

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**IEC**  
**60958-4**

Second edition  
2003-05

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**Digital audio interface –**

**Part 4:  
Professional applications**

*Interface audionumérique –*

*Partie 4:  
Applications professionnelles*



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## **Digital audio interface –** **Part 4:** **Professional applications**

*Interface audionumérique –*  
*Partie 4:*  
*Applications professionnelles*

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**DIGITAL AUDIO INTERFACE –****Part 4: Professional applications**

## FOREWORD

- 1) The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of the IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, the IEC publishes International Standards. Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. The IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
- 2) The formal decisions or agreements of the IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested National Committees.
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International Standard IEC 60958-4 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment.

This second edition of IEC 60958-4 cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1999 and constitutes a technical revision.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
100/643/FDIS	100/669/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition (1999) are listed below.

- The scope specifies the professional application of IEC 60958-1 (generalities have been removed to an introduction).
- A clause on terms and definitions has been added.
- In Table 1, expanded channel status assignments have been added and channel status definitions expanded to accommodate extended sampling frequencies, indication of alignment level and multi-channel options.

- Figure 1 and associated text has been revised to be more generalized. Three notes on cable performance factors have been added.
- The impedance specification is now dependent on maximum frame rate.
- The common-mode balance specification is now dependent on maximum frame rate
- The impedance specification is now dependent on maximum frame rate.

IEC 60958 consists of the following parts under the generic title *Digital audio interface*:

Part 1: General

Part 3: Consumer applications

Part 4: Professional applications

The committee has decided that this publication remains valid until September 2005. At this date, in accordance with the committee's decision, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

## INTRODUCTION

The interface specified in this standard is primarily intended to carry monophonic or stereophonic programmes at a 48 kHz sampling frequency and with a resolution of up to 24 bits per sample. It may alternatively be used to carry signals sampled at other rates such as 32 kHz, 44,1 kHz, or 96 kHz. Note that conformity to this interface specification does not require equipment to utilize these rates and also that the capability of the interface to indicate other sample rates does not imply that it is recommended that equipment supports these rates. To eliminate doubt, equipment specifications should define the supported sampling frequencies.

The format is intended for use with shielded twisted-pair cables over distances of up to 100 m without transmission equalization or any special equalization at the receiver and at frame rates of up to 50 kHz. Longer cable lengths and higher frame rates may be used with cables better matched for data transmission, or with receiver equalization, or both.

In both cases, the clock references and auxiliary information are transmitted along with the audio data. Provision is also made to allow the interface to carry non-audio data.

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## DIGITAL AUDIO INTERFACE –

### Part 4: Professional applications

#### 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the professional application of the interface for the interconnection of digital audio equipment defined in IEC 60958-1.

#### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

IEC 60268-12:1987, *Sound system equipment – Part 12: Application of connectors for broadcast and similar use*

IEC 60958-1, *Digital audio interface – Part 1: General*

IEC 60958-3, *Digital audio interface – Part 3: Consumer applications*

ISO/IEC 646:1991, *Information technology – ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*

ITU-T Recommendation J.17:1988, *Pre-emphasis used on sound-programme circuits*

ITU-T Recommendation V.11:1996, *Electrical characteristics for balanced double-current interchange circuits operating at data signalling rates up to 10 Mbit/s*

#### 3 Terms and definitions

The terms and definitions given in IEC 60958-1 apply to this part of IEC 60958.

#### 4 Interface format

##### 4.1 General

The interface format as defined in IEC 60958-1 shall be used.

For historical reasons, preambles “B”, “M” and “W”, as defined in 4.3 of IEC 60958-1, shall, for use in professional applications, be referred to as “Z”, “X” and “Y”, respectively.

##### 4.2 Validity bit

For this standard, the validity bit shall be used to indicate whether the main data field bits in the sub-frame are suitable for conversion to an analogue audio signal using linear PCM coding.