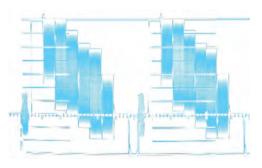
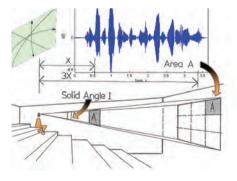


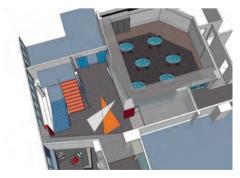
# Audio Visual Design Guidelines Tertiary Teaching Spaces













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## 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Scope, Purpose, and Application

The Design Guidelines assemble national and international benchmarks for audio visual systems in a tertiary education context and draw upon the collective experience of members of the Association of Educational Technology Managers (AETM), the prime industry association representing audio visual professionals in the tertiary sector.

The Design Guidelines have two objectives.

First, they provide usable advice for Architects, Engineers and Consultants in the essential requirements for successfully integrating audio visual systems in learning spaces.

Second, to guide academic staff, project managers and administrative staff, in both best practice and minimum requirements for specific types of AV fit-out in learning spaces. These sections have been developed by surveying the membership to bring together a national consensus across more than thirty tertiary institutions.

The Design Guidelines do not define architectural, electrical, or acoustic standards, nor do they replace the use of applicable Australian and International standards and building codes. However audio visual presentation and communications facilities are essential to modern teaching and learning and the successful provision of AV functionality in tertiary learning environments places specific requirements on the design of the space, the acoustic and lighting environment and the provision of electrical and data services.

By providing an underlying framework of design principles, the Design Guidelines supplement the technology specific AV design guidelines and specifications developed by individual institutions.

The Guidelines will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure their continued relevance. The current and definitive copy will be stored online, accessible to all AETM members.

## 1.2 About the Association of Educational Technology Managers (AETM)

The AETM represents the Audio Visual professionals employed in the tertiary education sector, one of the largest and most active segments of the AV industry in Australasia. Our members are responsible for the Audio Visual technology in teaching spaces which cater for more than a million students. These comprise around 6,200 Lecture Theatres, Seminar Rooms and specialist teaching spaces which have significant Audio Visual systems installed.

The Association of Educational Technology Managers was formed in 2001 to develop cross-university links to share expertise and provide opportunities for training and professional development. AETM members need to be widely skilled, for in addition to standard projection, PA and control systems, most Universities also manage Videoconference networks and more than half operate systems for automated lecture recording and delivery.

The Association currently organizes a national conference each year at which members present papers on important projects and new developments in their institutions. Major suppliers are invited to participate to present technical sessions relevant to the University market. The association maintains an active mailing list and discussion forum which members use to share expertise and information.

The association also functions as a focal point for links with other AV organizations such as the ICIA.

In 2008, AETM has established a formal link with equivalent UK professional body SCHOMS and extended the relationships between University AV specialists internationally. Members now field advice from colleagues across Britain and provide reciprocal presentations at each other's major conferences.

To find out more about the AETM, visit the website at www.aetm.org

## 1.3 AETM Design Guidelines Developers

AETM Working Party – Design Standards for Teaching Spaces

#### Committee Composition:

#### First Edition

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Robert Bull University of Newcastle
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#### 1.4 Disclaimer

Use of these Design Guidelines by any institution or person is entirely voluntary. Users are solely responsible for the correct application of these guidelines and AETM does not assume responsibility for any loss or dispute arising from any use or misuse of these Guidelines. Compliance with the provisions of the Design Guidelines in whole or part does not confer certification or endorsement by AETM of any such complying specification, design, installation or system.

## 1.5 Publishing and Copyright

These Design Guidelines were first published in November 2010.

This edition © 2012 AETM.

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## 2. Process

The design of modern learning spaces with integrated educational technology requires a coordinated project team and collaborative process from the earliest stages of project definition and concept design. The solutions needed to meet the requirements of modern teaching and learning often include distributed AV solutions with sophisticated media and communications technology.

The educational technology solution chosen for each venue can substantially change the spacial requirements and budget for learning spaces. Therefore it is critical to consider AV solutions at the early feasibility stages of the project. To formulate a project preliminary budget or architectural concept without the early input of AV expertise will put the project at risk unnecessarily. The most cost effective time to make changes is early in the project lifecycle.

AV expertise is required at the earliest feasibility stages to:

- document the technology functionality requirements of those who will use the spaces
- discuss technology options with clients and stakeholders including the institution's AV staff
- develop a technology concept that can then be incorporated into the project feasibility assessment, preliminary budget estimate and the design brief that goes to market.

Any successful project which includes a professional audio visual installation must provide for clear definition and management of goals, processes, resources, and responsibilities between the design and installation project teams and the client. This becomes even more vital in the tertiary education environment where new installations must function in the context of existing integrated AV Systems and the needs of a diverse end user group.

AETM supports the contention of the International Communications Industry Association (ICIA) that: A properly documented audio visual system provides the information necessary to understand and implement the system goals and project requirements in a logical and efficient manner. The documentation should complement and coordinate related architectural, engineering, and construction documentation<sup>1</sup>.

Whether the particular project involves a consultant, a design and construct (D&C) contract, or an in-house fit-out supplied by the institution, it is vital that the design and construction teams not only document properly, but also consult adequately (and in a timely fashion) with the institution's audio visual services staff.

This section provides guidance as to how this may best be achieved.

## 2.1 International Standards for an AV Design Process

AETM supports industry wide initiatives to define professional practice in Audio Visual Systems design and in particular the ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010: Standard Guide for Audiovisual Systems Design and Coordination Processes.

To comply with the AETM Design Guidelines the design process for AV systems and the coordination of AV design in building projects must follow the ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010 standard (as amended). One or more copies of the standard shall be purchased by the project and used to define the services required and process to be followed. The standard is available for purchase from: http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI%2FINFOCOMM+2M-2010

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010: Standard Guide for Audiovisual Systems Design and Coordination Processes

## 2.2 Audio Visual Designer

The role of the audio visual "Designer" as defined by the ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010 standard must be performed by a specialist experienced in tertiary audio visual design. The designer may be sourced from a services consulting firm with a dedicated AV specialist team, or from the AV design staff of the tertiary institution. One or more AV designers may be involved at various stages of the project. The minimum qualifications and experience criteria for the key project personnel of any proposed AV Designer shall be:

An Infocomm CTS-D qualification with minimum 1 year of relevant experience, a portfolio of AV schematics and built designs created by that individual that are assessed by the institution's AV staff as satisfactory and two positive client referees

#### OR

3 years of intensive and relevant experience as an AV designer, a portfolio of AV schematics for built designs created by that individual that are assessed by the institution's AV staff as satisfactory and two positive client referees

Unless they include a dedicated specialist AV team with the above experience and qualifications, generalist electrical engineering consulting firms do not have the required skills and experience to design AV solutions for the tertiary sector.

## 2.3 AV Design Stages and Sign offs

The AV designer must actively participate, both prior to, and at the consultation and "sign off" points in the project definition and detailed design processes<sup>2</sup>.

#### I. Project Planning and Coordination

Input from the Institution's own AV Design team or from an AV Consultant is most useful in the planning stage to properly establish the scope for the project. Best practice is to use specialist AV advice at the following stages:

- Initial and subsequent client consultation meetings to define the project brief
- Sign off on the project design brief for bidding architectural design teams.
- Sign off on the AV sections of the preliminary budget estimate

#### II. Briefing /Concept Design

It is important to avoid over or under-resourcing the AV fit out by conducting a discipline specific "Needs Analysis". This should involve the AV Designer or Consultant working with the project team and may include interviews with the wider user group to separate "needs" from "wants".

A properly executed Audio Visual Return Brief & Concept Design is invaluable at SD stage to correctly identify budget requirements and design strategies for teaching spaces. Standard Quantity Surveying methodology often fails to accurately capture requirements for teaching spaces and this can lead to poor budgetary outcomes if AV is left until Detailed Design stage.

Best practice involvement by the AV Designer or consultant is at the following stages:

- At project kick-off consultation meeting(s)
- Sign off on Sketch or Concept Design

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Refer to the ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010 standard for a detailed description of the AV design services and deliverables required from the AV Designer

#### III. Detailed Design

Architecture and Infrastructure requirements related to teaching spaces will be clearly defined through the AV Designer's input and through the various documentation they will produce.

At DD Stage, the Designer should sign-off on sightlines and viewing conditions as well as defining needed electrical and data infrastructure in teaching, learning and meeting spaces.

The AV Designer or Consultant will produce the AV specific tender package documentation (or oversee the in-house design estimation) and must sign-off prior to tender issue.

The Designer or Consultant will normally recommend (or approve, depending on the institution and the contract) the selection of the Audio Visual Systems Integrator who will manage the fit-out.

#### IV. Construction phase

During construction, the AV Designer or Consultant must provide advice and help to resolve any issues that arise concerning AV infrastructure. They must also sign off on acceptance testing of the completed system and provide their overall sign off on project completion.

# 3. Engagement of the Institution's A/V Staff

Since the project will almost certainly have to fit within the institution's existing AV infrastructure, the AETM mandates that the institution's audio visual services staff be involved in the process from the Concept Design phase. Often the institution's AV staff have years of practical experience specific to educational technology in that institution and are a valuable resource to the project. Long after the project team has forgotten about the project, the institution's AV staff will be supporting what was built, so they are in every sense a stakeholder.

The following guidelines for the engagement of the institution's AV staff have been adapted from the Design Guidelines of the University of Technology Sydney. With the written approval of the institution's AV services management, some of the processes listed below may be delegated to the appointed AV designer.

## 3.1 Project Initiation

In addition to the AV designer, the institution's AV Services staff should be involved in briefings during the project definition/development phase. AV solutions in modern learning spaces have changed dramatically in recent years and AV presentation and communications technology for meeting spaces is often a critical facility for research collaboration. The knowledge that academic staff have of presentation and communications technology is often based on what they have had in the past. The AV services staff can use their experience of modern educational technology and the institution to assist clients and project staff to identify affordable technology options that best fit the current and future educational needs

To allow AV Services to participate effectively they should be advised in writing of the proposed:

- Critical dates and milestones
- Project Stakeholders
- External Consultants

In preparation of budgets, the existing Audio Visual Infrastructure and the level of support from University AV Services must be taken into account.

Where a project proposes a modification of any existing audio visual facilities or where building works will directly or indirectly affect existing systems, the Project Planner /Manager must advise the institution's audio visual services management in writing during the project definition stage.

#### 3.2 Consultation

Consultation with the institution's AV Services staff is essential for any project where the proposed functionality of the space requires presentation technology.

In particular, AV services staff must be must be given adequate notice of the proposed tender issue dates to:

- Allow for the preparation of AV specifications; or (where an external consultant is involved)
- Allow for the review of such specifications prior to issue

One calendar month should be regarded as the minimum notification to University AV Services of the posting of tender documentation.

The institution's audio visual services staff must be consulted to:

- specify brands and models of certain equipment to ensure commonality and ease of fleet maintenance
- specify access requirements to equipment, housings and cabling to ensure maintainability and safe working conditions
- specify electrical interconnection standards to ensure compatibility with portable or user supplied equipment

#### 3.3 Communication

The institution's AV services management must be informed of all project related site meeting schedules and consultant meetings where appropriate.

Specific documentation for each project is to be forwarded to the AV Services management including:

- Floor Plans
- Elevations
- Reflected ceiling drawings
- Electrical drawings
- Audiovisual, Lighting and Acoustics Consultants Reports
- Works Schedule
- List of relevant sub-contractors

Note that drawings should be supplied in electronic form for mark-up.

## 3.4 Approvals

#### **Supply of Samples for Approval**

Components detailed in AV specifications supplied either by institution's AV services staff or as part of approved tender documentation provided by consultants cannot be substituted without the express written consent of the institution. For verification of specified components, sub-contractors must produce samples for inspection by a representative of institution's AV services staff. This particularly applies to those components that form the infrastructure of the installation including cables, connectors, conduit, cable trays, ducting and mounting brackets.

#### **Final Positioning**

Unless specifically noted, drawings contained in AV Specifications prepared by the institution's AV services staff that show installed positions are indicative only. Final positions for installed components must be approved on-site by the appropriate University AV Services manager or his/her delegate.

#### **Acceptance Testing**

The institution's AV services staff will inspect the installation to confirm that it complies with the tender specification.

#### 3.5 Documentation

#### **Brief Development**

The institution's AV services staff will be available to assist with brief development and should be involved in the first round of consultation.

#### As-Built Drawings

Copies of all shop drawings and as built drawings are to be provided to the institution's AV services staff at practical completion.

A suitably protected set of documentation should be provided on site, preferably located in a holder located in the equipment rack. All drawings are to comply with the institution's drawing standards or with the ANSI Standard referenced above.

# 4. Screens, Specifications and Sightlines

#### 4.1 Introduction

#### **Design Goals**

Screen based presentations are crucial part of modern teaching and learning practice. The content displayed can vary between:

- PowerPoint presentations
- videos and cinema,
- websites of all kinds
- spread sheets
- detailed, graphs, charts plans and illustrations
- fine text from books, magazines and websites
- scientific data and visualisations
- and much more

#### Specifying Presentation Screens and Ceiling Heights

To enable the detailed content to be read by all the audience the display screen(s) must be of sufficient size in proportion to the distance of the furthest audience member.

Consequently the determination of the screen size must not be an arbitrary decision, but rather a result of the strict application of the viewing distance rules below. Stated as a simple "rule of thumb", the aim is to make the screen large enough for those in the back row to read the 10pt body text of a standard website, but not so large as to overwhelm the closest viewer.

Unless designed to be fit for purpose, the ceiling heights the presentation spaces of modern buildings can be insufficient to allow appropriately sized screens. Such low height spaces put their original purpose at risk by making presentations hard to see or by limiting class size. A simple rule to remember is that if the room is longer than 7.5 m then the ceiling height must be greater than 2.7m to provide acceptable screen viewing.

#### Audience Area and Angles of View

The acceptable area for audience placement in front of a screen is determined by the horizontal and vertical angle of view as well as the distance to the display for the closest and furthest viewers. These factors must also be determined by the application of the following rules and not be defined in an ad-hoc manner.

#### **Multiple Screens**

In many educational organisations the presentation of two independent images is now a standard requirement for medium to large presentation spaces. Independent dual screens/displays allow educators to present complementary information. For example: a PowerPoint presentation on one screen and live notation on a visualiser on the other.

#### Screen Aspect Ratio

Wide screen and high definition has been the standard for video and television in Australia since 2001 and most modern laptops have a wide screen display.

AETM recommends projection in either the 16:9 or 16:10 ratio as this better matches modern film and television programming and compliments the output of wide screen laptops and material such as spread sheets.

#### **Partial Conformity**

The AETM recognises that site conditions, Heritage considerations, and other factors sometimes cause difficulty with full compliance to all of the rules for screens listed below, especially during refurbishment projects.

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Compliance is often most difficult for those audience members seated closest to the screens. Teaching spaces typically fill from the back, with front rows more likely to be empty. Consequently if compromise regarding a rule is unavoidable, then it is preferable that the rules compromised relate to viewing angles (which will primarily affect the closest viewers) rather than the maximum viewing distance versus display size rule (Rule 1). Agreement in writing for any compromise must be obtained from the AV designer and the AV staff representative of the institution.

To remain in compliance with the AETM Design Guidelines no more than 10% of the seats in any teaching space can fall outside any rule.

## 4.2 Rules for Screen Size and Sightlines

#### Rule 1: Screen Height and Maximum Viewing Distance

The <u>height</u> of the projection screen or flat panel display shall be no less than the distance from the centre of the screen to furthest audience member divided by 5.3

#### Background to Rule 1

The calculation of the minimum allowable screen height or conversely the maximum allowable viewing distance for a given screen height, depends on the nature of the material displayed and the intent of the viewer. The AETM recognises two applicable standards and provide guidelines that take account of both.

Internationally, the ICIA standards specify three types of viewing tasks. In the context of tertiary instruction, where students are required to pay close attention to screen images and (often) take notes, two of these are generally applicable:

- Detailed Viewing Tasks (e.g. note taking from text based slides)
- Inspection Viewing Tasks (e.g. viewing graphic material such as complex mathematical equations, engineering drawings or medical slides containing specific detail such as x-rays)

#### ICIA recommendations for Detailed Viewing Tasks (text based) are:

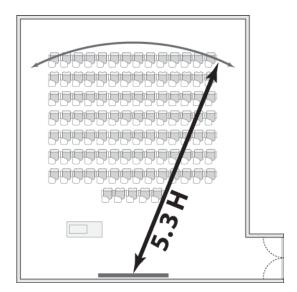
The height of the projection screen or flat panel display shall be no less than the distance to furthest audience member divided by 6.

#### ICIA recommendations for Inspection Viewing Tasks (detailed graphics) are:

The height of the projection screen or flat panel display shall be no less than the distance to furthest audience member divided by 4.

Individual institutions sometimes provide in-house standards that provide for some spaces to conform to the ICIA recommendations for Detailed Viewing Tasks and define a viewing ratio of 6:1 for appropriate spaces. Sometimes a ratio of 4:1 as per the stricter ICIA recommendations for detailed graphics will be defined for specialist classrooms (especially in disciplines such as Medicine and Engineering).

The resolution of the projector or display must also be considered when determining the appropriate sizing ratio to be used. For example a high definition WUXGA projector (1920 x 1200 pixels) requires a screen substantially larger than one used with XGA or WXGA projectors if the readability of text and detailed images is to be maintained. When using high definition displays or projectors with a vertical resolution of 1080 pixels or more, the use of the AETM recommended screen sizing ratio below should be treated as an absolute minimum and consideration should be given to more stringent ratios.



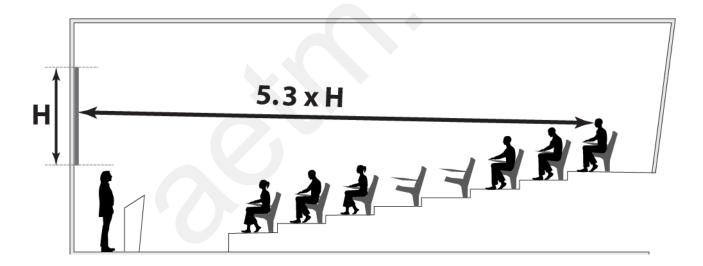
Recognising that most classrooms and lecture theatres are general purpose and may cater for both kinds of tasks, AETM recommends that:

The <u>height</u> of the projection screen or flat panel display shall be no less than the distance from the centre of the screen to furthest audience member divided by 5.3.

## **Application of Rule 1**

Where "H" is equal to the height of the projection screen, the furthest viewer must be seated no more than a distance equal to  $5.3 \times H$  from the centre of the screen.

Conversely, for a given distance from the centre of the screen to the furthest seating position, the screen height must be at least equal to that distance divided by 5.3.



The table opposite indicates examples of maximum distances serviced by standard, commonly available 16:10 screen sizes. "Maximum Viewing Distance" is the distance to the furthest audience member measured in metres (to nearest 10 cm).

*Notes:* standard sizes are often specified in imperial measure.

#### **Maximum Viewing Distances** 16:10 Screens ICIA Detailed **ICIA** Inspection **Diagonal** Width Height **AETM** Inches (mm) (viewable (viewable **Viewing** Viewing Recommended area in mm) area in mm) Нх6 $H \times 4$ H x 5.3 84 (2130) 1810 1131 6.8 m 4.5 m 6.0 m 96 (2440) 2070 1294 7.8 m 5.2 m 6.9 m 100 (2540) 2155 1347 5.4 m 8.1 m 7.1 m 120 (3050) 2585 1616 9.7 m 6.5 m 8.6 m 130 (3300) 2880 1800 10.8 m 7.2 m 9.5 m 150 (3810) 3230 2019 12.1 m 8.1 m 10.7 m 200 (5000) 4300 2700 16.2 m 10.8 m 14.3 m 300 (7600) 4000 6450 24.0 m 16.0 m 21.2 m

The table below is provided as a "quick reference" to illustrate the increasing height requirements as the floor space becomes larger. The ceiling height at the point where the screen is fixed must be no less than in the table below.

**Notes:** If bulkheads, air conditioning ducts, beams or other ceiling obstructions are present at the point where the screen is to be fixed, the clear space under the obstruction is to be considered as the ceiling height available. Ceiling fans or suspended lights must also be taken into account when calculating the clear space available for the screen. It is recommended that such obstructions be avoided wherever possible during the development of the architectural design.

Ceiling height calculations based on 5.3 ratio, 1.2m off floor and projection screen case under the ceiling				
Distance to Furthest Audience Member	Required Ceiling Height (m)			
<7.5m	2.7			
7.6 - 8m	2.8			
8.1 - 8.5 m	2.9			
8.6 - 9.1m	3.0			
9.2 - 9.6m	3.1			
9.7m - 10.1m	3.2			
10.8 -11.2m	3.4			
11.8 - 12.2	3.6			
12.9 - 13.3m	3.8			
13.9 - 14.4m	4.0			
For every 475mm extra distance add 100mm ceiling height				

#### Rule 2: Maximum Horizontal Viewing Angle

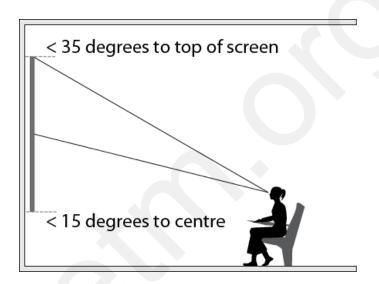
The maximum horizontal viewing angle shall be 45 degrees from the centre line of the screen.

**Notes:** The legibility of text and images will be too compromised at greater angles. For wide spaces repeater screens may be an option.

#### Rule 3: Maximum Vertical Viewing Angle

The maximum vertical viewing angle shall be no more than (plus or minus) 15 degrees to the centre of the image, measured from perpendicular at seated eye height (1270mm AFFL) from the front row centre seat. For tight spaces, this rule may be relaxed to a maximum angle of 35 degrees to the TOP of screen.

**Notes:** The rule aims to prevent neck and eye strain for audience members.

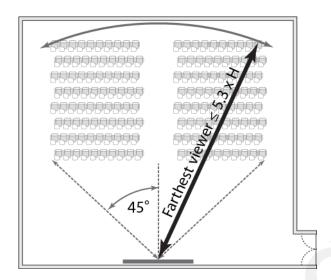


Rule 4: Screen Bottom Edge Minimum Distance from the Floor

For flat floor venues with an unobstructed view the screen shall be positioned so that the bottom edge of the viewable area is no less than 1.2m above the floor.

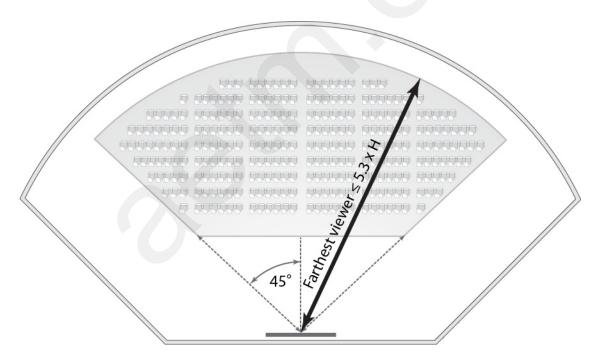
**Notes:** The preferred height is 1.35m or more. In tiered venues the height may be lowered marginally to suit, however the decision on the screen position must take into account the potential issue of glare in the presenter's eyes from the projector. In labs or other spaces where there are obstructions, the screen must be positioned to allow for a clear view over or around the obstructions while at the same time staying taking into account the maximum viewing angles.

## Illustrations



Shows the floor plan of a rectangular lecture theatre which meets the requirements for viewing angles and distances.

H = screen height.



Shows the floor plan of an auditorium style lecture theatre which meets the requirements for viewing angles and distances.

H = screen height.

#### 4.3 Recommendations for Screens

#### Viewing Conditions for Dual or Multiple Screens

Where a teaching space is fitted with more than one screen, the rules should be applied for each screen to ensure that, where different information is to be displayed on each screen, the viewing area falls within the maximum distances and within acceptable angle of view for both screens. This involves calculating distances and angles for viewer to "worst case" screen.

On the advice of the institution and in the case where identical information is displayed on all screens, the calculations may be made for "best case".

#### Recommendations for Dual Projection/Display

Dual projection is recommended by AETM as best practice for presenting educational material on screen. Dual projection is adopted by most educational institutions for lecture theatres and larger presentation spaces. The benefits are:

- Ability to present complimentary and/or comparative material simultaneously
- The ability for most presentations to continue should a lamp or projector fail
- Improved sightlines for audience members on the sides (when showing the same image on both projectors)
- Better support for video conference applications

#### Recommendations for Screen Aspect Ratio

A projection area or screen with a 16:10 (width to height) ratio is recommended for lecture theatres. This is ideal for the typical display ratio adopted by most wide screen PCs and laptops and also suits modern film and television programming presented in 16:9 ratio.

When direct view monitors are used, AETM recommends the use of monitors with a 16:10 aspect ratio where available; however 16:9 (typically the standard aspect ratio for larger monitors) is also acceptable.

#### Recommendations for Projector Placement

#### **Vertical Position**

The height that a projector is positioned is dependent on a number of factors. Each projector has different optical characteristics and a manufacturers recommended vertical position in relation to a given screen size. To ensure a high quality image the projector must be installed in the manufacturer's recommended vertical position. Higher quality installation grade projectors often include a lens shift function that allows a range of vertical positions to be used. In all cases the projector must be installed horizontally level. Commonly the highest position that a projector with lens shift can achieve is level with the top of the screen image area. The use of electronic keystone correction to correct the optical aberrations caused by the incorrect placement of a projector is generally unacceptable since even small amounts or electronic keystone degrades the clarity of the image.

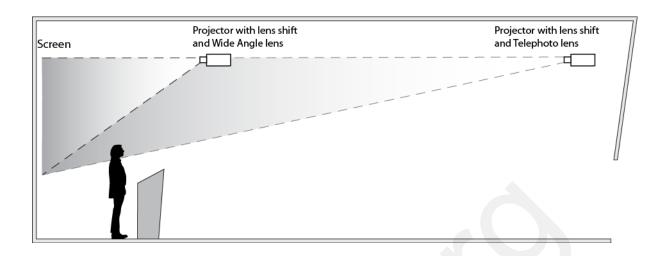
#### **Horizontal Position**

The decision on the placement of the projector is also influenced by a number of considerations:

- Ease of maintenance,
- Projector noise intrusion
- The presenter's workable area in front of the screen free from projector glare.
- The additional cost of telephoto or short throw (wide angle lenses)
- Security concerns

Where the venue is equipped with a projection booth, the maintenance, security and noise benefits of placing the projector(s) there are considerable.

The ability of the presenters to walk in front of the screen without contending with the glare from the projector in their faces is also an important factor to be considered with possible OH&S implications. The closer a projector is to the screen the steeper the angle of light and the more glare free work area is created. See the illustration below:



This issue becomes even more critical for interactive whiteboard applications. Consequently a range of ultra-short throw projectors are available that overcome the problem.

However short throw technology is only suitable for a screen with a gain of 1 or less. Where gain is a factor (for example in rear projection) screen manufacturers<sup>3</sup> recommend that the projector be placed at a distance of greater than 1.6 x screen width (16:10) to avoid excessive angles of incidence which will cause brightness issues at the edges of the picture.

## 4.4 Image Quality and Lighting

#### Contrast Ratio Standard for Projected Images

(See also section 5.4 Ratio of Projected Versus Ambient or "Spilled' Light)

#### **Standards Compliance**

To provide acceptable legibility for projected images, the contrast ratio (the difference between peak white and "black" in the projected picture) must fall within defined minimum limits. The contrast ratio achievable in a teaching space depends upon the brightness of the projected image (the "peak white") and crucially upon the amount of ambient light falling on the projection surface (which determines the "black" or minimum level).

AETM endorses the ANSI/ICIA published specification regarding contrast ratios in projected images:

#### ANSI/INFOCOMM 3M-2011: Projected Image System Contrast Ratio

To comply with the AETM Design Guidelines, in spaces that use projected images the AV Designer and Lighting Designer must design AV systems and lighting systems to meet the ANSI/INFOCOMM 3M-2011 Projected Image System Contrast Ratio standard. Copies of the standard are available for purchase from: http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI/INFOCOMM+3M-2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> April 2007 Da-Lite Screen Company Angles of reflection V1 Issue 2

#### Application of the ANSI/INFOCOMM 3M-2011 Standard in Learning Environments.

In teaching space design, and in particular in lighting design, ambient light from all sources must be controlled so that the following minimum recommendations regarding contrast ratio are achievable at the any point on the image area. Measurement must be according to the procedure outlined in the ANSI/ Infocomm standard referred to above.

Projected Contrast Ratios					
Projection Type	Examples	Minimum Contrast Ratio			
Text and Numerals	Bullet point text, documents, spread sheets, charts and graphs	7:1			
Pictorial	Black and white or colour photographs, artwork, illustrations	15:1			
Motion Pictures	Film, video, or television programs	80:1 (best practice) 50:1 (minimum acceptable for classroom viewing)			

Table 4-1

In lecture theatres and other tertiary education presentation spaces the standard lighting pre-set for projected presentations also provides workable levels of light for student note taking. This pre-set would correspond with the 7:1 contrast ratio target. Commonly the next lighting pre-set in a lecture theatre provides lower light levels in the space. The purpose of this pre-set is to provide the best quality of image possible while still accommodating note taking by students. The 15:1 contrast ratio target is appropriate for this pre-set. The final pre-set in a theatre is usually reserved for the presentation of cinema or similar material. A 50:1 contrast ratio target is appropriate for these purposes in an educational environment.

The ANSI/INFOCOMM standard for contrast ratios may on occasions be difficult to achieve while at the same time providing sufficient light to illuminate the presenter and the students' writing surfaces, however it is essential that it is achieved. All uncontrolled light that reflects off surfaces can be detrimental. Light coloured floor coverings and furniture near the projection screens should be avoided as much as possible since they will reflect significant amounts of light from the spot and stage lights onto the screens.

#### Recommendations for Minimum Projector Brightness

Large venues require large screens, which in turn require powerful projectors. For example, using the inverse square law we know that a screen twice the width requires a projector 4 times as powerful to achieve the same brightness on the screen. ANSI lumens is a measure of light emitted by a projector and Lux is a measure of light falling on a given area.

A common target for projection is 500 Lux for any given screen size. This target is usually achievable for small to mid-sized venues; however this is progressively more difficult to achieve in large venues without the use of expensive cinema grade projectors. For large venues a more achievable and affordable target for large venues is 300 Lux, however this reduced target will only comply with the ANSI contrast ratio standard if the lighting is carefully designed to significantly restrict ambient or spilled light falling on the projection screen(s).

The AETM recommends that for all spaces of more than 100 seat capacity the following process occur at the commencement of the detailed design phase:

- The AV Designer provides to the Lighting Designer for sign off the calculated LUX values for the proposed projection screen and projectors solution.
- The Lighting Designer provides for sign off by the AV designer the results of a computer lighting model of the proposed lighting design that confirms the achievement of the 7:1, 15:1 and 50:1 contrast targets mandated by the ANSI standard for contrast ratios.

As a general reference the table below provides a guide to the recommended minimum projector light output

Recommended Minimum Projector Light Output					
Screen Size (Diagonal)	Screen Width	Screen Height	Projector ANSI Lumens		
100" (250cm)	2.15m	1.35m	3000		
120" (330cm )	2.6m	1.6m	4000		
150" (380cm)	3.2m	2.0m	5000		
200" (500cm)	4.3m	2.7m	7000		
>200" (500cm)	>4.3m	>4.3m	Specialist Hi Power		

Based on standard (imperial measure) screen sizes – metric equivalents are approximate

#### **Projection Surfaces**

Projection should ideally be onto matt white, purpose manufactured projection screen material with a gain of 1.0. (Gain is a measure of screen surface reflectivity). Screens may be fixed or retractable. Where high gain or rear projection screen material is used, the manufacturer's recommendations regarding optimum viewing angle must be followed.

#### Walls as Screens

Walls are acceptable as projection surfaces so long as they are painted flat (matt) white and are uniformly flat and perpendicular to the projector and the audience. Special paint is available for projection walls and may be specified by the standards of individual institutions.

#### Whiteboard and Writable Surfaces

Whiteboards are generally not suitable for use as projection screen surfaces as the shiny surface causes unacceptable glare and hot-spotting. Where whiteboard surfaces are used in special circumstances (for example in interactive whiteboard installations) the projector used should be of the ultra-short throw type so that most glare is reflected away from the audience area. Glass writing surfaces are not suitable as projection screens.

#### Recommendations for Flat Screen Technology

The cost of flat screen display technology has reduced significantly and for small venues and especially small video conference venues, it is now the recommended display technology.

The selection and placement of flat screen displays must be governed by the same size and sight lines rules as for projection screens (refer Section 0). Therefore a display of around 165cm (65") diagonal will service a room of around 4.5m in length.

#### Recommendations for Video Conference Venues

The display technology in video conference venues is often required to perform the dual function of both video conference calls and presentations and should be sized using the guidelines above.

The cameras used to capture videoconference images require higher lighting levels than generally needed for note-taking in lecture theatres and seminar rooms. Generally flat panel displays (such as LCD panels) are much better at coping with high levels of ambient light. Accordingly, large flat panel displays are the recommended technology for small and medium sized videoconference venues.

Further information on videoconferencing may be found in later sections of these guidelines including Section 5.18.

#### 5

# 5. Lighting Design for Teaching Spaces

## 5.1 Standards Compliance

Lighting must meet the requirements of Australian and New Zealand Standards - AS/NZS 1680 for Lighting (as amended) and the relevant government building codes. In particular lighting must conform to the relevant sections of:

AS/NZS 1680.2.1:2008 (as amended) Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Circulation spaces and other general areas

AS/NZS 1680.2.2:2008 (as amended)

Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Office and screen-based tasks AS/NZS 1680.2.3:2008 (as amended)

Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Educational and training facilities

Note that it is common for individual Universities to have their own specifications in conjunction with these standards and advice should be sought from relevant personnel.

#### 5.2 Introduction

The presentation of PowerPoint slides, websites and other visual material is an essential part of modern teaching and learning and the clarity of these images is critical to the successful use of the venue. Poor lighting design can ruin the effectiveness of projected presentations making them "washed out" and hard to read. Consequently, the importance of lighting design in all presentation and teaching spaces cannot be over-emphasized.

#### **Design Goals**

In the majority of teaching spaces, the lighting design must have the following objectives:

- Control all ambient light to allow the required contrast in projected images
- Provide note taking light and if required task lighting for students
- Properly illuminate the presenter wherever they are in the presentation area
- Properly illuminate any demonstration and presenter work spaces

#### Selection of Light Fittings

The legibility of projected images is totally dependent on the careful selection, arrangement and control of light fittings. It is essential to select fittings which provide a high degree of directional control. Lighting divided into zones; dimming (or at least selective switching); directional ambient and task lighting; spot lights; and easy to use control systems are the tools required to achieve effective lighting in presentation and teaching spaces.

During a presentation different lighting settings may be required in rapid succession. It is essential that the lights used be capable of being switched on and off (or dimmed) quickly. Lighting which requires long delays between extinguishment and re-strike, or fittings which take more than 10 seconds to achieve maximum brightness are not suitable for general purpose teaching spaces.

#### Control

Presenters need access to flexible but easy-to-use lighting controls located at the presentation position. Best practice involves the integration of lighting control with the AV control system. In larger spaces this is an essential requirement.

## 5.3 Lighting Zones and Circuits

Small to mid-sized teaching and presentation spaces with projection

For small to mid-sized teaching and presentation spaces with projection three lighting circuits\* are the minimum that shall be provided to allow sufficient zone control of lighting. Each of the circuits should preferably be controlled by a separate dimmer or by a relay controlled contactor if this is not possible.

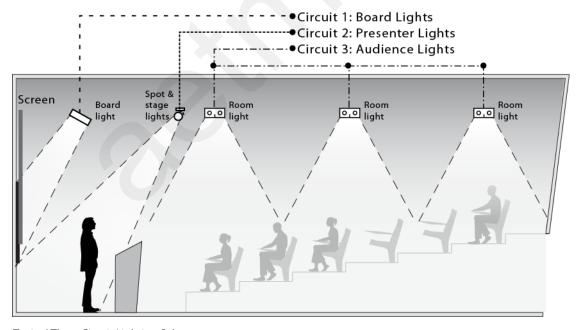
Provide separate light fittings and switching circuits for:

- 1. Front lights that spill directly on the screen (including board lights)
- 2. Directional task/spot lighting to illuminate the presenter at the lectern or presentation position without spill on the screen.
- 3. Audience area room lights

\*Other zones/circuits may be used if required, and these should be switched or dimmed separately.

Directional lighting of the presentation area is a strongly recommended feature for even small venues. Without it, the presenter will either be in the dark while presenting or will they will turn on the board lights thereby "washing out" the projected presentation.

The Graphic below illustrates a typical three circuit layout consisting of separate lighting instruments and control circuits for Board lights, Presenter illumination and audience (note taking) lights. Note that in small rooms, even if specific board lights are not used, it may be necessary to isolate the lighting nearest the screen surface so that it may be switched off during projection without affecting the note taking lights over the general audience area. Presenter lighting should be angled horizontally and or vertically by between 45 and 60 degrees to avoid dazzling the presenter and to enable them to maintain eye contact with the audience.



Typical Three Circuit Lighting Scheme

#### Lecture theatres and larger presentation spaces with projection

For lecture theatres and larger presentation spaces multiple lighting circuits shall be provided to allow sufficient zone control of lighting. In addition to the three zone scheme used in smaller teaching spaces it is usual to provide more sophisticated control over the audience area and the presentation area. All zones must be under the control of the presenter via dimmers with the exception of Exit, stair tread and safety lights (which may be required to be always on).

Provide separate light fittings and switching circuits for:

- Board lights (as required)
- Directional front stage area lighting, either spot lighting with cutters/barn doors or other forms of directional lighting that do not spill on to the screen(s). The stage lighting shall be broken into multiple zones for large venues (e.g. Stage Left, Centre and Right).
- Lectern/presentation point focused spot lights with cutters/barn doors to ensure no spill on to the screen(s).
- A minimum of 3 audience lighting zones (e.g. front, middle, back)
- Aisle lights
- Safety lights
- Other zones/circuits as required (e.g. for demonstration or performance spaces)

## 5.4 Ratio of Projected Versus Ambient or "Spilled' Light

(See also 4.4 Contrast Ratio above)

As discussed already, the clarity of projected images relies on a sufficient contrast ratio between the light from the projector and the ambient or spilled light falling on the projection screen. AETM endorses the ANSI/ICIA published specification regarding contrast ratios in projected images (ANSI/INFOCOMM 3M-2011: Projected Image System Contrast Ratio). As these standards apply to the tertiary environment, we can identify three situations:

- **a.** Projection of Text and Graphics (e.g. PowerPoint Slides or Visualiser) where it is expected that reasonable ambient light levels are provided for note taking
- b. Projection of detailed photographic images (including medical images and x-rays) where note taking is secondary to a full contrast ratio projected image which allows for the reproduction of detail in the darkest areas of the picture.
- **c.** Projection of moving images (Film and Video) where note taking is secondary to a full contrast ratio projected image which allows for the appreciation of detail in both the brightest and darkest scenes in the presentation.

It is the responsibility of the lighting designer, working with the audiovisual design consultant, to ensure that ambient light from all sources is sufficiently controlled so that the minimum recommendations regarding contrast ratio are achievable at the any point on the image area. (See Table 4 1: Projected Contrast Ratios (page 20)). Measurement must be according to the procedure outlined in the ANSI/ Infocomm standard 3M-2011. If this is not achieved the imaged will be "washed out" and be hard to read.

Control of ambient and spilled light falling on the projection screen is essential in all spaces with projection, but it is absolutely critical in larger venues. Large venues require large screens which in turn require powerful projectors. For example, using the inverse square law we know that a screen twice the width requires a projector 4 times as powerful to achieve the same brightness on the screen. In general, the audiovisual designer will declare the target illumination the projector is able to achieve given the screen size.

Compared with classroom situations described above, the projected light reflected off the screen will often be substantially reduced in these larger venues. Therefore to retain a sufficient contrast ratio between projected and ambient light the ambient light falling on the screen the lighting designer must take particular care with the directional control of light fittings and the control of external ambient light sources such as daylight.

Light coloured floor coverings and furniture near the projection screens should be avoided as much as possible since they will reflect significant amounts of light from the spot and stage lights onto the screens.

## 5.5 Target Light Levels

Actual lighting levels in practice will be set by reference to: first, Australian Standards (where appropriate) and secondly, to the requirements and standards set by the individual institution concerned. Where no institutional standards exist, this section will provide guidance as to typical situations found in undertaking the lighting design for a larger multi-purpose lecture theatre.

For a typical lecture theatre, four lighting examples are defined:

- a) Board Lighting or Demonstrations (also used as Entry/Exit lighting without board lights). This is often defined as Preset 1 or Full lighting. Board lights to be separately controllable.
- b) Text and Graphics Projection. Often Preset 2, this is the most commonly used state.
- c) Pictorial or Detailed Projection. Preset 3, this is as for 2 but with reduced audience light
- **d)** Cinema Projection. Preset 4, Projection takes precedence, plus safety lighting, with note-taking light only implemented if achievable without excessive spill.

In addition, the following measurement points are defined:

- At the surface of each student writing surface (horizontal plane)
- In the presentation area (horizontal and vertical planes)
- On the whiteboard writing surface where fitted (vertical plane)
- Spill and ambient light on the projection surface (vertical plane)
- Stair treads and safety lighting

#### Definitions:

"ANSI Lumens" – measure of light output of a projector

"LUX" is a measure of the light falling on a given area.

"Screen Gain" is how much light a surface reflects (1=100%)

#### Assumptions:

Target Projected Lux = 500+ Screen Gain = 1

#### **Example A: Whiteboard / Blackboard or Demonstration Mode**

Intent:

The lighting (and external light control) must be capable of providing suitable light levels at student writing surfaces to facilitate detailed note taking while simultaneously providing good visibility of notations being made on the whiteboard and/or of the presenter undertaking a physical demonstration in the presentation area together with a safe level of access light. Projection is generally not required in this mode so there is no specification for contrast ratio on the screen.

#### **Design Lighting Levels**

- Note taking light in student seating area shall be capable of producing between 150 (minimum) and 320 maintained lux (preferred) measured on the horizontal surface of each student writing bench.
- Separately controllable illumination of presenter to a minimum of 150 lux measured in a horizontal plane and a minimum of 50 lux in the vertical plane within the defined presentation area. Where frontal lighting is used it should be placed as close as practical to 45 degrees elevation and 45 horizontally degrees from a line perpendicular to the screen to avoid undue glare in the presenter's field of view.
- Separately controllable illumination of the whiteboard or blackboard area. Lighting to be as even as possible across the surface and should not vary by more than a ratio of 3:1 from brightest to darkest point within the board area with board lights, presenter lights and note taking lights all ON at nominal levels. Lighting must not produce glare or hot spots on the surface of the whiteboard. The average level of illumination on the board with the board lights ON should be 300 lux.
- While the amount of spill light on the screen from all sources is not defined in this mode, if there is a requirement for projection to be simultaneous with board or demonstration lighting, then spill light on the screen shall be limited so that a contrast ratio of 7:1 is achieved between the level of white illumination produced by the projector across the entire screen surface and the level of ambient light incident on the screen.
- Stair treads: refer to applicable Australian standard or local specification

## **Example B: Text and Graphics Projection Mode (with note taking)**

Intent:

The lighting (and external light control) must be capable of providing suitable light levels at student writing surfaces to facilitate detailed note taking while simultaneously providing good visibility of the presenter, a safe level of access light and adequate (7:1) contrast ratio on the screen.

#### **Design Lighting Levels**

- Note taking light in student seating area shall be capable of producing 150 maintained lux measured on the horizontal surface of each student writing bench and shall have dimming control allowing adjustment down to 10% of full brightness with no noticeable flicker. This lighting source must be controlled to minimise spill onto the projection surface (see below).
- Separately controllable illumination of presenter to a minimum of 150 maintained lux measured in a horizontal plane and a minimum of 50 maintained lux in the vertical plane within the defined presentation area. Where frontal lighting is used it should be placed at angles of between 45 and 60 degrees elevation and 45 and 60 degrees horizontally from a line perpendicular to the screen to avoid undue glare in the presenter's field of view.
- Whiteboard surface illumination is not required in this mode.
- Spill light from all sources to be limited so that when note taking light of 150 lux is achieved in the audience area, a contrast ratio of 7:1 is achieved between the level of white illumination

produced by the projector across the entire screen surface and the level of ambient light incident on the screen.

The specific expected white level from the projector should be confirmed prior to lighting design. However, as an example, where 500 lux is achieved as projected peak white, spill light from all sources must be <72 lux at any point within the image area of the screen.

• Stair treads: refer to applicable Australian standard or local specification

## **Example C: Pictorial Content or Detailed Projection Mode (with note taking)**

Intent:

The lighting (and external light control) must be capable of providing suitable light levels at student writing surfaces to facilitate note taking while simultaneously providing good visibility of the presenter, a safe level of access light and adequate (15:1) contrast ratio on the screen.

#### Design Lighting Levels

- Note taking light in student seating area shall be capable of producing 50 maintained lux measured on the horizontal surface of each student writing bench and shall have dimming control allowing adjustment down to 10% of full brightness with no noticeable flicker. This lighting source must be controlled to minimise spill onto the projection surface (see below).
- Separately controllable illumination of presenter to a minimum of 50 maintained lux meaured in a horizontal plane and a minimum of 25 maintained lux in the vertical plane within the defined presentation area. Where frontal lighting is used it should be placed at angles of between 45 and 60 degrees elevation and 45 and 60 degrees horizontally from a line perpendicular to the screen to avoid undue glare in the presenter's field of view.
- Whiteboard surface illumination is not required in this mode.
- Spill light from all sources to be limited so that when note taking light of 50 lux is achieved in the audience area, a contrast ratio of 15:1 is achieved between the level of white illumination produced by the projector across the entire screen surface and the level of ambient light incident on the screen. The specific expected white level from the projector should be confirmed prior to lighting design. However, as an example, where 500 lux is achieved as projected peak white, spill light from all sources must be <35 lux at any point within the image area of the screen.
- Stair treads: refer to applicable Australian standard or local specification

#### **Example D: Cinema Projection Mode**

Intent

The lighting (and external light control) must be capable of providing adequate (50:1) contrast ratio on the screen, along with a safe level of access light and (if possible) suitable light levels at student writing surfaces to facilitate less comprehensive note taking.

#### **Design Lighting Levels**

• Spill light from all sources to be limited so that a contrast ratio of 50:1 is achieved between the level

of white illumination produced by the projector across the entire screen surface and the level of ambient light incident on the screen.

- The specific expected white level from the projector should be confirmed prior to lighting design. However, as an example, where 500 lux is achieved as projected peak white, spill light from all sources must be <10 lux at any point within the image area of the screen.
- Where practical, note taking light in student seating area shall be capable of producing up to 50 lux measured on the horizontal surface of each student writing bench and shall have dimming control allowing adjustment down to 0% of full brightness with no noticeable flicker.
   Where note taking light cannot be achieved without compromise to the amount of spill light on the screen, then note taking light is to be reduced or eliminated
- Presenter illumination is not required in this mode.
- Whiteboard surface illumination is not required in this mode.
- Stair treads: refer to applicable Australian standard or local specification

The table below provides an example of the indicative maximum ambient/spilled light limits for different screen sizes. In all cases, the actual contrast ratio shall take precedence.

Some Common Scenarios							
Room Type Screer		Projector ANSI Lumens	Non-Std Projected on Sc			mbient Light creen (lux) <b>Photo Movie</b>	
Meeting room	100"	3000	no	600	<b>Text</b> 85	40	12
Small Seminar room	115"	3000	no	450	65	30	9
Large Seminar room < 11m	130"	4000	no	575	82	38	11
Lecture Theatre >11m	150"	5000	yes	465	66	31	9
Auditorium	200"	7500	yes	385	55	26	8

This is a guide only – actual figures may vary depending lens type, illumination source and other factors.

#### **Design Modelling**

All lighting designs should be computer modelled during the design stage to ensure that the light falling on the projection screen does not exceed these limits. If the design does not meet these standards then the specification of new light fittings and light placement will be required prior to the issue of the tender.

## 5.6 Light Fitting Selection

Light fittings with good directional control are required to eliminate glare and unwanted lighting spill on projections screens. The closer the lights are to the projection screens the more important this requirement becomes.

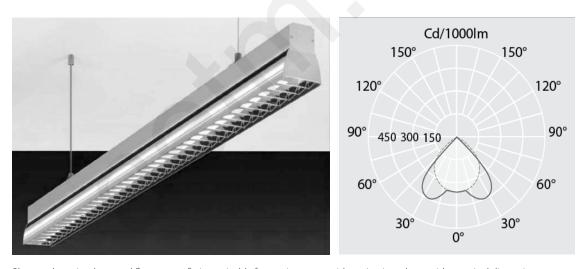
Light fittings without horizontal shielding and louvers, or light fittings that bounce light off ceilings or other surfaces do not provide sufficient directional control and are not suitable for spaces with projection. Low brightness non-reflective louvers are preferred.

During a presentation different lighting settings may be required in rapid succession. It is essential that the lights used be capable of being switched on and off (or dimmed) quickly. Lighting which requires long delays between extinguishment and re-strike, or fittings which take more than 10 seconds to achieve maximum brightness are not suitable for general purpose teaching spaces

#### General Light Fittings Compatible with Projection

To achieve low levels of ambient light spill onto projection surfaces, light fittings must of a glare free design with direct light distribution only (i.e. no upward incident light) and have reflectors with *cut-off or shielding angles of 50 degrees* or less in the direction of the screen(s). Recessed lights with non-reflective louvers or suspended lights with sufficient side shielding reflectors and non-reflective louvers are usually suitable.

#### **Examples of light fittings with sufficient light cut off or shielding**



 $Shown\ above\ is\ a\ louvered\ fluorescent\ fitting\ suitable\ for\ use\ in\ rooms\ with\ projection\ along\ with\ a\ typical\ dispersion\ pattern$ 

In addition to the requirements for general room lighting, fluorescent light fittings that are not turned off during projection must be equipped with low spill reflectors/louvers. Highly reflective louvers are not suitable as they reflect light horizontally.

Task lights and spotlights that are not turned off during projection must also have either internal cutters or external barn doors to enable illumination of people near the screen, while preventing direct light falling on the screen.



This Philips Selecon PL1 LED Luminaire, is a modern LED Spotlight light fitting which provides the beam control needed for presenter lighting without excessive spill while significantly reducing the impact of our activities on the environment.

Image supplied courtesy of Philips Selecon.

## 5.7 Light Fitting Placement

The placement of lights in relation to the projection screen(s) is another critical aspect of lighting design for teaching and presentation spaces.

Near the projection screens, house lights, stage lights and lectern spotlights must all be carefully positioned to avoid spill on the screen taking into account their beam cut-off/shielding angles. This should be confirmed in the computer modelling during the design stage and not left until the lights are installed. Care must also be taken when placing spotlights to that the body of the spotlight does impede the data projector's beam.

The vertical positioning of stage lights and lectern spotlights is often a difficult balance between sufficient light on the presenter's face and glare in their eyes. A commonly agreed balance is to position these lights between approximately 45 degrees and 60 degrees above horizontal from the presenter's eye-line.

Board lights should be set back from the boards a sufficient distance to allow even coverage.

## 5.8 Control of External Ambient Light from Windows and Skylights

In the architectural design of teaching spaces with projection systems, special consideration should be given to the control of natural ambient light by limiting use of windows or skylights. Where windows or skylights are present, use of curtains or blinds or louvers to control ambient light will be required. Motorised blinds or louvers controlled by the AV system are preferable.

For videoconference rooms complete control of sunlight is essential. Even small gaps in curtains can severely reduce the quality of the image captured by the camera. (See also 5.18 Special requirements for Video Conference spaces)

**Notes:** Light from all external sources should be excluded or controlled such as to allow the attainment of the standards above with respect to spill on the projection screen at any time of day and at any time of the year.

## 5.9 Dimming

Any space where the basic functionality involves presentation technology should have lighting dimmers installed. Dimming provides a finer control of the presentation environment and can optimise the performance of other components. In large spaces, dimming can also result in more efficient use of energy. The space should have functionally different areas allocated to discrete circuits on the dimming system. In some instances a rough dimming effect can be achieved by selective switching of fluorescent tubes in light fittings, however proper dimming remains the preferred method.

Dimming must only be achieved using appropriate dimming technology to suit the installed light fittings. Care should be taken to ensure that no flicker, audible noise, electronic interference or other undesirable artefact is evident throughout the dimming range.

## 5.10 User Controls

Lighting system should be able to be operated in either of two modes:

- Standalone using lighting wall panel(s)
- Controlled by the AV control system

Wall mounted lighting control panels (or "Entry/Exit" switches which bring up the appropriate lighting mode) must be placed near entrances in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and building standards. When the venue has a Bio box additional lighting controls should be installed there as well.

Presenters need quick access to lighting controls located at the lectern/presentation position, consequently lighting control must also be available via the AV control system. In larger spaces this is an essential requirement.

## 5.11 House Lights

House lighting shall be directional in nature, dimmable, low spill, low glare, even and reasonably shadow-free providing approximately 320 lux falling on audience horizontal reading surfaces when operated at 100%. Currently fluorescent lighting is the most suitable for this purpose when combined with suitable low glare/spill fittings.

Lighting shall be arranged in enough zones to enable sufficient control of lighting for various projection needs and evenness lighting of the audience areas in tiered venues where the rear lights are much closer to the audience than at the front.

Fluorescent light fittings shall be of 'rapid-start' energy efficient type with a minimum of flicker and audible noise. They shall met the stringent low glare and spill requirements described in the previous section - 5.6 Light Fitting Selection

Lights shall be spaced so there is significant overlap of beam patterns (so a lamp failure does not create an unusable dark zone).

## 5.12 Board Lights

Whiteboard lights are essential for the visibility of the whiteboard. Light levels falling on the board must at least match the levels on the reading surfaces of the audience section. Fluorescent lighting provides the most even source, however effective fittings with louvers will be required if the intention is to light banks of boards separately.

A common mistake is to mount the light directly above the board. This approach will result in a hotspot at the top of the board and ineffective lighting towards the bottom. A more successful approach is to position an asymmetric "wall washer" light fitting some distance out from the boards and to have its light angled across the full height of the board. There is a range of specific fixtures for this purpose.

Lighting must be as even as possible across the surface and should not vary by more than a ratio of 3:1 from brightest to darkest point within the board area with board lights, presenter lights and note taking lights all ON at nominal levels. The average level of illumination on the board with the board lights ON should be 300 lux. Board lighting must be separately controllable.

## 5.13 "Stage" Area Lights

Whether to illuminate presenters as they move around the room or for a table of speakers at a conference, 'Stage Lighting' provides a means of illuminating the required presentation area while avoiding washing out the projected images. Good stage lighting can help to reduce the occurrence of presenters turning on the board lights while projecting simply to get enough light to read their notes.

"Stage" lights must be dimmable narrow-beam directional lights with excellent control of spill. They should include devices such as barn doors or cutters to accurately shape the light beam to avoid spill on the projection screen while at the same time lighting as much of the area in front of the screen as possible. For smaller venues the principle of providing lighting with strong spill control near the screen is just as valid. In this context it may be achieved with a series of small down lights or directional fluorescent lights with highly effective louvers.

## 5.14 Presenter Spotlights

In lecture theatres and large venues a minimum of two narrow-beam focussing spotlights shall be installed to light the presenter at the lectern. The spotlights shall have full beam control (zoom, focus and cutters or barn doors) to adjust the light coverage and minimise spill onto the screens. Care shall be taken to avoid reflections off the lectern surfaces. For large venues theatrical spotlights are suitable.

In smaller venues a range of cost effective low voltage fittings can be used. A compact fluorescent asymmetric wall washer recessed in the ceiling can also be effective as long as care is taken to position it well and direct its beam well clear of the projection screen.

## 5.15 Aisle Lights

When installed, aisle lighting must meet the relevant building codes in terms of edge and step definition. The selected aisle light fittings must emit no, or minimal spill onto projection screens. A range of LED based lights are available that provide both edge definition and tread illumination.

## 5.16 Exit Lights

Special consideration should be given to the type and location of exit lights in lecture theatres and performance venues. Exit lights can have a detrimental effect on projection quality by producing an unacceptable level of ambient light.

## 5.17 Bio Box Lights

Many large lecture theatres are equipped with a bio box or projection booth. A bio box should have dimmable general room lighting and another circuit with highly directional down lights operable independently or the venues lighting control system.

## 5.18 Special Requirements for Video Conference Spaces

Video conference venues are in effect small television studios and require additional care and consideration in lighting design. It is important to minimize shadows, eliminate glare, avoid reflective surfaces and to create an evenly lit environment.

The best general lighting for videoconferencing is diffuse fluorescent. However even fluorescent lights will cause unattractive shadows around the eyes of participants if placed directly overhead. When carefully placed fluorescent asymmetrical wall washer light fittings can provide an even light at a 45 degree angle that reduces eye shadowing. Small spotlights carefully applied can provide pleasant shaping and highlights to the participant's faces. For consistency of colour and skin tone reproduction by the camera use lights of the same colour temperature (e. g. 4000 Kelvin) and ensure illumination of participants' faces at around 500 lux.

Ideally, the room should not have any exterior windows. If it does, they need to be fully covered with curtains or blinds. Even a small chink of sunlight in the background can cause problems for the camera. Backgrounds and table tops should not be too dark or too light as this can cause difficulty with camera auto-iris control. Mid tones and moderate lighting levels on background walls will give the best results. Avoid patterned or woven fabrics and finishes on walls as these can produce moiré patterns or strobing effects when the camera is moved.

## 5.19 Occupancy Sensing

Occupancy or motion sensing is a common feature of modern lighting systems. It enables significant energy savings by shutting down services when the space is unoccupied for defined periods of time. Occupancy sensors should be installed as part of all new lighting systems. The output of the occupancy sensors should be available to the control system and in many cases will also provide input to the BMS system. This can allow for energy management of both AV equipment and lighting in the space.

To avoid unwanted AV system shutdowns during longer sessions where people may be stationary for extended periods of time (for example during examinations), the sensor technology must be capable of detecting the presence of stationary occupants and not just those traversing the space.

## 5.20 Integration with AV Control Systems

The dimmer network must have either a serial or IP interface and be connected to the AV control system via either serial or IP network cabling.

The AV control system must be programmed to provide quick access to lighting presets and user accessible slider/fader controls for spot and stage lights. The AV control system can also automate some functions, such as dimming board lights or closing motorised blinds when projection is selected.

Lighting levels shall be fully and continuously controllable from 100% light output to less than 2%. Control function (i.e. control input versus light output) shall be approximately linear.

No occupancy time out and user initiated lighting and AV system shut down routines must be programmed. The desired lighting and AV system actions at each stage of the routine should be documented and agreed upon by stakeholders.

## 5.21 Fire, Emergency, Mechanical Services (A/C) and BMS integration

Where required the AV and lighting system shall be installed and programmed to accept signals from the buildings emergency warning system (EWIS). An emergency signal to the system should trigger the actions determined by regulation e.g.: turning on the lights, muting sound systems other than warning announcements etc.

In many cases it is desirable to connect the room control system to the Building Management System (BMS). This allows the room automation to send signals to the air conditioning regarding lighting states and room occupancy.

#### 5.22 Dimmer Location

Dimmers should be located in positions that facilitate easy access. They should not be located in ceiling cavities or in false floors. Within the cupboard dimmers must be mounted at a height which allows ready access for a standing technician, without using a ladder or having to crouch or kneel down. The operation of the dimmers must not cause electronic magnetic or any other kind of interference with other systems within the room or in the vicinity.

In venues with a bio box the dimmer(s) shall be installed in or near the bio box to facilitate control wiring and adjustment.

# 6. Acoustics in Teaching Spaces

Section 7 Audio Replay systems and Public Address should read in conjunction with this section.

#### Standards

Australian standards referenced in this section are:

- AS/NZS 2107:2000 Acoustics Recommended design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors;
- AS/NZS ISO 717.1:2004 Acoustics Rating of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements. Part 1: Airborne sound insulation

#### Overview

Acoustics that support intelligible communication with all participants are fundamental to successful teaching in any room. "Technology cannot (on its own) solve the problems of reverberation, background noise and echo, which detrimentally effect so many cognitive environments. It is therefore important to ensure that the technology investment is complimented by sympathetic building and space preparation. The best technology in the world cannot deliver on its potential without appropriate support from the built environment"<sup>4</sup>.

Special consideration must be given to the design of teaching spaces with regards to acoustic performance. The ultimate measure of acoustics in a teaching space must be the Speech Transmission Index (STI). Best practice teaching spaces should achieve a rating of "excellent" (STI between 0.75 and  $1.0^5$ ) and AETM recommends a minimum standard of STI no less than "good" (0.6 - 0.75).

To achieve high speech intelligibility the teaching space must be constructed in such a way as to control the reverberation and echo internally and provide isolation from all noises sources. The signal (amplified or un-amplified speech) to noise (all other sound) ratios at the listener position should be better than 25 dB to optimise intelligibility. Rear and side wall reflections should be minimised by appropriate acoustic treatment. The overall acoustic treatment should ensure short reverberation times.

AETM recommends that professional advice from an Acoustic Consultant should be sought to design and detail the acoustic treatment required to achieve the required acoustic performance of teaching venues. The information in this chapter is provided only as guide to the design considerations needed.

#### **Ambient Sound Levels & Reverberation Times**

The ultimate utility and function of teaching areas is highly dependent on the control of external and internal noise. Choice of layout, construction, materials and finish should be carefully guided by the need to provide spaces with acceptable acoustic performance for the required use. Particular care should be given to the selection and detailing of walls, windows, doors and ceilings. Special treatment may be required in the vicinity of high noise zones such as plant rooms. In general, the recommended Design Sound Levels and Reverberation Times for Building Interiors set out in AS2107 must be adopted.

Andrew Calov Presentation & Teaching Facilities 2009: AVS Engineering Brief pp1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> There are two scales in common use to measure Speech intelligibility: STI and CIS (Common Intelligibility Scale). Values in this chapter are specified using the STI scale

The level of ambient sound from air-conditioning, ventilating and other mechanical equipment, traffic noise and any other intrusive noise, must be neither so high that it is objectionable nor so low that the resulting quiet causes intruding speech and other activity noise to be objectionable. The level of noise and recommended reverberation times are described here by the Noise Rating & RT60, as defined by Australian Standard AS 2107-2000.

Type of Space:	Ambient Noise Level		Typical Reverb Time
Educational Buildings	Best Practice	Minimum Standard	(*RT60 varies with room volume)
Lecture rooms up to 50 seats	30 dB(A)	35 dB(A)	0.7 – 1.0*
Lecture theatres - without speech reinforcement	30 dB(A)	35 dB(A)	0.7 – 1.0*
Lecture theatres - with speech reinforcement	35 dB(A)	45 dB(A)	0.7 – 1.0*
Computer Rooms - Teaching	40 dB(A)	45 dB(A)	0.4 – 0.6
Conference Rooms	35 dB(A)	40 dB(A)	0.6 – 0.7

Permissible Noise Levels & Recommended Reverberation Times

Ambient noise and room reverberation times are two important measures of acoustic performance and key indicators of the intelligibility of speech communication in a room. However, there are other potential acoustic performance issues that should be reviewed and addressed by the Acoustic Consultant. The consultant will consider room size, shape and location of fixtures as aspects of the design that may give rise to issues of: echoes or late arriving reflections; standing waves with resultant nodes and antinodes in the lower frequencies; and focussed reflections.

#### Intelligibility

Speech Intelligibility is quantified by the 'Speech Transmission Index' <sup>6</sup> or STI. An STI value between 0.6–0.75 is considered good, while a value between 0.75–1.0 is rated as excellent. Teaching spaces in general should achieve a rating in the "excellent" range, however for large multi-purpose auditoria, or for other open plan teaching spaces such as collaborative teaching and learning spaces an STI that measures in the "good" (>0.60) range is acceptable.

Choice and positioning of microphones (and hence teaching lecterns) in rooms is assisted by an understanding of the acoustic energy levels throughout the space. The selection of speaker type and installed position will govern the achievable SPL levels at the listener position.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Don Davis & Eugene Patronis, Jr: Sound System Engineering 3rd Ed: p213 Measuring Intelligibility

A number of software package are available to acoustically model spaces and determine likely sound pressure levels at key points within the space. Based on this analysis, microphone / speaker requirements can be reviewed and, if required, changed to improve performance.

Refurbishment of existing teaching spaces poses significant challenges as to what can be done to improve acoustic performance, particularly in older buildings where spaces may be heritage listed, limiting the scope for structural change. In particularly challenging circumstances, consideration should be given to steerable line array speakers to enable a more directional, focussed sound field over the listening area. Steerable beam arrays provide fine electronic control of the energy distribution which assists in reducing the reverberant field by minimising reflections from surrounding hard surfaces.

#### Mechanical Services & Air Delivery

Noise from mechanical services is one of the most common causes of degraded function in presentation and learning spaces. Key points are:

- Lecture Theatres require high capacity air handling systems, which should typically operate at low velocity to minimise noise.
- Low velocity modes invariably require larger and longer diffusers, bigger ducts etc. This can present an acoustical and architectural challenge if not carefully planned at an early stage.
- Air handling systems with local Fan Coil Units (FCU) mounted within the room ceiling space are a potential risk to achieving the required Noise Rating (NR). Such units are best relocated if practical to outside the room envelope or otherwise fully enclosed in an acoustically rated compartment designed to achieve a reduction in FCU noise to below the room Noise Rating.
- Project engineers need to take all steps to eliminate low frequency noise from mechanical plant compressors, and to minimise the wide band noise generated by faster air flow in ducts and through diffusers. Vibration transmitted into the building from FCUs and other installed mechanical equipment must not cause sound levels to exceed the requirements for Lecture Theatres NR 30 and Seminar Rooms NR30 within the band (63 to 8000 Hz).

#### Cinema

Spaces designed for cinema presentations should aim to satisfy acoustic design criteria provided and licensed by Dolby and THX companies. Refer also to INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 22234:2005 Cinematography - Relative and absolute sound pressure levels for motion-picture multi-channel sound systems - Measurement methods and levels applicable to analog photographic film audio, digital photographic film audio and D-cinema audio.

#### 7

# 7. Audio Replay systems and Public Address

#### 7.1 Standards and Legislation

Audio systems and equipment shall comply with performance and installation standards defined by:

- AS/NZS 60065:2003 & Amendment No. 1 (January 2008) Audio, video and similar electronic apparatus—Safety requirements;
- ANSI/INFOCOMM 1M-2009 Audio Coverage Uniformity in Enclosed Listener Areas
- AS 60118.4-2007 Hearing aids Magnetic field strength in audio-frequency induction loops for hearing aid purposes.

In Australia, requirements for the fitment of Hearing Augmentation systems are covered by the Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010.

http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/943923505EFF5F51CA2576E40008FFF9/\$file/F2010L00668.pdf

#### 7.2 System Functionality

A purpose designed audio system for teaching spaces should be installed to provide the following functionality:

- Voice reinforcement (Public Address): as a guideline LTSMG Report (UK) suggest rooms above 50 seating capacity should be considered for voice reinforcement;
- High fidelity replay of program sources
- Assistive listening / hearing augmentation
- Recording (where required)

#### Overview of key components

Audio system components for a teaching room of 50+ students will, as a minimum, comprise:

- One or more high quality speakers installed so as to provide uniform sound coverage of the listener area;
- Lectern microphone and provision for additional microphones to be connected;
- Radio microphone (where specified);
- Audio mixer to enable signal routing, level control, limiting/compression and equalisation of signals from microphones and line level audio replay equipment. The audio mixer will provide phantom power to microphones, interface to the lecture theatre control system and provide sufficient outputs for power amplifiers and recording devices;
- High quality audio power amplifiers with overload protection;
- Fit for purpose induction loop amplifier and room coil (AS 60118.4-2007) or other suitable assistive hearing technology: consistent with the practices/policies of the University's special needs program. Other hearing augmentation technologies include infrared and RF systems

Large (>150 seats) or special purpose venues will have additional requirements, particular where the venue is used for cinema studies, remote lecture telecasts/webcasts, or other theatrical activities. Audio Visual representatives of the University are to be consulted on special purpose requirements as well as the general classroom requirements.

#### 7.3 Design

The audio design shall ensure an electro acoustical system that is capable of producing adequate sound level with high intelligibility at the listener position, is stable under normal operating conditions, and is free from noise and distortion.

Effective design of the audio system and its components will be require an understanding of the expected behaviour of sound in the room (refer Acoustics in Teaching Spaces). Acoustic modelling of the proposed space should be considered at an early stage of the project to provide valuable data for determining speaker type and quantity, placement, amplifier power, and expected performance against the guidelines. Computer modelling may be arranged through the Architectural Design Team, independent Acoustic Consultants, or Sound System Designers associated with major suppliers of professional speaker systems.

Speaker system options for teaching venues include, but are not limited to:

- Single source Line Array
- Front of House (FOH) Left-Right stereo pair
- Distributed system (ceiling or wall)
- Combination of FOH and distributed
- Dolby/THX Surround system

#### **Loudspeaker Selection and Placement**

Loudspeaker type and position shall be based on achieving an effective coverage of the listening area while optimising the 'gain before feedback' of the microphone / loudspeaker system for the nominated presentation area. A practical electro-acoustical system design for teaching spaces should be capable of delivering an SPL of 65dBA-Slow at any listener position for amplified voice and an SPL of 85dBA-Slow for program material.

The uniformity of audio coverage shall be determined by measurement and validation standard ANSI/INFOCOMM 1M-2009: Audio Coverage Uniformity in Enclosed Listener Areas to "ensure that every listener perceives approximately the same direct sound from the sound system, no matter where the listener is positioned within the specified listening area of the sound system". A conforming system shall achieve a tolerance window of 6dB within each of six ISO octave bands 250 Hz to 8 kHz when measured at the required test locations.

A combination of FOH and distributed speakers should be considered for medium to large venues to ensure all areas receive voice reinforcement which is direct, uniform in level and has high intelligibility. Electronic delay and speaker zoning should be considered where the delay between the sound arriving at the listener from the primary source and distributed speakers interact to significantly affect the intelligibility (STI) or spatial image of the sound source.

Smaller venues will require a minimum of two 'front of house' (FOH) speakers configured as a Left-Right pair for stereo imaging of program material in the primary listening area. Alternatively, a distributed ceiling speakers array may be used to provide a uniform coverage for both voice reinforcement and program content, albeit mono. Factors such as ceiling height and structure will determine the choice of speaker system.

#### **Audio Mixer**

Consideration should be given to using DSP technology for audio mixing and processing due to its inherent flexibility, cost/performance benefit and ease of external control.

The mixer shall accommodate a combination of microphone and line level sources, either as balanced or unbalanced connections. The increased use of domestic digital equipment in teaching venues requires review of practicality of connecting digital audio to audio mixers using HDMI, optical (TOSLINK) or coaxial (S/PDIF) for transfer of multichannel signals as an alternative to multiple analogue inputs.

Mixer size shall be determined by the specific requirements for microphones and replay equipment related to the use of the venue, but at least two additional inputs and outputs should be considered to enable future expansion during the operational life of the system.

#### Audio Inputs:

- Lectern microphones
- Radio Microphones
- Conference microphones
- Auxiliary input for Laptop Computers
- Resident computers
- CD / DVD players
- Blu-ray players
- HD/SD 'Set top box'
- Video conference CODECs
- External feeds

#### Audio Outputs:

- Program audio LEFT/RIGHT
- Speech reinforcement\*
- Speech reinforcement delay channel/s\*
- Recording output
- External feeds
  - \* Larger venues may require multiple channels of delay for distributed speakers to achieve uniform coverage, particular where balconies are present.

#### Audio equipment chain performance

System design and gain settings provide for a nominal operating level such that:

- Peak or Maximum operating level (headroom) is 10 dB above nominal operating level
- System Noise (S/N) with all inputs assigned is at least -65 dB unweighted below nominal operating level
- Total Harmonic Distortion < 0.5% at peak operating level
- System frequency response 50Hz 18kHz +/- 2dB at nominal operating level
- Nominal operating level of the electronic chain should be +4 dBm

#### **Power Amplifiers**

High quality power amplifiers, matched to the power requirements of the loudspeakers, are required to achieve appropriate sound level to listener positions. Power rating should be such that at least 10dB headroom is available to handle peaks over the level required to achieve target SPL for program content. Consideration should be given to the location of the amplifier in relation to the heat generated and ventilation requirements as well as the likelihood of temperature impact on surrounding equipment. Speaker cabling should be run well clear of low level signal cabling to minimise the risk of interference and crosstalk.

#### 7.4 Hearing Augmentation

In Australia, hearing augmentation/assistive listening systems are a requirement in all Class 9b buildings including (but not limited to) all spaces where a public address system is fitted.

The requirements are summarised in the Disability (Access to Premises — Buildings) Standards 2010 which form part of subsection 31 (1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Other relevant standards and codes include:

- BCA SECTION D Part D3 Access for People with Disabilities
- AS1428.5-2010 Design for access and mobility Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired
- AS60118-4. performance requirements for hearing loops

In general, a "safe" assumption is that hearing augmentation systems are required in any University space which includes an audio reproduction system.

While a number of systems are permissible under the act, including Induction Loop, IR and RF systems, individual University Audio/Visual staff and Student Disability support staff should be consulted to determine local policies before deciding the appropriate technology for particular spaces.

In University situations, classrooms are often closely adjacent and special care must be taken to ensure that the coverage fields of hearing augmentation systems do not overlap.

#### **7.5 EWIS**

Emergency evacuations systems may require room sound systems to be muted in the event of an alarm. Advice should be sought from a Fire/Electrical Engineer as to what is required of the sound system in relation to evacuation alarms/announcements.

## 7.6 Equipment Installation

Audio systems shall be installed in accordance with sections 2.9, 2.10, current industry best practice models (refer Infocomm AV Installation Handbook 'The Best Practices for Quality Audiovisual Systems') and related Australian Standards.

#### 7.7 Grounding

Audio system noise performance may be compromised by poor management of equipment earthing. A single phase, star power earthing arrangement to the AV equipment rack or technical earth for all AV equipment within the room should be explored with the Electrical Consultant. Appropriate consultation and earthing design will minimise the potential for issues from ground loops and multiple phase connection of AV equipment. Balanced audio systems with high common mode rejection ratio (CMRR) provide maximum protection against ground loops and other sources of interference and are the preferred audio design.

#### 7

#### 7.8 Lecture Recording Systems

Lecture recording systems are fitted to lecture theatres and teaching spaces in a majority of Universities in Australia and New Zealand. These standards do not recommend a particular system, but set out general guidelines so that spaces can be adequately provisioned, either immediately or in the future, with capture systems.

#### **Audio Recording**

Where audio recording is possible under the lecture recording system in use by the institution, a line level output containing a post fader mix of all microphone and line sources should be available under the audio switching and mixing specification. This output shall be capable of supplying a balanced feed at +4dbm. If requested, an unbalanced output at -10dBm may be supplied for direct connection to the recording appliance.

#### Screen Capture

Where screen capture is possible under the lecture recording system in use by the institution, the video switching system shall be capable of providing an extra scaled output at XGA or WXGA resolution for each display (projector or screen) feed.

Depending on the system in use, the output may be required to be analogue (typically RGBHV) or digital (e.g. DVI or HDMI) as appropriate to the Capture Device.

#### Camera Provision

Where video recording is possible under the lecture recording system in use by the institution, a suitable camera mounting position shall be identified and provisioned with power, data and video tie lines. The chosen position will have an unobstructed view of the entire teaching presentation area at an angle of view no greater than 15 degrees vertically and 30 degrees horizontally.

Suitable provision should be made for lighting of the presenter area without spill onto the projection screen. (See Lighting Section 5.13, 5.14)

# 8. Control System Integration

AETM fully supports and recommends the use of integrated control systems for all spaces where Audio Visual systems are deployed.

The control system used should always be specified by the University Audio Visual staff and must be fully compatible with existing reporting and management systems, network standards and programming requirements.

Best Practice standards will require the control system perform the following functions:

- Functional control of all local audio visual equipment including (where relevant)
  - o Power on/off
  - o Functions (input switching, volume etc.)
  - o Status reporting
  - o Transport controls
  - o Warnings (e.g. lamp hours)
- Control of remote AV systems (lecture recording, videoconferencing)
- Control of electro mechanical devices (e.g. screens, stage curtains)
- Control of lighting dimming and/or switching
- Control of lighting control devices (blinds, curtains)
- EWIS Integration
- Intelligent power management
- Automated shut down of equipment after hours or on "no signal"
- Control of air-conditioning
- Remote status reporting and error logging
- Capability for remote assistance

Minimum standard requires the control system to perform the following functions

- Functional control of all local audio visual equipment including (where relevant)
  - o Power on/off
  - o Functions (input switching, volume etc.)
  - o Status reporting
- Control of electro mechanical devices (e.g. screens, stage curtains)
- Intelligent power management
- EWIS Integration

Functions should be automated such that a single button press to select a projection input should start the projector (and the selected source), select audio, deploy screens and blinds and adjust the lighting. Full manual over-ride should also be available, should the user wish to alter the pre-programmed lighting for example.

Best practice requires all control systems to be networked, preferably on a separate sub-net to provide enhanced security.

All touch screen designs should conform to University-wide standards to maximise usability and minimise the need for specific user training. Automation code must provide for integration with appropriate campus wide AV control management systems.

# 9. Whiteboards and Writing Surfaces

(Adapted from UQ Standard PF 50)

#### 9.1 Standard Type

All writing board installations in spaces with AV and IT technology must be dust free. Whiteboards and writing surfaces using dry erase pens are suitable, however the dust from chalkboards is not compatible with electronic technology and may also have negative OH&S impacts. For these reasons chalkboards/blackboards do not comply with the AETM design guidelines.

While a range of surfaces, including glass are now becoming popular, the standard surface is still vitreous enamel on steel, unless otherwise specified.

#### 9.2 Multiple Sliding Boards

Multiple sliding board systems shall be constructed so that with the bottom edge of the rear board at a height of 1.0m, the full area of all boards shall be capable of being displayed above. Multiple sliding board systems shall consist of no more than three boards.

#### 9.3 Fixing Height

The bottom edge of the writing area shall not exceed 900mm, or be lower than 850mm from the finished floor level.

### 9.4 Storage for Writing Materials and Erasers

Temporary storage for board writing materials and erasers shall be provided. This shall be a shelf along the bottom edge of a fixed board or along the bottom edge of the outer board in multiple board systems or a small shelf or box to one side of the board system or lectern where a bottom-edge shelf is not appropriate. Care shall be taken to avoid sharp edges or corners on the shelf system. Any shelf attached to the bottom edge of boards must not obstruct the user when writing on the board at the lowest possible level.

### 9.5 Board Lighting

(see also 5.12 Board Lights)

Board lighting shall be designed so that boards are clearly legible at all audience angles of view. Board lighting should be on a separately controlled circuit. Where possible, board lighting should not spill onto the projection area in a way which will degrade the minimum available contrast ratio. Board lighting shall provide 300 lux on the vertical plane of the board surface without creating glare for the viewers and without creating reflections that could obscure the information thereon.

#### 9.6 Board Reflections

Room lighting and window curtains shall be arranged so that light reflected from the surface of the boards does not reach the audience and obscure the information thereon.

# 10. Equipment Housing and Cabling Standards for Teaching Spaces

#### 10.1 Provision for Rack Mounted Equipment

In all spaces where audio visual equipment is to be fitted lockable, ventilated, purpose designed space must be reserved for the equipment which comprises the audio, video, control and lighting sub systems. Provision must be made for power and data access to this space and for fitment and maintenance of interconnecting signal cables.

Adequate bench space must be allowed for the fitment of control panels, preview monitors, and microphones in addition to user operated equipment such as Visualisers and graphics tablets. This space allowance should be in addition to space for lecturers to place a laptop or portable PC, lecture notes and presentation aids.

While some equipment (such as power amplifiers) are desirably located away from the teaching area because of considerations of fan noise and heat, space must be reserved close to the presentation area for the accommodation of equipment which needs to be accessed to insert media (disks, USB keys, tapes etc.) at the start of a teaching session. This may include PCs, disk players, tape players and recording devices.

Provision must be made to secure this equipment in a way which still allows access to loading slots, trays and connectors.

#### 10.2 Access for Maintenance

Audio Visual equipment in professional use needs to be accessible for routine maintenance (such as filter cleaning) and also for emergency maintenance should failure or mis-operation occur during a teaching session.

Professional equipment typically has operational controls and mounting screws at the front, while power and signal interconnection is made at the rear. It is important therefore that provision is made for ready access to both the front and rear of equipment racks.

Where rack frames are mounted in joinery, front and rear access doors should be fitted which are lockable and wide enough to allow removal of the rack without disassembly of the rack or removal of the door.

Where racks are fitted in rooms such as Comms rooms, space must be large enough for provision to be made to access the front and rear of the rack. Comms room access doors should be lockable and wide enough to allow removal of the rack without disassembly of the rack or removal of the door.

If audio visual equipment such as projectors and speakers are to be fitted to a space with flush plasterboard ceilings, Audio Visual maintenance staff from the Institution should be consulted at DD stage to determine the type and location of access hatches required to mount and service this equipment.

#### 10.3 Ventilation

Active equipment (including PC based equipment) generates significant heat when in operation and excessive operating temperatures dramatically affect system reliability and service life.

#### Racks in Joinery Units

Where active equipment is fitted to racks contained in joinery units, the space containing the joinery must be air-conditioned.

The rack space within the joinery must be ventilated with provision to suck in fresh air at the bottom and exhaust hot air at the top. Vents shall be fitted with appropriate mesh to render them vermin proof. Often, forced air ventilation is required, typically using low voltage fans which can operate at very low levels of noise. Two or more fans should be fitted if the active equipment power consumption exceeds 100 watts.

Ventilation provision should be such that the air temperature in the interior of the equipment enclosure (worst case) does not rise by more than 10 degrees Celsius above ambient.

#### Racks in Communications Rooms

Where active equipment is fitted to racks contained in Communications Rooms, the space containing the racks must be air-conditioned.

It is essential that any joinery, cupboards or rack enclosures are provided with ventilation slots at the bottom (to draw in fresh air) and at the top (to exhaust hot air). Ventilation slots should be covered with expanded metal mesh to render them vermin proof.

Ventilation provision should be such that the air temperature in the interior of the equipment enclosure (worst case) does not rise by more than 10 degrees Celsius above ambient.

#### 10.4 General Provisions for Equipment

Unless required to be portable when in use, all equipment shall be firmly secured to minimise the possibility of unauthorised removal. Fastenings and supports shall be adequate to support the load applied with a safety factor of three times the actual weight.

All racks, housings and installed or bench-top equipment shall be level, plumb and square. Consideration shall be given not only to access and operational efficiency but also to overall aesthetic factors in regard to installed equipment and housings.

### 10.5 Cable Management Standards

#### Standards

Wiring materials and standards of workmanship shall fully comply with the relevant documents of Standards Australia and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), including subsequent amendments applicable to any part or item forming part of the installation.

Cabling works shall also comply with any relevant requirements of the Electric Supply Authority Regulations, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the Building Code of Australia, and the Insurance Council of Australia.

#### Digital Video

Computer chip makers Intel and AMD and computer manufacturers have jointly announced the end of life for analogue computer video (VGA). The announced end for VGA is 2015, however laptops are already appearing with only digital display outputs. Consequently all AV system design must now include digital video infrastructure.

Digital video potentially provides improved image quality, however to be successfully implemented it requires careful attention to cable and signal processing design and meticulous adherence to cable quality, termination, and installation standards.

Some DVI/HDMI installations have been plagued by issues related to the transmission or management of:

- EDID (Extended Display Identification Data)
- HDCP (High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection)

EDID is an electronic handshaking process where the resolution capability of the display device is communicated to the sending device. The successful transmission and management of EDID information is essential.

HDCP is a copyright protection system that is now incorporated into DVD players, Bluray players and protected computer based media content such as purchased movies. The behaviour of each HDCP protected device can vary depending on the media being viewed and the operating system of the device. In some cases the device can stop working if it detects a non-compliant device attached to the system.

The AETM strongly recommends that HDCP and EDID management be incorporated into the planning, design and installation of cabling and processing hardware.

#### Cable Labeling and Numbering

All connectors, patch leads, audio/video leads, controls, equipment and components, terminal blocks and equipment racks shall be permanently labelled in a format approved by the University. Abbreviations are acceptable only when shown on drawings.

All fixed labels, other than those affixed to cables, shall be permanently engraved in metal or plastic laminate.

All cable numbering and/or identification shall be performed using labels approved by the University. Labels shall be affixed at both ends of each cable. There shall be no unmarked cables at any place in the system.

The proposed cable numbering system shall be submitted to the University for approval to ensure consistency and coordination with the rest of the Campus installations.

#### Cable Layout and Dressing

All inter-rack and intra-rack cabling shall be neatly laced, dressed and adequately supported.

All exposed cable shall be dressed with heavy duty neoprene heat-shrink tubing

Nylon Cable Management Jacket: The AV Contractor shall organise all signal and power cables which connect equipment racks to adjacent electrical devices. These cables shall be bundled and installed within black nylon woven mesh fabric. This fabric jacket shall be manufactured for such purposes and shall be sized appropriately to the quantities and sizes of cables contained within.

All cables shall be grouped according to the signals being carried to reduce signal contamination. Separate groups shall be formed for the following:

- Power
- Control Cables
- Computer Data Cables
- Video Cables
- Audio Cables carrying signals less than -20dbm
- Audio Cables carrying signals between -20dbm and +20dbm
- Audio Cables carrying signals more than +20dbm

Each group shall be spaced at a minimum segregation of 50mm or that specified by the then current wiring regulations for that signal type (whichever is greater). In all cases, segregation will be such as to ensure no measurable induced current shall flow in the lower voltage cable as a result of its proximity to a higher voltage cable. Where cables of different signal level must cross they shall do so at an angle of 90 degrees for at least 500mm from the crossing point.

Route all cable and wiring within equipment racks and joinery according to function, separating wires of different signal levels (microphone, line level, amplifier output, AC, intercom, etc.) by as much distance as possible. Neatly arrange and bundle all cable with plastic or Velcro ties according to the requirements of the University.

As a general practice, all power cables, control cables and high level cables shall be run on the right side of an equipment rack as viewed from the rear. All other cables shall be run on the left side as viewed from the rear.

Where there are multiple adjacent equipment racks, the looming shall alternate. For example, as viewed from the rear, all power cables, control cables and high level cables shall be run on the right side. For the next rack, these shall be on the left side and the low level cables on the right. This scheme will alternate from rack to rack, ensuring maximum spacing.

#### **Cable Termination**

All cables, except high frequency cables which must be cut to an electrical length, shall be cut to the length dictated by the run. Terminal blocks, boards, strips or connectors, shall be supplied for all cables which interface with racks, cabinets, consoles or equipment modules.

Cables must be of the correct type and manufacturer provided for in the drawings and specifications unless equivalents are approved in writing by the University.

Proper circuit polarity and loud speaker wiring polarity must be observed at all times. Patch panels and connectors shall be wired as follows:

Patch Panel & Cable Wiring Guide			
Wire	Connector	Signal	
Red or White	Pin#2	Hot or Positive	
Black or Blue	Pin #3	Cold or Negative	
Shield	Pin #1	Ground or common	

No cables shall be wired with a polarity reversal between connectors at either end.

All circuits should be balanced and floating, except as noted in the specification. All system wire, except spare wire, after being cut and stripped, shall have the wire strands twisted back to their original lay and be terminated by approved soldered or mechanical means. No bare wire ends will be accepted.

Heat shrink type tubing shall be used to insulate and dress the ends of all wire and cables including a separate tube for the ground or drain wire.

All solder connections shall be made with rosin-core solder. Temperature controlled soldering irons rated at least 40 watts shall be used for all soldering work. All mechanical connections shall be made with approved crimp plugs of the correct size and type for the connection. Wire nuts are not permitted. Each connector shall be attached with the proper size controlled-duty-cycle ratcheting crimp tool which has been approved by the manufacturer of the connectors.

All use of data cabling whether used for network data or AV signal transmission must comply with the institution's data cabling standards for quality, installation and termination. To be accepted the installed cabling must pass the institution's approved testing process.

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# 11. Audio Visual Fit-Out: Recommendations for Specific Room Types

#### 11.1 Introduction

To better reflect the use of AV systems in a growing variety of learning environments and incorporate the range of modern presentation and collaboration technology now available, the AETM has changed the approach to the description of room and system types. Instead of attempting to match a particular technology to a particular room use, the AETM has adopted the following simple option and classification system.

#### 1. Presentation Options – available in any size space

There are three categories:

- Central large screen display(s)
- AV Cabled Distribution to Multiple Displays
- Network Streamed AV Distribution to Student PCs



#### 2. Collaboration Options – available to use in a number of settings

- User Supplied Laptops/Portable Electronic Devices
- Shared Collaboration Group Displays
- Individual Computers and Monitors



#### 3. Room Size (or Capacity) – the General Considerations that apply to each category

- Large Spaces e.g. Halls, Auditoria, Large Lecture theatres, some labs
- Medium spaces e.g. some Theatres, Collaboration spaces, seminar rooms and more
- Small spaces e.g. Classrooms, tutorial rooms, some labs, meeting rooms and more

Choosing the right presentation and collaboration options to meet the functional and performance requirements is the role of the AV designer. Through consultation with stakeholders, the AV designer will choose the appropriate options and develop an AV brief and specification for use by the architect, electrical and mechanical consultants and the audio visual integrators. When it comes to AV one size does definitely not fit all. Although each institution will have standard systems for particular room types, the designer needs fit the standard into a specific architectural environment and be ready to use different options to meet new functional requirements or to deal with difficult architectural issues.

These sections are also intended to guide academic, administrative and building project staff by providing an overview of equipment required to which institutions may add their own general requirements or specific requirements to meet the needs of a particular discipline.

#### Minimum General Requirements Recommendations

The Minimum and Best Practice recommendations have been developed by surveying the AETM membership of more than thirty tertiary institutions. The minimum recommendations comprise the essential equipment specifications and facilities without teaching would be significantly compromised.

#### **Best Practice General Requirements Recommendations**

The Best Practice recommendations have been developed by surveying the AETM membership to bring together a national consensus regarding the set of equipment specifications and facilities which empower the widest range of pedagogies in each of the specific types of teaching spaces.

#### 11.2 Presentation Options

There are three common choices for Presentation of teaching material in an educational setting:

- Presentation to the full audience from one or more central large screen/display(s)
- AV Cabled Distribution to Multiple Displays
- Network Streamed AV Distribution to Student PCs

The choice of which is best to use can be complex and is often determined by local factors such as the preferences of the Faculty and the student cohort.

#### Presentation Option 1 Central Projection, Video Wall or Array

#### Presentation to the full audience from one or more central large screen/display(s).

The use of a central display requires sufficient ceiling height and unobstructed sightlines for all the audience. See section 4.2 for details on screens, screen sizing, sightlines and ceiling heights and section 4.4 for lighting in spaces with projection.

**Note:** For projection in large spaces large projectors (and therefore possibly noisy) may be required. For projectors with operating noise of greater than 40dB an airconditioned soundproof enclosure is essential.

#### Large & Medium Spaces

The minimum requirement is a single high power widescreen projector or video wall/array display. Recommended -Two or more installed high power widescreen projectors & screens or video wall display/array with image processor for multiple images.



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#### **Small Spaces**

The basic purpose may be served by a single large format LCD flat screen display, widescreen projector, or video wall display/array. More flexibility may be obtained from dual installed widescreen projectors & screens, or large format LCD flat screens\*, or video wall display/array\*

\*Recommended for video conference applications.

**Notes:** Some spaces may not physically allow multiple screens or courses such as cinema studies may prefer a single screen. Some systems may require more projectors/displays depending on spacial requirements and/or functional brief. A frame store/freeze capability can enhance dual screen functionality by allowing images or live notation such as maths formulae to be frozen on one display while continuing live on another.



Image Courtesy of Steelcase

#### Presentation Option 2: AV Cabled Distribution to Multiple Displays

AV cabled distribution via matrix switchers and/or distribution amplifiers and cabling infrastructure.

See Collaboration Option 2 for distributed display choices.

Distribution can be via:

- **a.** High quality digital video cabling (run length limits apply)
- **b.** AV proprietary signals over IP network cabling infrastructure using AV transmitters and receivers to convert to and from standard formats.
- **c.** IP network compliant AV data over standard network cabling and switching infrastructure and TX/RX devices.



#### Presentation Option 3: Network Streamed AV Distribution to Student PCs

Network/software based AV distribution via classroom collaboration and/or screen sharing software to student computers.

See Collaboration Option 3 for common usage.

Distribution can be via:

- a. Classroom management software such as NetSupport School, NetOps etc. (limited motion video capability)
- **b.** Web collaboration/ screen sharing software such as Connect, Lync, Teamspot, Webex, Collaborate, GoToMeeting, Join Me etc.



A low-latency streaming encoder solution is recommended to capture and distribute non-resident PC sources such as laptops, visualisers, cameras etc.

**Note:** Many classroom management applications can send commands to student PCs with the software installed that can open widows to streaming encoder outputs. Streaming over wireless directly to student laptops may be possible, but the technology is evolving and thorough testing of any proposed solution is recommended.

#### 11.3 Collaboration Options

There are three common technology choices for facilitating collaboration amongst students in a tertiary setting:

- User Supplied Laptops/Portable Electronic Devices
- Shared Collaboration Group Displays
- Individual Computers and Monitors

As before, the choice is often determined by local factors such as the preferences of the Faculty and the student cohort.

#### Collaboration Option 1: User Supplied Laptops/Portable Electronic Devices

Wireless Networking Only for use with Laptops/Personal Devices.

Unless computers are provided for individual use, all learning spaces should cater for laptop use with wireless networking provided by the institution. However individual laptops have limitations for use in group face to face collaboration. A single laptop screen can only comfortably be shared by 2-3 people.

Use of screen sharing software and multiple laptops may cater for larger groups; however the functionality and ease of use may not



Photo courtesy Darlene S. Cardillo Albany Law School

match a dedicated shared display. Note that limited screen sharing options are currently available from personal devices such as iPads and phones.

High capacity wireless networks are essential. Consideration should be given to the provisioning of AC power for laptops in a manner that avoids trip hazards.

If group collaboration is part of the functional brief, furniture should either be conducive to group collaboration or reconfigurable.

#### Collaboration Option 2: Shared Group Displays

Group Collaboration Shared Display and Distributed Presentation Choices.

Sophisticated switching systems may be required if the displays are to serve both a presentation and collaboration purpose.

This may be provided as multiple computers and monitors around a collaboration table. If so, note that low profile PC and display configurations assist cross table discussion.



Photo courtesy Wilson Architects

A second option is the provision of shared large format LCD/LED displays. In this case it is recommended that a shared collaboration computer be provided, connected a multi-touch overlay on the display for more dynamic interaction. Screen sharing software and/or cables to allow laptops to display on the shared display. Trip hazards must be considered for laptop cable connections.

Display Choices for various Group Sizes			
Number in Group	Recommended Display*		
3-6 participants	32"-46" display		
6-12 participants	55″-65″ display		
8-20 participants	0 participants Interactive whiteboard and ultra-short throw projector		
8 - 20+ participants Dedicated collaboration group projector and screen			

\*Use the AETM sizing ratio suitable for high definition resolutions (see Section 4)

#### **Furniture Considerations**

Many collaboration furniture forms are possible, however the most suitable table shape for both viewing a shared display and cross table conversation is a hyperbola with a squared-off end that partially orients participants at the side of the table towards the screen, but still maintains sufficient cross table eyelines. All AETM sightline guidelines apply to shared collaboration displays. For displays with touch functionality, access to the display needs to be allowed for. Coincidentally, the compromise hyperbolic shape improves the webcam view of the collaboration group received by a remote participant.

#### Collaboration Option 3: Individual Computers and Monitors

#### **Individual Computing**

Individual computing is a common arrangement in computer labs or other spaces where each participant requires one-to-one access to a computer.

Individual computing generally has the same physical three-person collaboration limit as laptops. Electronic group collaboration is feasible using screen sharing and/or web collaboration software; however the solution may lack the dynamics of face to face collaboration.



If the educational brief requires it, effective face-to-face group collaboration is still possible with thoughtful architectural design, careful attention to the physical form of the furniture and innovative integration of low profile technology or other bespoke technology solutions.

#### Matching Presentation Options to suit Collaborative Learning

Presentation Option 1 (Central Screen) may work if sightlines allow

Presentation Option 2 (Cabled Distribution) is possible using either the student's monitor (if separate to the computer) plus switching, or a second presentation monitor.

Presentation Option 3 (Streaming via the network) can provide a cost effective solution through use of the installed network and student computer hardware. This mode is suitable for use with All-in-One computers and BYO devices.

#### 11.4 Size and Capacity Classifications

AETM recommends the use of three classifications for teaching space capacity. Each size has its own set of recommendations based on style of space, volume and typical capacity.

The Classifications are:

- Large: e.g. Auditorium, Lecture Theatre, Large Learning Studio, Large Laboratory
- Medium: Flexible learning space, Seminar Room, Learning Studio, Lab, Computer Lab
- Small: Classroom, Small Seminar/Tutorial Room, Collaboration Space, Meeting Room, Lab

As before, the choice is often determined by local factors such as the preferences of the Faculty and the student cohort.

# 12. Large Learning Spaces

# 12.1 Technology Checklist for Large Spaces

	Large Learning Space (100+ Sea e.g. Auditorium, Lecture Theatre, Learning Studio, Lab e		
	General Requirements	Minimum Requirement	Best Practice
Furniture	AV desk/lectern/console	Yes	Yes
AV Control	AV control system	Yes	Yes
Telephone	AV support & emergency help telephone	Yes	Yes
Audio	Sound reproduction capability for all sources	Yes	Yes
	Speech reinforcement system	Yes	Yes
	Presenter wireless microphone	Yes	Yes
	Audience wireless microphone	Recommended	Yes
	Hearing augmentation system	BCA required	Yes
	EWIS mute interfacing	BCA required	Yes
	Audio input/output connections for expandability	Yes	Yes
Acoustics	Room sound proofed and acoustically treated	Yes	Yes
Vision Sources	Digital laptop input (HDMI recommended)	Yes	Yes
	VGA (analogue) laptop input	Optional	Optional
	Resident PC with DVD player*, wired keyboard and mouse for teacher/presenter use	Yes	Yes
	Visualiser /document camera	Recommended	Yes
	Multi format and multi region Blu-ray DVD/Audio CD player.	Recommended	Yes
Recording and/ or Streaming	Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies.	Optional	Yes
Lighting	A lighting system to meet Australian Standards	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection - Lighting in separate zones	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection – directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens	Yes	Yes
	Occupancy sensors	Yes	Yes
	Full control over lighting by user via AV control system	Yes	Yes
Laptops	Power for student laptops & devices	Recommended	Yes
Conferences	For Auditorium & Large LT Spaces - Additional Laptop and Mic Inputs (typically in floor boxes)	Recommended	Yes
	For Auditorium Spaces - tie-lines, workspaces for mixing desks, secure AV system I/O patch points, etc.	Recommended	Yes
	For Auditorium Spaces - AV system I/O patch points	Recommended	Yes
	For Auditorium Spaces – power and network in the foyer for displays, attendee registrations and catering	Recommended	Yes

#### 12.2 Detailed Requirements in Large Spaces

#### **AV Furniture**

AV desk/lectern/console to the institution's requirements, or approved custom design that meets functional requirements of space, equipment ventilation and access. Note: depending on the AV system additional equipment rack space may be required

#### **AV Control** see Section 8 for details

AV control system to match the institution's standards with:

- User control interface delivered by one or more of the following:
  - o Touch panel or button panel
  - o The institution's standard user interface integrated with a PC screen (preferably touch enabled)
  - o Secure web interface to match the institution's standards
  - o Apps on portable devices
- Connected via IP for remote diagnostics, reporting, control of room by AV Help Desk
- Control of: display system(s), source control & switching; audio control and other functions as required.

#### Telephone

AV support & emergency help telephone

#### **Audio** see Section 7 for details

Sound reproduction capability for all presentation sources, including HDMI digital and analogue audio sources

- Speech reinforcement system compliant with the AETM & ANSI requirements, typically including DSP/audio mixer, amplifier(s) and speakers
- Presenter wireless microphone
- Audience wireless microphone
- Hearing augmentation system (eg Hearing Loops, IR or Wireless systems for people with hearing impairment)
- EWIS mute interfacing
- Audio input and output connections for system expandability, e.g. audio output to a personal hearing augmentation device or audio input of a mixer for panel discussion with multiple microphones.

#### **Acoustics** see Section 6 for details

Room sound proofed against external noise and acoustical treated internally to meet Australian Standard

#### **Vision Sources**

- Digital laptop input (HDMI recommended) with the following inclusions presented on the AV furniture with consideration to cable management:
  - o HDMI lead (with user selectable HDMI audio capability and HDCP system compliance)
  - o Analogue mini-jack audio lead with user selectable operation and enough length for different laptop configurations
  - o Network cable with RJ45 termination
  - o Accessible power point (double recommended)
  - o Optional Wireless presentation interface and/or software eg Intel WIDI adapter or AppleTV or other device/software

- VGA (analogue) laptop input (refer to the institution's plan for the phase-out of VGA) If included,
  - the VGA input normally shares the use of connection cables and the power point with digital laptop input.
- Resident PC with DVD player, wired keyboard and mouse for teacher/presenter use. Additional options include:
  - o Monitor
  - o Touchscreen monitor or interactive pen display for live annotation (recommended).
  - o Wireless mouse or presenter remote for PowerPoint control (recommended)
  - o Wireless keyboard
  - o Interactive whiteboard interface (requires consideration of factors such as room size, operat ional objectives and system integration)
  - o Software/Network based presentation and/or collaboration software see presentation and collaboration options
  - o Webcam (requires consideration of audio connections and communications software)
  - o Presentation capture software (captures PC output only)
  - o Personal Response Systems (PRS) voting software
  - o Remote access software for user support
- Visualiser / document camera in some environments options may include a microscope camera or a demonstration camera(s)
- Multi format and multi region Blu-ray DVD/Audio CD player. The number of digital keys the device provides needs to be investigated especially for multi screen systems.

Other sources may be added depending on the specific requirements of the space or institution's standards. Examples of possible additional sources are:

- Video conferencing codec
- Wireless presentation hardware devices
- Distributed video endpoints e.g. a building or enterprise video distribution system
- Room cameras
- Specialist equipment e.g. medical simulation mannequin systems, scientific equipment

#### Recording and/or Streaming

Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies. May include camera capture of the presenter depending on the institution's preferred practice. Where a video conferencing codec is part of the system design, an additional output may be required.

#### Lighting

A lighting system designed to meet the relevant Australian Standards and in spaces with projection the ANSI/InfoComm standard for contrast ratios – see section 5 for details. The lighting system should include the following:

- For spaces with projection Lighting in separate zones (board lights, presenter spot lights, audience area etc.)
- For spaces with projection Theatrical grade directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens
- Occupancy sensors capable of detecting stationary occupants, e.g. dual technology IR+ Ultrasonic
- Full control over lighting levels by user via AV control system

#### **Laptop Provisions**

GPOs for student laptops & devices provided in a manner that avoids trip hazards and wireless networking designed for the expected capacity

#### Conferences

For Auditorium & Large LT Spaces - Additional Laptop and Mic Inputs for panel discussion tables and/or additional lecterns (typically in floor boxes)

#### For Auditorium Spaces

- Tie-lines, workspaces for mixing desks, secure AV system I/O patch points, etc. for conference staging companies
- secure AV system I/O patch points For News cameras
- power and wireless and wired network points in the foyer areas for exhibit displays, attendee registrations and catering Detailed Requirements in Medium Spaces

# 13. Medium Learning Spaces

# 13.1 Technology Checklist for Medium Spaces

# **Medium Learning Space** (30 - 100 Seats) e.g. Flexible learning space, Seminar Room, Learning Studio, Lab, Computer lab, etc

	General Requirements	Minimum Requirement	Best Practice
Furniture	AV desk/lectern/console	Yes	Yes
AV Control	AV control system	Yes	Yes
Telephone	AV support & emergency help telephone	Yes	Yes
Audio	Sound reproduction capability	Yes	Yes
	Speech reinforcement system	(>40)	Yes
	Presenter wireless microphone	Yes (>40)	Yes
	Audience wireless microphone	Optional	Yes
	Hearing augmentation system	To BCA regs	Yes
	EWIS mute interfacing	To BCA regs	Yes
	Audio input/output connections for expandability	Optional	Yes
Acoustics	Room sound proofed and acoustically treated	Yes	Yes
Vision Sources	Digital laptop input (HDMI recommended)	Yes	Yes
	VGA (analogue) laptop input	Optional	Optional
	Resident PC with DVD player	Yes	Yes
	Visualiser /document camera	Optional	Yes
	Multi format and multi region DVD/Audio CD player.	Optional	Yes
Recording and/ or Streaming	Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies.	Optional	Optional
Lighting	A lighting system to meet Australian Standards	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection - Lighting in separate zones (board lights, presenter spot lights, audience area etc.)	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection - Commercial grade directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens	Yes	Yes
	Occupancy sensors capable of detecting stationary occupants, e.g. dual technology IR+ Ultrasonic	Optional	Yes
	Full control over lighting levels by user via AV control system	Optional	Yes

#### 13.2 Detailed Requirements in Medium Spaces

#### **AV Furniture**

AV desk/lectern/console to the institution's requirements, or approved custom design that meets functional requirements of space, equipment ventilation and access.

**Note:** depending on the AV system additional equipment rack space may be required

#### **AV Control** See Section 8 for details

AV control system to match the institution's standards with:

- User control interface delivered by one or more of the following:
  - o Touch panel or button panel
  - o The institution's standard user interface integrated with a PC screen (preferably touch enabled)
  - o Secure web interface to match the institution's standards
  - o Apps on portable devices
- Connected via IP network for remote diagnostics, reporting, control of room by AV Help Desk
- Control of: display system(s), source control & switching; audio control and other functions as required.

#### Telephone

AV support & emergency help telephone

#### **Audio** See Section 7 for details

Sound reproduction capability for all presentation sources, including HDMI digital and analogue audio sources

- Speech reinforcement system compliant with the AETM & ANSI requirements, typically including DSP/ audio mixer, amplifier(s) and speakers
- Presenter wireless microphone
- Audience wireless microphone
- Hearing augmentation system (eg Hearing Loops, IR or Wireless systems for people with hearing impairment)
- EWIS mute interfacing
- Audio input and output connections for system expandability, e.g. audio output to a personal hearing augmentation device or audio input of a mixer for panel discussion with multiple microphones.

#### **Acoustics** See Section 6 for details

Room sound proofed against external noise and acoustical treated internally to meet Australian Standards

#### **Vision Sources**

- Digital laptop input (HDMI recommended) with the following inclusions presented on the AV furniture with consideration to cable management:
  - o HDMI lead (with user selectable HDMI audio capability and HDCP system compliance)
  - o Analogue mini-jack audio lead with user selectable operation and enough length for different laptop configurations
  - o Network cable with RJ45 termination
  - o Accessible power point (double recommended)
- VGA (analogue) laptop input (refer to the institution's plan for the phase-out of VGA) If included, the VGA input normally shares the use of connection cables and the power point with digital laptop input.

- Resident PC with DVD player\*, wired keyboard and mouse for teacher/presenter use. Additional options include:
  - o Monitor
  - o Touchscreen monitor or interactive pen display for live annotation (recommended).
  - o Wireless mouse or presenter remote for PowerPoint control (recommended)
  - o Wireless keyboard
  - o Interactive whiteboard interface (requires consideration of factors such as room size, operational objectives and system integration)
  - o Software/Network based presentation and/or collaboration software see presentation and collaboration options
  - o Webcam (requires consideration of audio connections and communications software)
  - o Presentation capture software (captures PC output only)
  - o Personal Response Systems (PRS) voting software
  - o Remote access software for user support
- \* The multi-region capability of the computer's DVD drive needs to be considered.

**Note:** The VLC player software can play DVDs from all regions.

- Visualiser / document camera in some environments options may include a microscope camera or a demonstration camera(s)
- Multi format and multi region DVD/Audio CD player. The number of digital keys the device provides needs to be investigated especially for multi-screen systems. Blu-ray players are also an option, however their multi-region capability needs to be considered.
- Other optional sources may be required depending on the specific requirements of the space or institution's standards.

#### Examples of possible additional sources

- Video conferencing codec
- Wireless presentation hardware devices
- Distributed video endpoints e.g. a building or enterprise video distribution system
- Room cameras
- Specialist equipment e.g. medical simulation mannequin systems, scientific equipment, etc.

#### Recording and/or Streaming

Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies. The system may include camera capture of the presenter depending on the institution's preferred practice. Where a video conferencing codec is part of the system design, an additional output may be required.

#### Lighting

A lighting system designed to meet the relevant Australian Standards and in spaces with projection the ANSI/InfoComm standard for contrast ratios – see section 5 for details. The lighting system should include the following:

- For spaces with projection Lighting in separate zones (board lights, presenter spot lights, audience area etc.)
- For spaces with projection Theatrical grade directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens
- Occupancy sensors capable of detecting stationary occupants, e.g. dual technology IR+ Ultrasonic
- Full control over lighting levels by user via AV control system

# 14. Small Learning and Meeting Spaces

# 14.1 Technology Checklist for Small Spaces

	Small Learning / Meeting Space e.g. Small Seminar/Tutorial Room, Collaboration Space, Meeting Room,		
	General Requirements	Minimum Requirement	Best Practice
Furniture	Meeting table based AV system with separate equipment rack or AV desk/lectern/console	Yes	Yes
AV Control	AV control system	Recommended	Yes
Telephone	AV support & emergency help telephone	Recommended	Yes
Audio	Sound reproduction capability	Yes	Yes
	Speech reinforcement system	Optional	Yes
	Presenter wireless microphone	Optional	Yes
	Audience wireless microphone	Optional	Yes
	Hearing augmentation system	To BCA regs	Yes
	EWIS mute interfacing	To BCA regs	Yes
	Audio input/output connections for expandability	Optional	Yes
Acoustics	Room sound proofed and acoustically treated	Yes	Yes
Vision Sources	Digital laptop input - To avoid trip hazards at meeting tables the input for laptops must present at the table.	Yes	Yes
	VGA (analogue) laptop input	Optional	Optional
	Resident PC with DVD player *, keyboard and mouse	Optional	Yes
	Visualiser /document camera	Optional	Yes
	Multi format and multi region DVD/Audio CD player	Optional	Yes
Recording and/ or Streaming	Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies	Optional	Optional
Lighting	A lighting system to meet Australian Standards and in spaces with projection the ANSI/InfoComm standard for contrast ratios	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection - Lighting in separate zones (board lights, presenter spot lights, audience area etc.)	Yes	Yes
	For spaces with projection - directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens	Optional	Yes
	Occupancy sensors capable of detecting stationary occupants, e.g. dual technology IR+ Ultrasonic	Optional	Yes
	Full control over lighting levels by user via AV control system	Optional	Yes
Laptops	Power for student laptops & devices provided in a manner that avoids trip hazards and wireless networking designed for the expected capacity	Recommended	Yes

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#### 14.2 Detailed Requirements in Small Learning and Meeting Spaces

#### **AV Furniture**

Meeting table based AV system with separate equipment rack or AV desk/lectern/console to the institution's requirements, or approved custom design that meets functional requirements of space, equipment ventilation and access.

**Note:** depending on the AV system additional equipment rack space may be required

#### **AV Control** See Section 8 for details.

AV control system to match the institution's standards with:

- User control interface delivered by one or more of the following:
  - o Touch panel or button panel
  - o The institution's standard user interface integrated with a PC screen (preferably touch enabled)
  - o Secure web interface to match the institution's standards
  - o Apps on portable devices
- Connected via IP network for remote diagnostics, reporting, control of room by AV Help Desk
- Control of: display system(s), source control & switching; audio control and other functions as required.

#### Telephone

AV support & emergency help telephone

#### **Audio** See Section 7 for details.

Sound reproduction capability for all presentation sources, including HDMI digital and analogue Sound reproduction capability for all presentation sources, including HDMI digital and analogue audio sources

- Speech reinforcement system compliant with the AETM & ANSI requirements, typically including DSP/audio mixer, amplifier(s) and speakers
- Presenter wireless microphone
- Audience wireless microphone
- Hearing augmentation system (eg Hearing Loops, IR or Wireless systems for people with hearing impairment)
- EWIS mute interfacing
- Audio input and output connections for system expandability, e.g. audio output to a personal hearing augmentation device or audio input of a mixer for panel discussion with multiple microphones.

#### **Acoustics** See Section 6 for details.

Room sound proofed against external noise and acoustical treated internally to meet Australian Standards

#### **Vision Sources**

- Digital laptop input (HDMI recommended) with the following inclusions presented on the AV furniture with consideration to cable management:
  - o HDMI lead (with user selectable HDMI audio capability and HDCP system compliance)
  - o Analogue mini-jack audio lead with user selectable operation and enough length for different laptop configurations
  - o Network cable with RJ45 termination
  - o Accessible power point (double recommended)
  - o Optional Wireless presentation interface and/or software eg Intel WIDI adapter or AppleTV or other device/software

To avoid trip hazards at meeting tables the above requirements for laptops must present at the table.

- VGA (analogue) laptop input (refer to the institution's plan for the phase-out of VGA) If included, the VGA input normally shares the use of connection cables and the power point with digital laptop input.
- Resident PC with DVD player\*, wired keyboard and mouse for presenter use. Additional options include:
  - o Monitor
  - o Touchscreen monitor or interactive pen display for live annotation (recommended).
  - o Wireless mouse or presenter remote for PowerPoint control (recommended)
  - o Wireless keyboard
  - o Interactive whiteboard interface (requires consideration of factors such as room size, operational objectives and system integration)
  - o Software/Network based presentation and/or collaboration software see presentation and collaboration options
  - o Webcam (requires consideration of audio connections and communications software)
  - o Presentation capture software (captures PC output only)
  - o Personal Response Systems (PRS) voting software
  - o Remote access software for user support
  - \* The multi-region capability of the computer's DVD drive needs to be considered.
- Visualiser /document camera in some environments options may include a microscope camera or a demonstration camera(s)
- Multi format and multi region DVD/Audio CD player. The number of digital keys the device provides needs to be investigated especially for multi-screen systems. Blu-ray players are also an option, however their multi-region capability needs to be considered.
- Other optional sources may be required depending on the specific requirements of the space or institution's standards.

Some examples of possible additional sources are:

- Video conferencing codec
- Wireless presentation hardware devices
- Distributed video endpoints e.g. a building or enterprise video distribution system
- Room cameras
- Specialist equipment e.g. medical simulation mannequin systems, scientific equipment, etc.

#### Recording and/or Streaming

Hardware-based audio and image capture and/or streaming of any presented source as required by the institution's policies. The system may include camera capture of the presenter depending on the institution's preferred practice. Where a video conferencing codec is part of the system design, an additional output may be required.

#### Lighting

A lighting system designed to meet the relevant Australian Standards and in spaces with projection the ANSI/InfoComm standard for contrast ratios – see section 5 for details. The lighting system should include the following:

- For spaces with projection Lighting in separate zones (board lights, presenter spot lights, audience area etc.)
- For spaces with projection Theatrical grade directional lighting on the presenter areas without spill on the screens
- Occupancy sensors capable of detecting stationary occupants, e.g. dual technology IR+ Ultrasonic
- Full control over lighting levels by user via AV control system

#### Laptops

Power for student laptops & devices provided in a manner that avoids trip hazards and wireless networking designed for the expected capacity

# 15. The Classification System in Use

The following pages present real world examples of tertiary teaching spaces using the AETM system.

Example	Room Systems	Presentation Options Used	Collaboration Options Used
Large	Auditorium	1- Triple Projection	1- Laptop Wireless Network & Power
New S	versity of South Wales ancy Auditorium ourtesy of UNSW		
Large	Hall	1- LED Video Wall	1- Laptop wireless network & Power
Techno G	versity of ology Sydney reat Hall Courtesy of UTS		BUTS
Large	Lecture Theatre	1- Dual Projection & LCDs Displays	3 - Individual Computing
Qui ACTS I Collaborativ	versity of eensland Experimental ve Lecture Theatre Courtesy of UQ		In Springs of the Control of the Con

Example	Room Systems	Presentation Options Used	Collaboration Options Used
Large	Lecture Theatre	1- Dual Projection	1- Laptop wireless network & Power
Center Interdisc 500 seat	sity of Alberta nnial Centre for ciplinary Science Lecture Theatre ersity of Alberta		
Large	Learning Studio	1- Projection screen array 2 - Distributed AV over IP	1- Student Laptops 2 - Group Computing
PN 96 Lear	Sity of Sydney  IR Building  5-144 seat Thing Studio  Courtesy of USyd		
Large	Lab	2 - Distributed AV to student PC monitors	3 - Individual Computing
U S 260	n Metropolitan niversity uper Lab seat flexible -class wet lab		

Example	Room Systems	Presentation Options Used	Collaboration Options Used
Medium	Collaborative Lecture Theatre	1- Dual Projection 2 - Distributed AV	1- Student Laptops 3 - Individual Computing (in pairs)
Qu 3rd Generat Teaching &	versity of eensland ion Collaborative Learning Space esy of Derek Powell		
Medium	Presentation Space	1- Video Wall 2 - Distributed AV to other spaces	1- Student Laptops
	ty of Canberra bire Centre		INSPIRE
Medium	Flexible Learning Space	1- Multiple Projection 2 - Distributed AV to LCD screens	1- Student Laptops 2 - Group Computing
Axel L	of Melbourne Learning Lab Courtesy of Try of Melbourne		

Evample	Room Systems	Presentation Options Used	Collaboration Options Used
Medium	Seminar Room	1- Projection 3- Distributed AV over IP/Software	1- Student Laptops 2 - Group Computing
Room wit screens a	QUT  lard Seminar  th mobile group  and computers  ourtesy of QUT	J Distributed AV OVER 1175 Oftware	
Medium	Seminar Room	1- Projection 3 - Distributed AV over IP/ Software & MPEG encoder	1- Student Laptops 2 - Shared Computing for pairs
PNI Sem with sh computing	ity of Sydney  R Building  inar Room  nared student g at group tables  purtesy of USyd		
Medium	Lab	1 – Multiple Projectors 3- Distributed AV over IP/ Software & Server	3 - Individual Computing
Biolog	h University ical Sciences opy Laboratory	UMAX PROMETS	

Example	Room Systems	Presentation Options Used	Collaboration Options Used
Small	Tutorial Room	1- Projection	1- Student Laptops
Tut Photo Cour	y of Melbourne orial Room rtesy of University of Melbourne		
Small	Meeting Room	1- Dual LCD Displays (with Video Conferencing)	1- Laptops 2 - Shared Computing
Law Fac	verity of Sydney ulty Boardroom Courtesy of USyd		
Small	Collaboration Booth	1- LCD Display with touch overlay	1- Laptops 2 - Shared Computing
Collab	verity of Sydney oration Booth Courtesy of USyd	TOTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	
Small	Collaboration Booth	1 –LCD Displays	1- Laptops 2 - Shared Computing
	UTS oration Booths Courtesy of UTS		

# 16. Sources, Referenced Publications and Reading

#### **Audiovisual Specific Standards**

ANSI/INFOCOMM 2M-2010: Standard Guide for Audiovisual Systems Design and Coordination Processes.

ANSI/INFOCOMM 3M-2011: Projected Image System Contrast Ratio

**British Standards Institute 2009 PAS 122:2009:** Specification for the installation of audiovisual equipment in classrooms and general publicly accessible areas. ISBN 9780580679841

#### **Audio and Acoustics Standards**

AS/NZS 2107:2000 Acoustics: Recommended design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors

**AS/NZS ISO 717.1:2004 Acoustics:** Rating of sound insulation in buildings and of building elements. Part 1: Airborne sound insulation

ANSI/INFOCOMM 1M-2009: Audio Coverage Uniformity in Enclosed Listener Areas

**ISO 22234:2005 Cinematography:** Relative and absolute sound pressure levels for motion-picture multichannel sound systems - Measurement methods and levels applicable to analog photographic film audio, digital photographic film audio and D-cinema audio.

#### **Lighting Standards**

AS/NZS 1680.2.1:2008 (as amended): Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Circulation spaces and other general areas

AS/NZS 1680.2.2:2008 (as amended): Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Office and screen-based tasks

AS/NZS 1680.2.3:2008 (as amended): Interior and workplace lighting - Specific applications - Educational and training facilities

#### **Referenced University Guidelines**

UTS Design Guidelines P-PO.01.09 Section 23: Audiovisual Services

#### **General Reading**

Lecture Theatre Services Managers Group, Providing Teaching Room Services – Good Practice and Standards, JISC ASSIST 2009 (unpublished): http://www.ltsmg.org.uk/FinalV42.htm (accessed October 18th 2009)

Andrew Calov Presentation & Teaching Facilities 2009: AVS Engineering Brief pp1

Don Davis & Eugene Patronis, Jr: Sound System Engineering 3rd Ed: p213 Measuring Intelligibility

School Acoustics - Building Bulletin 93 or BB93 (UK)

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/BB93

# 17. Definitions and Abbreviations

**AETM** Association of Educational Technology Managers

ANSI American National Standards Institute

ANSI Lumens A standardized procedure for testing projectors established by the American National Standards Institute, which involves averaging together several measurements taken at different positions. The luminous flux of projectors that have been tested according to this procedure may be quoted in "ANSI lumens", to distinguish them from those tested by other methods. The method for measuring ANSI lumens is defined in the IT7.215 document which was created in 1992. First the projector is set up to display an image in a room at a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius. The brightness and contrast of the projector are adjusted so that on a full white field, it is possible to distinguish between a 5% screen area block of 95% per cent peak white, and two identically sized 100% and 90% peak white boxes at the centre of the white field. The light output is then measured on a full white field at nine specific locations around the screen and averaged. This average is then multiplied by the screen area to give the brightness of the projector in "ANSI lumens".

Definition adapted from Wikipedia (document retrieved 15/10/090) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANSI\_Lumens

**EWIS** Emergency Warning Intercommunication System

**ICIA** International Communications Industry Association. An industry representation, training and standards body for the International Audiovisual industry.

Lux A unit of illumination per area equal to 1 lumen per square meter; 0.0929 foot candle.

**Screen Gain** The ability of a screen to direct incident light to an audience. A flat matte white wall has the gain of approximately 1. Screens with a gain less than 1 attenuate incident light; screens with gain more than 1 direct more incident light to the audience but have a narrow viewing angle. For example: an image reflecting off a 10 gain screen appears 10 times brighter than it would if reflected off a matte white wall. Curved screens usually have larger gain than flat screens.

http://ntdd2489.fm.netbenefit.co.uk/projection101/glossary/index.asp (retrieved 15/10/2009) Christie Digital Systems, Inc.

#### Audio Visual Design Guidelines for Tertiary Teaching Spaces

The Second Edition of the AETM Design Guidelines builds on the success of the first edition and has been completely revised and updated. Chapters 1 – 10 include specific advice on projection, sound, lighting and project methodology intended to guide Architects, Engineers and Consultants in the particular requirements of the various audio visual components required in teaching spaces. These sections draw together existing research and relevant national and international norms and benchmarks and have been tested against the collective experience of AETM members for relevance, efficacy and practicality.

Chapters 11 – 15 propose a new, more wide-ranging taxonomy for teaching spaces. These sections include checklists and detailed advice intended to guide Academics, Executives and Administrative staff by providing both minimum and best practice specifications for the AV fit-out of teaching spaces. These recommendations have been developed by surveying the membership to bring together a national consensus across more than thirty tertiary institutions.

#### The Association of Educational Technology Managers

The Association of Educational Technology Managers was formed in 2001 to develop cross-university links to share expertise and provide opportunities for training and professional development. The AETM represents the Audio Visual professionals employed in the tertiary education sector, one of the largest and most active segments of the AV industry in Australasia. Our members are responsible for the Audio Visual technology in teaching spaces which cater for more than a million students. These comprise around 6,200 Lecture Theatres, Seminar Rooms and specialist teaching spaces in nearly 50 Tertiary intuitions in Australia and New Zealand. You can learn more about the AETM at the website: www.aetm.org





