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**Cinematography — Picture areas for  
motion-picture films for television —  
Position and dimensions**

*Cinématographie — Champs d'image pour films destinés à la  
télévision — Emplacements et dimensions*

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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.

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 1223 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 36, *Cinematography*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 1223:1993), which has been technically revised.

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## Introduction

The use of film in television has evolved over many years, from being a source of programmes for transmission to becoming an integral part of the programme production. Thus, there is a need for a complete review of all existing standards and recommendations to ensure that they conform with how film is used today in television. The International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) have worked independently, each endeavouring to harmonize all known recommendations on this subject and aiming at International Standards that will be references for worldwide performance and production practice. The results of these independent programmes demonstrate a remarkable consensus of opinion and it has therefore been possible to combine the products of all of these bodies of work in this International Standard.

This International Standard specifies the dimensions of area to be scanned from 16 mm and 35 mm motion-picture films. Its purpose is to be a reference document for harmonizing the areas used in film cameras, film projectors, telecines and test films for television purposes. The dimensions of the recommended areas are based on how film material and film technology are actually used for television production and reproduction. The technical properties of film and television techniques are taken into account, as well as the artistic criteria for format harmonization from shooting to presentation. The listed dimensions are based on key values taken from film-industry standards and practices for exposure, printing and projection as well as past and present technology of television reproduction.

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