Technical Specifications
Revision: November 29, 2021

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Notice

Bell Media now offers two technical specification profiles for program material deliveries.

An "**OPTIMIZED**" profile, desired for most content, focused on high-quality, native files, as well as a "**SIMPLIFIED**" profile, in a broadcast-ready format, which may be required for some deliveries.

Please refer to your Bell Media programming contact who can indicate the profile to use for your production, based on certain criteria such as delivery times, target channel or platform, or other considerations.

Any exceptions must be accepted by a Bell Media technical representative prior to delivery. Your programming contact will make sure you get in touch with the right resource person, depending on the target channel.

1. General Requirements

   - All video sources **must not be upscaled**; 4K video must come from a 4K source as HD video must come from an HD source

   - Be aware that Bell Media broadcasts in **29.97 fps drop frame**, so if a fixed length was agreed on contract with programming for delivery (ex. 45min30sec), any product delivered in another frame rate (e.g. 23.976) should make sure to have a length that matches real time when converted, and not just consider the timecode out of the source.

   - Here's a few examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length in 23.98 fps</th>
<th>Length in 29.97 fps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:21:58:18</td>
<td>00:22:00:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:22:28:16</td>
<td>00:22:30:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:43:57:10</td>
<td>00:44:00:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:45:27:06</td>
<td>00:45:30:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2. Video and Audio Requirements

### 2.1 Video Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>OPTIMISED PROFILE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SIMPLIFIED PROFILE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image Frame Size</td>
<td>Native Resolution</td>
<td>1920x1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4K/Ultra HD – (4096 x 2160/3840 x 2160)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2K/HD – (2048 x 1080/1920 x 1080/1280 x 720)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Types</td>
<td>IMF*, ProRes, XAVC-I or JPEG2000, or other (to validate)</td>
<td>MXF OP1a – XDCAM HD422 @ 50Mbps (1080i60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of stream</td>
<td>(variable, depends on source)</td>
<td>MPEG-2 Transport or Program Stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frame Rates</td>
<td>Native Frame Rate</td>
<td>29.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(23.976, 24, 25, 29.97, 30, 50, 59.94, 60)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan Type</td>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>Interlaced (Upper field first)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic Range</td>
<td>HDR (as per Dolby Vision spec)**</td>
<td>SDR***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour Encoding</td>
<td>RGB 4:4:4</td>
<td>RGB 4:4:4, YCbCr 4:2:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>YCbCr 4:2:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorimetry</td>
<td>P3D65/ITU-R BT.2020, SMPTE ST 2084 (PQ)</td>
<td>ITU-R BT.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ITU-R BT.709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bit Depth</td>
<td>12 bit</td>
<td>10 bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulldown cadence (if required)</td>
<td>3:2</td>
<td>3:2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If IMF packages are available, they should be generated from an uncompressed source file.

** If Dolby Vision specs are not available for HDR content, other options can be discussed.

*** If SDR specs are not available, other options can be discussed.
**Titles and positioning**
Subtitles and other on-screen information must be located within the safe title area as per SMPTE ST2046-2:2009.

Please note that for on air broadcasting, station identification logo is keyed over the entire program in the lower right corner. The use of graphic overlays, subtitles or other text elements should be avoided in this area.

Also avoid overlays during the first 10 seconds following a return from break, this is often required to insert channel branding elements.

**Delivery of English content to be dubbed to French**
Textless elements **must** be present at the tail of the video document and be clearly identified, ideally with another slate that says "Textless elements".
### 2.2 Audio Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>OPTIMISED PROFILE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SIMPLIFIED PROFILE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample Rate</strong></td>
<td>48 kHz</td>
<td>48 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bit Depth</strong></td>
<td>24 bit</td>
<td>24 bit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.1 Channel Mapping</strong></td>
<td>Channel 1 – Left&lt;br(Channel 2 – Right&lt;br(Channel 3 – Centre&lt;br(Channel 4 – LFE&lt;br(Channel 5 – Left Surround&lt;br(Channel 6 – Right Surround&lt;br(Channel 7 – Videodescription left (or left stereo)&lt;br(Channel 8 – Videodescription right (or right stereo)&lt;br<strong>English brands only:</strong>&lt;br(Channel 9 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 10 – Right stereo)</td>
<td>Channel 1 – Left&lt;br(Channel 2 – Right&lt;br(Channel 3 – Centre&lt;br(Channel 4 – LFE&lt;br(Channel 5 – Left Surround&lt;br(Channel 6 – Right Surround&lt;br(Channel 7 – Videodescription left (or left stereo)&lt;br(Channel 8 – Videodescription right (or right stereo)&lt;br<strong>English brands only:</strong>&lt;br(Channel 9 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 10 – Right stereo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stereo Channel Mapping</strong></td>
<td>Channel 1 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 2 – Right stereo&lt;br(Channel 3 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 4 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 5 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 6 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 7 – Videodescription left (or left stereo)&lt;br(Channel 8 – Videodescription right (or right stereo)&lt;br<strong>English brands only:</strong>&lt;br(Channel 9 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 10 – Right stereo)</td>
<td>Channel 1 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 2 – Right stereo&lt;br(Channel 3 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 4 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 5 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 6 – Silence&lt;br(Channel 7 – Videodescription left (or left stereo)&lt;br(Channel 8 – Videodescription right (or right stereo)&lt;br<strong>English brands only:</strong>&lt;br(Channel 9 – Left stereo&lt;br(Channel 10 – Right stereo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loudness</strong></td>
<td>-24 LKFS ± 2 LU</td>
<td>-24 LKFS ± 2 LU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Max Peak</strong></td>
<td>-2dBFS</td>
<td>-2dBFS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The material of stereo programs will be converted to 5.1 when ingested or aired.
2.3 Material for dubbing purposes and promotions

If material is intended for dubbing (especially for French channels) or promotions, please include as much original and separate channels as possible (stems), in order for the dubbing to be of better quality. This should include:

- Original mix
- BG/FX
- Music
- Narration/ Dialogue
- On-camera Dialogue
3. Additional Requirements

3.1 Accessibility Files

Captions delivered must be timed and synced with the accompanying video track and in the same language as the audio tracks of the latter, and delivered at the same rate as the picture format.

Captions are also accepted in all other available languages, provided they are properly identified.

**OPTIMISED profile**

If possible, close captions need to be embedded into the video file, in both EIA-608 and EIA-708 formats.

In addition, if available, we would also like to receive the caption separately, ideally in .scc format, and with the same name and timecode as the main file. If the .scc format is not available, other options can be discussed.

**SIMPLIFIED profile**

All close captions need to be embedded into the video file, in both EIA-608 and EIA-708 formats.

3.2 Described Video

Any available descriptive audio tracks (English and/or French) must be timed and synced with the accompanying primary video track.

**OPTIMISED profile**

Described video must be delivered on tracks 7 + 8 of the video file and must be a full stereo mix including descriptive dialogue mixed into left and right channels.

As a second choice, we also accept that the description video be delivered separately in an uncompressed linear PCM format in WAV format. These separate tracks should also be a full stereo mix, including descriptive dialogue mixed into the left and right channels, not just the narrative voice.

**SIMPLIFIED profile**

Described video must be delivered on tracks 7 + 8 of the video file and must be a full stereo mix including descriptive dialogue mixed into left and right channels.
3.3 Metadata

**OPTIMISED profile**

All assets should come, **if available**, accompanied with a side car file in a machine readable file format (ie. XML, JSON) that includes at minimum the following details:

- EIDR-ID
- Start and End of video for all segments
- Audio Layout
- Title Sequence, credit and recap In/Out Points

In terms of format, metadata should be structured following the MovieLabs Media Manifest specification. If not available, metadata structured according to the CableLabs ADI 3.0 specification will be accepted.

**SIMPLIFIED profile**

No metadata required.

4. Filenames

All assets should have human readable file names and follow the naming convention outlined below:

```
{showTitle}_S{season#}_E{episode#}_{codec}_{frameSize}_{colorSpace}_{bitDepth#}bit_{chromaSampling} _{audioPackage1}_{audioPackage2}>({language*})_{dateCreated}
```

Example: Frontier_S1_E02_XAVCI_3840x2160_REC709_10bit_422_51_DV_FR_2019-09-15.mxf

*Language values include EN for English, FR for French, ENFR for English and French*

5. File delivery

There are a couple of ways a file can be electronically submitted to Bell Media. To request access to our file exchange services contact us at:

**English channels:** MTSSupport@bellmedia.ca  
**French channels:** tdm@bellmedia.ca

Before any file exchange can happen, arrangements must be setup between Bell Media and the partner. For first time users, a test file is required to make sure the product can be ingested and treated properly by our transcoding and airing systems.

For commercials we have interfaces with the major ad delivery services. Please contact the service providers directly to deliver commercial material.