Simultaneous interpretation equipment

The quality and reliability of the equipment determines the quality and reliability of the interpretation and thereby the success of your meeting. On this page, you will find some basic information on SI equipment.

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It is in your best interest to use standardised equipment and competent technicians to set it up and run it.

Your consultant interpreter can give you names of reputable SI equipment suppliers and estimate how many booths, microphones and delegate headsets you should request from your supplier.

What is needed

The equipment you need includes interpretation booths (one per output language), interpreter consoles, mixer, transmission system, headset receivers for participants and interpreters, microphones for interpreters and for participants.

Your SI equipment supplier and your consultant interpreter can advise you on the specific needs for your meeting.

Booths

For simultaneous interpretation you will normally need one booth per language. The booths should conform to ISO 2063 (built-in) or ISO 4043 (mobile) booth standards.

They should be sound-proof and have a silent ventilation system. This will ensure better communication and trouble-free listening by delegates.

The ISO 4043 and 2063 Standards produced by AIIC with ISO cover basically the following points:

1. **Size**: A mobile 2-person booth measures 1.60 m wide x 1.60 m deep x 2.00 m high.
2. **Location**: Booths must be placed in such a way as to give interpreters an unobstructed clear view of speakers and of the screen used for presentations, and allow them to gauge the reaction of participants.
3. **Windows**: Booths should have clear (not tinted) glass or plexiglass windows – one covering the front from table height to almost top and one covering the front half of the side.
4. **Ventilation**: Each booth must have a silent ventilator, usually fit into the roof at the back, appropriate lighting (small movable desk lamps), and be properly sound-proofed.
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