

SMPTE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

Data Element Dictionary



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Foreword

SMPTE (the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) is an internationally-recognized standards developing organization. Headquartered and incorporated in the United States of America, SMPTE has members in over 80 countries on six continents. SMPTE’s Engineering Documents, including Standards, Recommended Practices and Engineering Guidelines, are prepared by SMPTE’s Technology Committees. Participation in these Committees is open to all with a bona fide interest in their work. SMPTE cooperates closely with other standards-developing organizations, including ISO, IEC and ITU.

SMPTE Engineering Documents are drafted in accordance with the rules given in Part XIII of its Administrative Practices. This SMPTE Engineering Document was prepared by Technology Committee W25.

1 Scope

This data element register defines data elements, including their names, descriptions and identifiers, for association with essence or other metadata. A full explanation is contained in SMPTE 335M.

The metadata dictionary structure defined in SMPTE 335M covers the use of metadata for all types of essence (video, audio, and data in their various forms). The standard specifies that any application must conform both to:

- (a) the definitions and formats in SMPTE 335M; and
- (b) this metadata dictionary contents practice.

This register and the register structure defining document (SMPTE 335M) must be used together as a pair — neither must be used in isolation.

This recommended practice contains a representation of the SMPTE Data Element Dictionary in the form of an Excel spreadsheet.

2 Conformance Notation

Normative text is text that describes elements of the design that are indispensable or contains the conformance language keywords: "shall", "should", or "may". Informative text is text that is potentially helpful to the user, but not indispensable, and can be removed, changed, or added editorially without affecting interoperability. Informative text does not contain any conformance keywords.

All text in this document is, by default, normative, except: the Introduction, any section explicitly labeled as "Informative" or individual paragraphs that start with "Note:"

The keywords "shall" and "shall not" indicate requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the document and from which no deviation is permitted.

The keywords, "should" and "should not" indicate that, among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required; or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited.

The keywords "may" and "need not" indicate courses of action permissible within the limits of the document.

The keyword "reserved" indicates a provision that is not defined at this time, shall not be used, and may be defined in the future. The keyword "forbidden" indicates "reserved" and in addition indicates that the provision will never be defined in the future.

Unless otherwise specified the order of precedence of the types of normative information in this document shall be as follows. Normative prose shall be the authoritative definition. Tables shall be next, followed by formal languages, then figures, and then any other language forms.

3 Normative References

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this recommended practice. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this recommended practice are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standards indicated below.

SMPTE 298M-1997, Television — Universal Labels for Unique Identification of Digital Data

SMPTE 335M-2001, Television — Metadata Dictionary Structure

All other normative references are contained in the registry itself as part of each metadata element description.

4 Registry Structure

The registry structure shall be as defined in SMPTE 335M. The registry itself shall be the items listed in the file labeled “RP210.11.XLS” which forms an integral part of this document. The universal labels shall be formed as defined in SMPTE 298M.

4.1 Structure Overview (Informative)

For convenience of the management of the registry, metadata elements are listed under the six distinct classes of identification: administration, interpretation, parametric, process, relational, and spatio-temporal. Two further classes are reserved for organizationally registered metadata and one for experimental use.

These classes are further broken down under nodes, which are again for management purposes only.

Each metadata element is listed by name, with a definition of what it is, its data type, length, reference to existing standards, where appropriate, and a unique 8-byte key. Although nodes have a key allocated, this is not used — it is once again an aid for management purposes only.

Annex A Bibliography (Informative)

SMPTE 336M-2001, Television — Data Encoding Protocol Using Key-Length-Value

SMPTE EG-37-2001, Node Structure for the SMPTE Metadata Dictionary