all parts in the ISO 17651 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document concerns mobile booths for simultaneous interpreting. Mobile booths are designed to be temporarily set up and used in a variety of locations not equipped for the hosting of multilingual events, for the duration of the event. This document also describes their installation and use with a direct view of the room in which the communicative event takes place.

There are a number of things to be taken into account when designing and installing mobile booths. Interpreting is an activity that requires high levels of concentration, therefore the working environment has to meet the highest standards to minimize stress.

This document addresses the following:

- a) workplace setting of spoken language interpreters;
- b) visual communication between interpreters and participants at an event;
- c) sound insulation from the noise transmitted from the booth's environment to a booth;
- d) dimensions, mass and handling.



# Simultaneous interpreting — Interpreters' working environment —

## Part 2: Requirements and recommendations for mobile booths

### 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and recommendations for the design, use and siting of mobile booths for simultaneous interpreting. The main features of mobile booths that distinguish them from permanent booths are that they can be dismantled, moved and set up in a room. This document also ensures the usability and accessibility of booths for all interpreters.

This document is to be used in conjunction with ISO 20109, which contains requirements and recommendations for the equipment necessary for simultaneous interpreting. For requirements and recommendations for mobile booths which do not have a direct view of a room, see ISO 17651-3.<sup>1)</sup>

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1182, *Reaction to fire tests for products — Non-combustibility test*

ISO 3382-1, *Acoustics — Measurement of room acoustic parameters — Part 1: Performance spaces*

ISO 3382-2, *Acoustics — Measurement of room acoustic parameters — Part 2: Reverberation time in ordinary rooms*

ISO 8995-1, *Lighting of work places — Part 1: Indoor*

ISO 11228-1, *Ergonomics — Manual handling — Part 1: Lifting, lowering and carrying*

ISO 11925-3, *Reaction to fire tests — Ignitability of building products subjected to direct impingement of flame — Part 3: Multi-source test*

ISO 16283-1, *Acoustics — Field measurement of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements — Part 1: Airborne sound insulation*

ISO 21542:2021, *Building construction — Accessibility and usability of the built environment*

EN 1335-1, *Office furniture — Office work chair — Part 1: Dimensions – Determination of dimensions*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/CD 17651-3.2:2024.