INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 23600

First edition
2007-11-01

Assistive products for persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments — Acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights

Aides fonctionnelles pour personnes ayant des déficiences visuelles et/ou des déficiences visuelles et auditives — Signaux acoustiques et tactiles pour feux de circulation

Reference number
ISO 23600:2007(E)

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 23600 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 173, *Assistive products for persons with disability*.

Introduction

The aim of this International Standard is to specify the requirements for acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights, for persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments.

Persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments travelling alone use a number of techniques and cues in the environment to commence a safe street crossing. Environmental sounds and cues provide timing and directional information.

At an intersection that is equipped with pedestrian lights, acoustic and tactile signals provide equivalent information to persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments.

At an intersection that is not equipped with acoustic and tactile signals, persons with vision impairments are forced to use the sounds of vehicular traffic in order to estimate the time to start crossing a street and to determine their direction of travel. However, the sounds of vehicular traffic are not always available and often insufficient. In the case of persons with vision and hearing impairments, the majority of these people have to rely on assistance. The installation of acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights significantly improves the ability of persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments to travel safely and independently.

Acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights provide persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments with information to know precisely when the walk initiation signal has been activated. They can also provide directional information and the geometry of the intersection.

The specifications and installation methods of acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights have been different from country to country. This International Standard sets out the requirements, technical specifications and performance criteria for acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights.

Assistive products for persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments — Acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights to assist in safe and independent mobility of persons with vision impairments and persons with vision and hearing impairments.

It is applicable to design, installation and operation of acoustic and tactile signals for pedestrian traffic lights.

It is not applicable to electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), electrical safety or operating conditions.

NOTE Operating conditions can be affected by climate, shock, vibrations or other environmental factors.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1
persons with vision impairments
persons who are blind or who have low vision

2.2
persons with vision and hearing impairments
persons who are blind or who have low vision in combination with deafness or hearing loss

2.3
acoustic orientation signal
sound used to enable persons with vision impairments to recognise the presence of and to locate a push-button box and/or pedestrian crosswalk

2.4
walk initiation period
period when the display indicates that pedestrians may begin their crossing in the pedestrian crosswalk

2.5
prohibited walk initiation period
period when the display indicates that pedestrians may not enter the pedestrian crosswalk

NOTE The prohibited walk initiation period consists of two parts: the period following the walk initiation period when pedestrians in the pedestrian crosswalk may continue going out of the pedestrian crosswalk and the period when pedestrians are prohibited to enter the pedestrian crosswalk.

2.6
acoustic walk initiation signal
sound used to indicate to persons with vision impairments the walk initiation period