Audio Track Files

Best Practices

# Scope

This document specifies best practices for IMF Audio Track Files, which are specified in SMPTE ST 2067-2. In particular, it provides guidance on the contents of the MCALabelSubDescriptor defined in SMPTE ST 377-4, which adds information to each audio channel and soundfield group.

# Status of this Document

This Draft Best Practice is published by the IMF User Group[[1]](#endnote-1). As a draft, it may be updated, replaced or obsoleted by other documents at any time. This document should not be cited as anything other than work in progress. Readers are encouraged to consult the following for a list of current issues, to which they are invited to contribute.

https://github.com/imfug/004-audio-track-files

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# Recommendations

Each Soundfield Group should be wrapped into a single Audio Track File.

EXAMPLE: A 5.1 soundfield group is contained in a single Audio Track File that contains 6 audio channels.

The value of MCA Audio Element Kind should be one of the Use Class symbols specified in PCD ST 377-41:2020[[3]](#endnote-3), Table 3.

The value of MCA Audio Content Kind should be one of the Content symbols specified in PCD ST 377-41:2020, Table 2.

The value MCA Title and MCA Title Version should be n/a if no specific values are provided.

Tag Symbols for 2-channel programs should clearly distinguish the method used to create the soundfield:

* chL and chR (channel) and sgST (soundfield group) for standard stereo; or
* chLt and chRt (channel) and sgLtRt (soundfield group) for matrix encoded Lt-Rt pair.

The value of the MCA Tag Symbol item should be consistent with the value of the MCA Tag Name item.

Table 1 provides examples MCALabelSubDescriptor values for a selection of content types.

Table . Examples of MCALabelSubDescriptor values for a selection of content types.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Spoken Language (RFC 5646)** | **Soundfield Group** | | | | **Audio Channel** | |
| **MCA Audio Content Kind** | **MCA Audio Element Kind** | **MCA Tag Name** | **MCA Tag Symbol** | **MCA Tag Name** | **MCA Tag Symbol** |
| Primary | Language per RFC 5646 (e.g. en-US, es-419) | PRM | FCMP | Lt-Rt | sgLtRt | Left Total | chLt |
| Right Total | chRt |
| Music & Effects | No value required | ME | ICMP | Standard Stereo | sgST | Left | chL |
| Right | chR |
| Dialogue | Language per RFC 5646 (e.g. en-US, es-419) | DX | ICMP | Standard Stereo | sgST | Left | chL |
| Right | chR |
| Sound Effects | No value required | FX | ICMP | Standard Stereo | sgST | Left | chL |
| Right | chR |
| Music | No value required | MX | ICMP | Standard Stereo | sgST | Left | chL |
| Right | chR |
| Primary | Language per RFC 5646 (e.g. en-US, es-419) | PRM | FCMP | 5.1 | sg51 | Left | chL |
| Right | chR |
| Center | chC |
| LFE | chLFE |
| Left Surround | chLs |
| Right Surround | chRs |

1. https://www.imfug.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/ [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://github.com/SMPTE/ST377-4-Revision-and-ST377-41 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)