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**International
Standard**

ISO/IEC 30137-1

**Information technology — Use of
biometrics in video surveillance
systems —**

**Part 1:
System design and specification**

*Technologies de l'information — Utilisation de la biométrie dans
les systèmes de vidéosurveillance —*

Partie 1: Conception et spécification

**Second edition
2024-03**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 30137-1:2019), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes are as follows:

- in the interest of using inclusive language, the terms "black list" and "white list" have been updated to "block list" and "allow list", respectively;
- minor editorial corrections have been made throughout the text, including corrections to cross-referencing within the document itself.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 30137 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

Considerable improvements in the performance of automatic facial recognition (AFR) technologies have resulted in applications such as automated border control using the facial images encoded in e-passports and implemented in systems whereby the identity of a co-operative traveller is verified in an environment designed for the collection of uniformly illuminated and optimally posed images. The success of these first generation AFR systems has encouraged suppliers to consider other applications where the environment for collection of images may be far from optimal. The inferior performance in such identification applications with less control can necessitate a greater involvement by trained personnel.

The ISO/IEC 30137 series provides guidance on the use of biometric technologies in video surveillance systems (VSSs), a framework for performance testing and reporting of such systems, and procedures for establishing ground truth and annotating video data for testing purposes.

This document provides the architecture, use cases and system design. The use cases include real-time alerting to the presence of individuals of interest, law enforcement applications such as reviewing post-event video footage from one or more cameras against pre-populated watchlists, commercial uses such as the identification of individuals who are to be given preferential service, and faces added to (enrolled in) a watchlist following observation of behaviours in the video material.

Other scenarios include measurement of crowd densities and determining numbers of individuals traversing a given point. While these are not the focus of this document, they are closely related and information on these scenarios is therefore included in [Annex A](#).

Information technology — Use of biometrics in video surveillance systems —

Part 1: System design and specification

1 Scope

The ISO/IEC 30137 series is applicable to the use of biometrics in VSSs (also known as closed circuit television or CCTV systems) for a number of scenarios, including real-time operation against watchlists and in post-event analysis of video data. In most cases, the biometric mode of choice will be face recognition, but this document also provides guidance for other modalities, such as gait recognition.

This document:

- defines the key terms for use in the specification of biometric technologies in a VSS, including metrics for defining performance;
- provides guidance on the selection of camera types, placement of cameras, image specification, etc., for the operation of a biometric recognition capability in conjunction with a VSS;
- provides guidance on the composition of the gallery (or watchlist) against which facial images from the VSS are compared, including the selection of appropriate images of sufficient quality, and the size of the gallery in relation to performance requirements;
- makes recommendations on data formats for facial images and other relevant information (including metadata) obtained from video footage, used in watchlist images, or from observations made by human operators;
- establishes general principles for supporting the operator of the VSS, including user interfaces and processes to ensure efficient and effective operation, and highlights the need to have suitably trained personnel;
- highlights the need for robust governance processes to provide assurance that the implemented security, privacy and personal data protection measures specific to the use of biometric technologies with a VSS (e.g. internationally recognizable signage) are fit for purpose, and that societal considerations are reflected in the deployed system.

This document also provides information on related recognition and detection tasks in a VSS, such as:

- estimation of crowd densities;
- determination of patterns of movement of individuals;
- identification of individuals appearing in more than one camera;
- use of other biometric modalities such as gait or iris;
- use of specialized software to infer attributes of individuals, e.g. estimation of gender and age;
- interfaces to another related functionality, e.g. video analytics to measure queue lengths or to provide alerts for abandoned baggage.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.