

Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus Bitstreams over HDMI for Broadcast Products

Technical Bulletin 13

This technical bulletin updates Dolby requirements for broadcast products offering an HDMI™ output and Dolby® Digital or Dolby Digital Plus decoding.

Background

Some broadcast products do not provide all the decoding capability needed for the number of encoded channels in the Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus bitstream. At the same time, an increasing number of broadcast products on the market include Dolby Digital Plus capability (and therefore Dolby Digital capability), and feature an HDMI output.

Considering that most receivers will have full Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus decoding capability, we want to ensure that broadcast products deliver a complete bitstream to these receiver products, thereby ensuring that the audio reproduction intended by the content producer is experienced by the end user.

Our digital output specification for broadcast products states that an HDMI output is recommended, but it does not specify what to do when an HDMI output is present in the design. The following requirement addresses such a condition.

New Requirement

HDMI outputs from broadcast products having Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus decoding capability must be capable of passing the native Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus bitstream. This new requirement does not constrain or limit any of the other ways content is transmitted over HDMI.

Effective Date

There will be a phase-in period of one year for this requirement, until Nov 1, 2008. After this date, all broadcast products that include Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus decoding capability with an HDMI output must meet this requirement to receive Dolby Digital or Dolby Digital Plus approval.

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