



Advanced Television Systems Committee

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**LETTER BALLOT**  
**(Proposed) Recommended Practice: Guide to the Use of the ATSC DTV Standard A/54A**  
 November 6, 2003

On August 11, the ATSC Technology Group on Distribution approved the revision to A/54 "Recommended Practice: Guide to the Use of the ATSC DTV Standard". The attached document T3-586r9 is presented for your consideration as a Recommended Practice.

Please mark your vote and return this ballot form before the four-week deadline of December 4, 2003.

Question 1: Should the proposed Recommended Practice: Guide to the Use of the ATSC DTV Standard A/54A be approved?

Yes       No       Abstain

Question 2: Shall the ATSC President, in consultation with the Chairman of T3-Technology Group on Distribution, be given "editorial privileges" on the approved document referenced above?

Yes       No       Abstain

Member Organization NAB

Signature [Signature] Date 11/26/03

Editorial comments, or specific objections:

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Please return this ATSC Letter Ballot by December 4, 2003 to the ATSC.

**Section 2**

Add ITU-R 601-5 ( it is referenced in Table 5.2)

Update date on ref 22 to 2003.

**Section 3.2**

First sentence: Suggest replace with "The following definitions are included here for reference but the precise meaning of each term may vary slightly from standard to standard."

Delete ATEL, CDTV, CIR, ECM, ESCR, IIR, JEC, and PU, as they are not used.

Add "AFD Active Format Description"

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Section 3.3.7 seems unnecessary, (and  $\pi$  is not used. The letter 'e' might be used with this meaning - but I didn't see it.)

#### Section 4.1.4

First sentence: replace 'must recover' with 'recovers'

Second sentence: replace 'must' with 'performs the following functions'

Section 5.1 replace 20 in 20 Mbps with 19. (Should approximate using the same value, and 19 is common.)

#### Section 5.3

Forth para, first bullet addresses low-delay bit streams. This says underflow is allowed in ATSC TSs. I can't find the basis for this assertion, and given the discussions about 'still pictures' of late it seems that some think that underflow is not allowed.

#### Section 5.4

Second bullet is not correct. Tuning may be affected by I-frame rate, but methods exist to build a picture before the arrival of an I frame, so should change the "will" to a "may."

Third bullet calls for reduction of the number of macro blocks to localize errors. But fewer macro blocks means larger area is covered in each, so this seems wrong.

Section 5.5.4 Add "(AFD)" in title.

#### Section 7.7.1.1

First sentence insert "for MPEG-2 descriptors" after 'previously' and before 'and'

#### Section 7.7.1.1.1

This section implies that this descriptor is required in the PMT and only the PMT.

Revise last sentence to read: "This descriptor is optionally present in the program element loop of the TS\_program\_map\_section that describes the AC-3 audio elementary stream. See A/65B for required placements.

Sections 7.7.1.2.3 and the first paragraph of 7.7.2.1 appear to be essentially the same.

#### Sections 7.7.2.1

The second paragraph sets up a series of subordinate sections, but they are numbered on a peer level. Either eliminate the paragraph numbers or go one level deeper for 7.7.2.2-7.7.2.4.

#### Section 8.1

Minimizing the peak to average does not minimize the interference into other signals.

Minimizing the peak power may. As allocations were made using average, not peak power, having lower peak to average for a given average reduced the peak, which in turn reduced the interference. Reword.

#### Table 8.1

There is no excess bandwidth, replace 'excess' with 'guard'.

Section 9.2, last sentence. Replace 'all' with "many".

Section 9.2.1

9<sup>th</sup> para (pg 87 next to last para in section)

4<sup>th</sup> sentence says: "This is because the permitted power level in NTSC broadcasting is 12 to 15 dB higher than the permitted power level in DTV broadcasting."

This is wrong. The maximum power for a UHF DTV station is 1Megawatt average. The maximum power for an NTSC stations is 5 MW peak. The difference is about 7 db. The Peak to average for DTV is not constrained, but is seldom under 6 db. So the peak powers are essentially the same. Some UHF stations however do have lower powers and lower power emitters can be next to higher power emitters. RTR:

"This is because the variations in received levels from station to adjacent station can be very large, with variations on the order of 40 dB not uncommon. DTV to DTV variations can be the same order of magnitude."

Alternatively, delete the offending sentence.

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ps. When these comments went over one page a second page footer was exposed with rgraves@atsc.org as the contact address in the footer *along with previous tel and fax numbers.*

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