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**Photography and graphic  
technology — Extended colour  
encodings for digital image storage,  
manipulation and interchange —**

Part 4:

**European Colour Initiative RGB colour  
image encoding [eciRGB (2008)]**

*Photographie et technologie graphique — Codages par couleurs  
étendues pour stockage, manipulation et échange d'image numérique —*

*Partie 4: Codage d'image en couleurs RGB par initiative de couleur  
européenne [eciRGB(2008)]*



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Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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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.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, a technical committee may decide to publish other types of document:

- an ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/PAS) represents an agreement between technical experts in an ISO working group and is accepted for publication if it is approved by more than 50 % of the members of the parent committee casting a vote;
- an ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS) represents an agreement between the members of a technical committee and is accepted for publication if it is approved by 2/3 of the members of the committee casting a vote.

An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

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/TS 22028-4 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 42, *Photography*.

ISO/TS 22028 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Photography and graphic technology — Extended colour encodings for digital image storage, manipulation and interchange*:

- *Part 1: Architecture and requirements*
- *Part 2: Reference output medium metric RGB colour image encoding (ROMM RGB)*
- *Part 3: Reference input medium metric RGB colour image encoding (RIMM RGB)* [Technical Specification]
- *Part 4: European Colour Initiative RGB colour image encoding [eciRGB (2008)]* [Technical Specification]

## Introduction

This Technical Specification has been developed in order to meet the industry need for a complete, fully documented, publicly available definition of an output-referred extended gamut RGB colour image encoding which is optimized for an 8-bit encoding and the conversion of RGB images into offset print colour spaces. Since users have also asked for a 16-bit encoding it has been added to this Technical Specification as well. This colour image encoding provides a way to represent output-referred images that does not limit the colour gamut to those colours capable of being displayed on a CRT monitor, such as that represented by the sRGB colour encoding, or require the use of negative RGB colorimetry coordinates, such as with extended sRGB colour encodings like bg-sRGB.

An extended colour-gamut colour encoding is particularly desirable for professional photography applications. For example, colours used for company logos may be outside a monitor gamut and would therefore need to be clipped or compressed to a less saturated colour. Similarly, scanned photographic prints that are to be duplicated may contain colours outside a monitor RGB colour-gamut. By using a standard output-referred extended gamut colour image encoding, images containing such colours can be stored, interchanged, manipulated, and later printed, without limiting or distorting the colours of the final output.

The European Colour Initiative (ECI) RGB colour image encoding [eciRGB (2008)] specified in this international standard meets the needs of these types of applications.

The primaries of eciRGB (2008) are between Reference Output Medium Metric RGB (ROMM RGB) and sRGB, thereby providing a larger gamut than sRGB, together with lower quantization errors than ROMM RGB. The tone curve has an encoding linear to the  $L^*$  axis defined in the CIE 1976 ( $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ ) colour space (CIELAB 1976).

This Technical Specification has been prepared to provide sufficient documentation, consistent with the definitions of ISO 22028-1, to allow the imaging community adequate opportunity for implementation and evaluation of this colour image encoding. It is anticipated that, when there is sufficient implementation of, and practical experience in the use of, eciRGB (2008), this Technical Specification can be revised as an International Standard.

The European Colour Initiative owns the copyright on the name eciRGB (2008) and has granted ISO the irrevocable non-exclusive right to use the name for the purpose of this Technical Specification. A colour encoding named eciRGB was initiated by ECI in 2004. A second version of this encoding with a modified tonal curve was defined in 2008. Because of its importance to the European photographers and graphic arts industry, this Technical Specification was prepared in order to fully define eciRGB according to ISO 22028-1.

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# Photography and graphic technology — Extended colour encodings for digital image storage, manipulation and interchange —

## Part 4:

# European Colour Initiative RGB colour image encoding [eciRGB (2008)]

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification defines an extended colour-gamut output-referred RGB colour image encoding designated as European Colour Initiative RGB [eciRGB (2008)]. Digital images encoded using eciRGB (2008) can be manipulated, stored, transmitted, displayed, or printed by digital still picture imaging systems. Two precision levels are defined, using 8 bits/channel and 16 bits/channel.

## 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.

ISO 3664:2009, *Graphic technology and photography — Viewing conditions*  
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ISO 11664-1, *Colorimetry — Part 1: CIE standard colorimetric observers*

ISO 22028-1, *Photography and graphic technology — Extended colour encodings for digital image storage, manipulation and interchange — Part 1: Architecture and requirements*

CIE Publication 15, *Colorimetry*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### adapted white

colour stimulus that an observer who is adapted to the viewing environment would judge to be perfectly achromatic and to have a luminance factor of unity, i.e. absolute colorimetric coordinates that an observer would consider to be a perfect white diffuser

NOTE The adapted white can vary within a scene.

### 3.2

#### additive RGB colour space

a colorimetric colour space having three colour primaries (generally red, green and blue) such that CIE XYZ tristimulus values can be determined from the RGB colour space values by forming a weighted combination of the CIE XYZ tristimulus values for the individual colour primaries, where the weights are proportional to the radiometrically linear colour space values for the corresponding colour primaries

NOTE 1 A simple linear  $3 \times 3$  matrix transformation can be used to transform between CIE XYZ tristimulus values and the radiometrically linear colour space values for an additive RGB colour space.

NOTE 2 Additive RGB colour spaces are defined by specifying the CIE chromaticity values for a set of additive RGB primaries and a colour space white point, together with a colour component transfer function

### 3.3 colorimetric colour space

a colour space having an exact and simple relationship to CIE colorimetric values

NOTE Colorimetric colour spaces include those defined by CIE (e.g. CIE XYZ, CIELAB, CIELUV, etc.), as well as colour spaces that are simple transformations of those colour spaces (e.g. additive RGB colour spaces).

### 3.4 colour component transfer function

single variable, monotonic mathematical function applied individually to one or more colour channels of a colour space

NOTE 1 Colour component transfer functions are frequently used to account for the nonlinear response of a reference device and/or to improve the visual uniformity of a colour space.

NOTE 2 Generally, colour component transfer functions will be nonlinear functions such as a power-law (i.e. "gamma") function or a logarithmic function. However, in some cases a linear colour component transfer function can be used.

### 3.5 colour encoding

a generic term for a quantized digital encoding of a colour space, encompassing both colour space encodings and colour image encodings

### 3.6 colour gamut

solid in a colour space, consisting of all those colours that are either: present in a specific scene, artwork, photograph, photomechanical, or other reproduction; or capable of being created using a particular output device and/or medium

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### 3.7 colour image encoding

digital encoding of the colour values for a digital image, including the specification of a colour space encoding, together with any information necessary to properly interpret the colour values such as the image state, the intended image viewing environment and the reference medium

NOTE 1 In some cases the intended image viewing environment will be explicitly defined for the colour image encoding. In other cases, the intended image viewing environment can be specified on an image-by-image basis using metadata associated with the digital image.

NOTE 2 Some colour image encodings will indicate particular reference medium characteristics, such as a reflection print with a specified density range. In other cases the reference medium will be not applicable, such as with a scene-referred colour image encoding, or will be specified using image metadata.

NOTE 3 Colour image encodings are not limited to pictorial digital images that originate from an original scene, but are also applicable to digital images with content such as text, line art, vector graphics and other forms of original artwork.

### 3.8 colour rendering

mapping of image data representing the colour-space coordinates of the elements of a scene to output-referred image data representing the colour-space coordinates of the elements of a reproduction

NOTE Colour rendering generally consists of one or more of the following: compensating for differences in the input and output viewing conditions; tone scale and gamut mapping to map the scene colours onto the dynamic range and colour gamut of the reproduction; and applying preference adjustments.



**3.9****colour space**

geometric representation of colours in space, usually of three dimensions

[CIE Publication 17.4, 845-03-25]

**3.10****colour space encoding**

digital encoding of a colour space, including the specification of a digital encoding method, and a colour space value range

NOTE Multiple colour space encodings can be defined based on a single colour space where the different colour space encodings have different digital encoding methods and/or colour space value ranges. (For example, 8-bit sRGB and 10-bit e-sRGB are different colour space encodings based on a particular RGB colour space.)

**3.11****colour space white point**

colour stimulus to which colour space values are normalized

NOTE It is not necessary that the colour space white point correspond to the assumed adapted white point and/or the reference medium white point for a colour image encoding.

**3.12****extended gamut**

colour gamut extending outside that of the standard sRGB CRT display as defined by IEC 61966-2-1

**3.13****gamut mapping**

mapping of the colour-space coordinates of the elements of a source image to colour-space coordinates of the elements of a reproduction to compensate for differences in the source and output medium colour gamut capability

NOTE The term "gamut mapping" is somewhat more restrictive than the term "colour rendering" because gamut mapping is performed on colorimetry that has already been adjusted to compensate for viewing condition differences and viewer preferences, although these processing operations are frequently combined in reproduction and preferred reproduction models.

**3.14****ICC profile**

International Colour Consortium file format, used to store transforms from one colour encoding to another, e.g. from device colour coordinates to profile connection space, as part of a colour management system

**3.15****image state**

attribute of a colour image encoding indicating the rendering state of the image data

NOTE The primary image states defined in this document are the scene-referred image state, the original-referred image state and the output-referred image state.

**3.16****luminance factor**

ratio of the luminance of the surface element in the given direction to that of a perfect reflecting or transmitting diffuser identically illuminated

[CIE Publication 17.4, 845-04-69]

**3.17**

**medium black point**

neutral colour with the lowest luminance that can be produced by an imaging medium in normal use, measured using the specified measurement geometry

NOTE It is generally desirable to specify a medium black point that has the same chromaticity as the medium white point.

**3.18**

**medium white point**

neutral colour with the highest luminance that can be produced by an imaging medium in normal use, measured using the specified measurement geometry

**3.19**

**output-referred image state**

image state associated with image data that represents the colour-space coordinates of the elements of an image that has undergone colour rendering appropriate for a specified real or virtual output device and viewing conditions

NOTE 1 When the phrase “output-referred” is used as a qualifier to an object, it implies that the object is in an output-referred image state. For example, output-referred image data are image data in an output-referred image state.

NOTE 2 Output-referred image data are referred to the specified output device and viewing conditions. A single scene can be colour rendered to a variety of output-referred representations depending on the anticipated output viewing conditions, media limitations, and/or artistic intents.

NOTE 3 Output-referred image data can become the starting point for a subsequent reproduction process. For example, sRGB output-referred image data are frequently considered to be the starting point for the colour re-rendering performed by a printer designed to receive sRGB image data.

**3.20**

**tristimulus values**

amounts of the three reference colour stimuli, in a given trichromatic system, required to match the colour of the stimulus considered

[CIE Publication 17.4, 845-03-22]

**3.21**

**veiling glare**

light, reflected from an imaging medium, that has not been modulated by the means used to produce the image

NOTE 1 Veiling glare lightens and reduces the contrast of the darker parts of an image.

NOTE 2 In CIE 122, the veiling glare of a CRT display is referred to as ambient flare.

**3.22**

**viewing flare**

veiling glare that is observed in a viewing environment but not accounted for in radiometric measurements made using a prescribed measurement geometry

NOTE The viewing flare is expressed as a percentage of the luminance of adapted white.

## 4 Requirements

### 4.1 General

European Colour Initiative RGB [eciRGB (2008)] is an extended gamut RGB colour image encoding for representing the colorimetry of display-referred image data in a display-referred image. The output-referred image data has the intended colour appearance when viewed on a reference colour monitor in

a reference viewing environment. The image colorimetry is encoded in terms of an additive RGB colour space associated with a hypothetical additive colour device having a specified set of primaries, no cross-talk between the colour channels and a luminance dynamic range defined by an associated medium black point and medium white point.

The encoding can either be in 8 bits/channel or 16 bits/channel (24 bits/pixel or 48 bits/pixel).

The image colorimetry shall be based on flareless (or instrument flare corrected) colorimetric measurements as described in CIE Publication 15 using the CIE 1931 Standard Colorimetric Observer defined in ISO 11664-1.

NOTE The intended colour appearance can be reproduced on a physical device in an actual viewing environment, only when the actual viewing environment matches the reference viewing environment. See Annex B for recommended tolerances for viewing eciRGB (2008)-encoded data in an actual viewing environment.

The colour image encoding defined in this Technical Specification conforms to the requirements defined in ISO 22028-1:2004, Clause 5.

## 4.2 Reference viewing environment

### 4.2.1 General

The following reference viewing conditions define the reference viewing environment for the eciRGB (2008) colour image encoding. They are based on conditions for appraisal of images displayed on colour monitors as specified in ISO 3664:2009, 4.5. These specifications are applicable for images viewed independently of any form of hardcopy; they are not designed for direct comparison between hardcopy and softcopy.

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### 4.2.2 Ambient illumination

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When measured, with the monitor turned off, at the monitor faceplate, the ambient illumination level shall be equal to 32 lx. When measured, with the monitor turned off, in any plane between the monitor and the observer, the ambient illumination level shall be within the range of 16 lx to 64 lx. The ambient illumination shall have the same chromaticity as the white point of the display.

### 4.2.3 Reference display surround

The area immediately surrounding the displayed image may affect the local state of adaptation of the eye upon viewing the image. This surround shall be a neutral gray, of the same chromaticity as the reference display white point. The surround shall extend at least two degrees from the edge of the image in all directions. Its luminance shall be 20 % of the reference display white point, that is, 32,00 cd/m<sup>2</sup>.

NOTE If the monitor is equipped with a hood, the ambient illumination of the extended surround outside the hood can be kept higher than the ambient illumination at the monitor faceplate, possibly enabling the use of a reflective extended surround.

### 4.2.4 Image size and viewing distance

The normal to the centre of the display faceplate shall be the viewer's direction of gaze. The viewing distance shall be equal to the image diagonal, or longest chord.

### 4.2.5 Glare

The veiling glare in the reference viewing environment shall be included in the display black point, as would result from measurement of the display from the viewer position in the reference viewing