



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

N.64

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

**MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SOUND – PROGRAMME AND TELEVISION
TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS**

QUALITY AND IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT

ITU-T Recommendation N.64

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation N.64 was published in Fascicle IV.3 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Recommendation N.64

QUALITY AND IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT

1 5-grade scale for quality and impairment assessment

The 5-grade scale, applicable to both quality and impairment assessments in Table 1/N.64 should be used.

TABLE 1/N.64

Grade	Quality	Impairment
5	Excellent	Imperceptible
4	Good	Perceptible but not annoying
3	Fair	Slightly annoying
2	Poor	Annoying
1	Bad	Very annoying

Although the scale is intended, in connection with television, to apply to *overall* picture assessment, it should be noted that the same scale could be used for a critical assessment of particular picture characteristics. Moreover, the number of the grade can be taken as either a quality assessment or an impairment assessment. Depending on the context, for example, a Grade 3 picture is of *fair* quality, having *slightly annoying* impairments. The same scale can be used in the case of types of transmission other than television.

Note 1 – It is implicit that before a circuit is handed over to a broadcasting organization all reasonable steps will have been taken to ensure that the circuit quality from the point of view of transmission is the best that can be achieved at the beginning of the preparatory period.

Note 2 – Grade 1 should be applied only to a transmission considered to be unusable by the broadcasting organization concerned. If, under exceptional circumstances, the broadcasting organization decides to use a transmission so graded, because of the interest in the information to be transmitted, this should not constitute a precedent for changing the grade or for changing the significance of Grade 1.

Note 3 – This Recommendation does not apply to the assessment of speech transmission quality in telephony.