

Rationale for TSG-698r3: Proposed Amendment to ATSC Digital Television Standard, Doc. A/53E Annex A

TSG-698r3 was developed in conjunction with SMPTE and CEA as part of ATSC's ongoing standards coordination activities. It addresses a number of errors in ATSC's specification of Active Format Description (AFD) and bar data.

This Amendment to A/53E Annex A brings the document into alignment with the AFD and bar data work being undertaken concurrently by SMPTE and CEA. The only changes are to semantics, not syntax. One new constraint is added, and that is that only one pair of bar data may be sent. Also, an implied constraint has been made explicit; this is that AFD must be sent in `extension_and_user_data(2)`; that is, at the picture level—but it is not required to be in each picture, rather when sent, it can be sent just once per video sequence, with the meaning lasting until the next video sequence. This is consistent with ATSC practice for other video user data, but differs from DVB practice.

The equivalent SMPTE documents are now in ballot; the CEA document was approved recently. As the documents all reference each other, it is essential that they all move forward through their respective approval processes together.