

Speech Quality and Intelligibility Tuning Aspects for eCall Implementations

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The automotive industry needs to equip vehicles with eCall systems by October 2015. At the same time the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) need to be upgraded accordingly in order to be able to process eCalls. In such an eCall case a Minimum Set of Data (MSD) is transmitted to the PSAP first and a voice call is subsequently established between the PSAP and the vehicle. The eCall system is then operated in hands-free mode. However, the eCall system does not necessarily use the same microphone and speakers as the regular hands-free system in the vehicle. Furthermore, the eCall transducers are perhaps not always mounted in acoustically optimized positions. Consequently, speech quality parameters and requirements cannot always be applied for these systems in the same way as for the regular hands-free system. This especially applies to aftermarket solutions, which may be increasingly available within the next years. Furthermore, speech intelligibility plays an important role in addition (or in parallel) to speech quality. This contribution discusses suitable tests but also technical limitations for speech quality in eCall systems.

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