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Simultaneous interpreting - Equipment -  
Requirements (ISO 20109:2025)

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

<p>See Eesti standard EVS-EN ISO 20109:2025 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN ISO 20109:2025 ingliskeelset teksti.</p> <p>Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.</p> <p>Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 04.06.2025.</p> <p>Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardimis- ja Akrediteerimiskeskusest.</p>	<p>This Estonian standard EVS-EN ISO 20109:2025 consists of the English text of the European standard EN ISO 20109:2025.</p> <p>This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p> <p>Date of Availability of the European standard is 04.06.2025.</p> <p>The standard is available from the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.</p>
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ICS 91.040.10

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN ISO 20109

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

June 2025

ICS 91.040.10

Supersedes EN ISO 20109:2016

English Version

## Simultaneous interpreting - Equipment - Requirements (ISO 20109:2025)

Interprétation simultanée - Équipement - Exigences  
(ISO 20109:2025)

Simultandolmetschen - Ausrüstung - Anforderungen  
(ISO 20109:2025)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 10 May 2025.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 20109:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 37 "Language and terminology" in collaboration with CCMC.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2025.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 20109:2016.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 20109:2025 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 20109:2025 without any modification.

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## 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)).

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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 second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20109:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#) has been updated;
- two different situations regarding the location of the parties have been introduced;
- requirements relating to sound have been aligned with other standards and/or improved as to ensure necessary sound quality transmitted to interpreters;
- detailed requirements for video displays have been added;
- specifications on interpreting system microphone behaviour have been added;
- a measurement method for the values pertaining to hearing protection has been added.

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 specifies requirements for the equipment for simultaneous interpreting, as well as the quality of sound and image transmitted to interpreters and from interpreters to the participants of a communicative event. Technological progress has led to profound changes in how interpreters perform their services. They can interpret in interpreting booths in the room in which the communicative event takes place, but either the entire team of interpreters or part of it can also be working from an interpreting hub, or interpreters can perform their services from an individual environment controlled by themselves. Different equipment can be used in different situations to optimize performance. This document takes these different situations into account.

Other relevant standards that can be applied in conjunction with this document, as required, are ISO 17651 (all parts), ISO 22259 and ISO 24019.

# Simultaneous interpreting — Equipment — Requirements

## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the equipment needed for simultaneous interpreting and for the quality of sound and image transmitted to interpreters and from interpreters to the audience, irrespective of the place in relation to speakers, signers, the audience and other interpreters.

## 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 639, *Code for individual languages and language groups*

ISO 9241-303, *Ergonomics of human-system interaction — Part 303: Requirements for electronic visual displays*

ISO 9241-410:2008/Amd 1:2012, *Ergonomics of human-system interaction — Part 410: Design criteria for physical input devices — Amendment 1*

ISO 22259:2019, *Conference systems — Equipment — Requirements*

ISO 24019:2022, *Simultaneous interpreting delivery platforms — Requirements and recommendations*

ISO 24503, *Ergonomics — Accessible design — Tactile dots and bars on consumer products*

IEC 60268-1:2010, *Sound system equipment — Part 1: General*

IEC 60268-4, *Sound system equipment — Part 4: Microphones*

ITU-T P.58, *Head and torso simulator for telephony*

## 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>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **interpreter**

person who interprets

[SOURCE: ISO 20539:2023, 3.1.13]

### 3.2

#### **interpreting**

interpretation

rendering spoken or signed information from a source language into a target language in spoken or signed form, conveying both the meaning and language register of the source language content

[SOURCE: ISO 20539:2023, 3.1.11]