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Mapping VC-6 into the MXF Generic Container

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**Title Page**

This page will be provided by SMPTE HQ Staff.

See AG-16 clause 3.1 (Title Page), and ISO Directive Part 2 clause 11 (Title).

Proposed SMPTE Standard

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# Foreword

See AG-16 3.2 (Foreword), and ISO Directive Part 2 clause 12 (Foreword).

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# Introduction

An Introduction section is Optional / Conditional

The introduction provides specific information or commentary about the technical content of the document, and about the reasons prompting its preparation. See AG-16 clause 3.3 (Introduction), AG-16 clause 4.2 (Conformance Terms), and ISO Directive Part 2 clause 13 (Introduction).

This section is entirely informative and does not form an integral part of this Engineering Document.

SMPTE ST 2117-1 (VC-6) is a versatile intra-frame compression scheme. This document maps the VC-6 bitstream into the MXF Generic Container. The usage of this mapping to synchronise with other components such as audio and video is outside the scope of this document.

The MXF Generic Container is a streamable Essence Container that can be placed on any suitable transport and stored. SMPTE ST 379-1 defines the MXF Generic Container as the native Essence Container in MXF files. SMPTE ST 379-2 defines the MXF Constrained Generic Container.

Other MXF mapping documents such as SMPTE ST 382 define how Audio can be mapped and synchronised with the video stream in the MXF Generic Container.

[Editors notes: The following paragraph will be replaced with the appropriate patent information during the SMPTE Headquarters publication process.]

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# 1 Scope

The scope clearly defines the subject of the document and the aspects covered, thereby indicating the limits of applicability of the document. See AG-16 clause 3.4 (Scope), and ISO Directive Part 2 clause 14 (Scope).

This Standard constrains the MXF mapping of SMPTE ST-2117-1 into the MXF Generic Container or MXF Constrained Generic Container.

# 2 Normative References

The normative references clause lists, for information, those documents which are cited normatively in the document. See AG-16 clause 3.5 (Normative References), AG-16 clause 4.3 (Normative References to Standards and Recommended Practices), and the ISO Directives Clause 15 (Normative References).

The following SMPTE STANDARD contains provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. [Dated references require that the specific edition cited shall be used as the reference]. Undated citations refer to the edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) current at the date of publication of this document. All SMPTE STANDARDs are subject to revision, and users of this engineering document are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of any undated reference.

SMPTE ST 326:2000, Television — SDTI Content Package Format (SDTI-CP)

SMPTE ST 331:2011, Element and Metadata Definitions for the SDTI-CP

SMPTE ST 377-1:2019, Material Exchange Format (MXF) — File Format Specification

SMPTE ST 378:2004, Television — Material Exchange Format (MXF) — Operational pattern 1A (Single Item, Single Package)

SMPTE ST 379-1:2009, Material Exchange Format (MXF) — MXF Generic Container

SMPTE ST 379-2:2010, Television — Material Exchange Format (MXF) — MXF Constrained Generic Container

SMPTE ST 381-2:2011, Material Exchange Format (MXF) — Mapping MPEG Streams into the MXF Constrained Generic Container

SMPTE ST 382:2007, Material Exchange Format — Mapping AES3 and Broadcast Wave Audio into the MXF Generic Container

SMPTE ST 385:2012, Material Exchange Format (MXF) — Mapping SDTI-CP Essence and Metadata into the MXF Generic Container

SMPTE ST 400:2012, SMPTE Labels Structure

SMPTE ST 436-1:2013, MXF Mappings for VI Lines and Ancillary Data Packet

# 3 Terms and Definitions

The terms and definitions clause provide definitions necessary for the understanding of certain terms used in the document. See AG-16 clause 3.6 (Terms and Definitions), AG-16 clause 4.4 (Terms and Definitions), and ISO Directive Part 2 clause 16 (Terms and Definitions).

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For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in SMPTE ST 377-1 and SMPTE ST 379-2 apply.

# 4 MXF File Structure and Mapping

## 4.1 General

SMPTE ST-2117-10 MXF files specified by this document shall have one of the two structures illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively. **HPP** is an shorthand for Header Partition Pack, **BPP** is an shorthand for Body Partition Pack and **FPP** is a shorthand for Footer Partition Pack.



Figure 1 - Single Essence Location Style



Figure 2 - Multiple Essence Location Style

## 4.2 Single Essence Location Style

As shown in Figure 1, this style consists of a Header Partition, a Footer Partition, and a Random Index Pack.

The Index Table is placed prior to the Essence Container.

Some of the aspects of this style are shown below.

* It is easy to handle because of a simple structure
* It is easy to edit while file transferring
* It is easy to select an extract, or a “Partial file”

The following Index Layout Properties shall be set according to SMPTE ST 377-1.

* Index Table Segment::Single Index Location TRUE (Single Location)
* Index Table Segment::Single Location TRUE (Single Location)
* Index Table Segment::Forward Index Direction TRUE (Forward)
* Preface:: is RIP present TRUE

## 4.3 Multiple Essence Location Style

As shown in Figure 2, this style consists of a Header Partition, segmented Body Partition(s), a Footer Partition, and a Random Index Pack. Each Body Partition carrying VC-6 data shall be followed by one Index Table Segment that carries the Index Entries for the Edit Units of that Body Partition.

Some of the aspects of this style are shown below.

* It is only necessary to include one Index Table Segment for each Body Partition period on the sender side
* It is easy to perform the function “Play while receiving file” on the receiver side
* It is easy to select an extract, or a “Partial file”

The following Index Layout Properties shall be set according to SMPTE ST 377-1.

* Index Table Segment::Single Index Location FALSE (Distributed Location)
* Index Table Segment::Single Essence Location FALSE (Distributed Location)
* Index Table Segment::Forward Index Direction FALSE (Backward)
* Preface:: is RIP present TRUE
* Essence Container Data:: Following Index Table TRUE (A Complete Index Table follows all Essence)

# 5 Mapping VC-6 Bitstream into the MXF Generic Container

VC-6 streams shall be mapped using the MXF Generic Container using frame wrapping as defined in SMPTE ST 379-1 and SMPTE ST 379-2

Figure 4 shows the SMPTE ST-2117 picture element, the bitstream shall comply with SMPTE ST-2117.



Figure 4 - Mapping of ST-2117 Picture Item Element

# 6 Key Length Value Encoding

## 6.1 Picture Element Key

### 6.1.1 SMPTE ST-2117 Picture Element Key

Table 1 - Picture Element Keys

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Kind | Item UL |
| FrameWrappedVC6PictureElement | LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060E2B34.01020101.0D010301.157f1f7f |

NOTE: The table shows the Item UL in the SMPTE Metadata registers where 7f in byte 16 is a placeholder for the Essence element number of the Element within the Picture Item.

FrameWrappedVC6PictureElement key bytes 1-13 are defined in SMPTE ST 379-2.

FrameWrappedVC6PictureElement key byte 16 shall be set to 1.

### 6.1.2 SMPTE ST-2117 Picture Element Length

The length field of the KLV coded Element shall comply with SMPTE ST 379-2.

### 6.1.3 SMPTE ST-2117 Picture Element Value

Each Picture Element value shall be a bitstream for a single image compliant with SMPTE ST-2117-1.

# 7 MXF Labels

## 7.1 Essence Container Label

The Essence Container Label is carried in the Essence Containers Properties of the Partition Packs, Preface Set and File Descriptor as defined in SMPTE ST 377-1.

The values of the Essence Container Label for VC-6 bitstreams in MXF shall be one of the values in Table 2.

Table 2 – Essence Container Label Values for VC-6

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Kind | Item UL |
| MXFGCVC6BitstreamTypes | NODE | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.0d010301.02240000 |
| MXFGCVC6FrameWrappedGenericBitstream | LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.0d010301.02240100 |
| MXFGCVC6FrameWrappedProgressivePictures | LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.0d010301.02240200 |
| MXFGCVC6FrameWrappedInterlacedPictures | LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.0d010301.02240300 |

The VC6FrameWrappedGenericbitstream shall only be used in cases where neither VC6FrameWrappedProgressivePictures nor VC6FrameWrappedInterlacedPictures describe the Pictures that are VC-6 encoded.

## 7.2 Picture Essence Coding Label

Labels intended for use as values for the Picture Essence Coding item of the Generic Picture Essence Descriptor, specified in SMPTE ST 377-1, are given in Table 3.

Table 3 – Picture Essence Coding Label Values for VC-6

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Kind | Item UL |
| VC6Bitstreams | NODE | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.04010202.01470000 |
| VC6UnrestrictedBitstream | LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0401010d.0d010301.02210100 |

NOTE The Picture Essence Coding item of the Generic Picture Essence Descriptor is intended to allow a decoder to fast-fail when processing the MXF file.

NOTE The Public CD will start with no constrained bitstream flags. If requirements for constrained bitstreams arise during the Public CD phase, then we will add them to the table.

# 8 VC6SubDescriptor

A VC6SubDescriptor should be present for VC-6 content in MXF. The VC6SubDescriptor is strongly referenced from a CDCI Descriptor or RGBA Descriptor and has the properties shown in Table 4. [**R**] indicates that a property is required.

Table 4 - VC6SubDescriptor ULs

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Register.Kind | Item UL |
| VC6Parameters | Elements.NODE | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.00000000 |
| VC6SubDescriptor | Groups.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.027f0101.0d010101.01018104 |
| VC6EchelonProperties | Groups.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.027f0101.0d010101.01018105 |
| VC6GCUpsamplersBatch | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.01000000 |
| VC6ShortcutVectorsBatch | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.02000000 |
| VC6Lossless | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.03000000 |
| VC6CBR | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.04000000 |
| VC6Bitrate | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.05000000 |
| VC6CompressedFrameMax | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.06000000 |
| VC6CompressedFrameAvg | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.07000000 |
| VC6MaxNoOfEchelons | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.08000000 |
| VC6EchelonVector | Elements.LEAF | urn:smpte:ul:060e2b34.0101010e.0401060d.09000000 |

Table 5 - Elements in the VC6SubDescriptor

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | type | Len | Meaning |
| VC6SubDescriptor | Set UL | 16 | [**R**] ST 2117 Sub Descriptor Key |
| VC6GCUpsamplersBatch | IDRefStrongReferenceSet | 8 + 16n | Unordered Batch of UInt8 Upsampler Indices used in the Generic Container |
| VC6ShortcutVectorsBatch | IDRefStrongReferenceSet | 8 + 16n | Unordered Batch of unique UInt16 ShortcutVector values used in the Generic Container |
| VC6Lossless | UInt8 | 1 | Non-zero if the encoder created a lossless bitstream |
| VC6CBR | UInt8 | 1 | Non-zero if the encoder intended a constant bitrate stream |
| VC6Bitrate | UInt64 | 8 | Target CBR bitrate or Maximum VBR bitrate in bits per second |
| VC6CompressedFrameMax | UInt64 | 8 | Maximum Size in bits of a Compressed Frame in the Generic Container |
| VC6CompressedFrameAvg | UInt64 | 8 | Average Size in bits of a Compressed Frame in the Generic Container |
| VC6MaxNoOfEchelons | UInt8 | 1 | Maximum Number of Echelons in any Frame in the Generic Container |
| VC6EchelonVector | Array of Strong Ref | 8 + 16n | Specifies a vector of an ordered set of references to VC6EchelonProperties sets |

A zero value of VC6CBR shall indicate that VC6Bitrate represents the target CBR bitrate. A non-zero value shall indicate that VC6Bitrate represents the maximum bitrate value in bits per second for one frame period.

NOTE: VC6ShortcutVectorsBatch contains only unique values. In theory there are 65536 different permutations of ShortcutVector. In practise only a few are actually created by an encoder. This property can be used by a decoder to help determine the resources required for decoding the generic container.

Table 7 - Elements in the VC6EchelonProperties Set

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | type | Len | Meaning |
| VC6EchelonProperties | Set UL | 16 | [**R**] VC6EchelonProperties Key |
| VC6EchelonIndex | UInt32 | 4 | [**R**] Signed Index of this Echelon as identified in ST 2117-1:2020 §4.8.9 |
| VC6SampledHeight | UInt32 | 4 | [**R**] Sampled Height of the reconstructed pixel grid for the echelon |
| VC6SampledWidth | UInt32 | 4 | [**R**] Sampled Width of the reconstructed pixel grid for the echelon |

# 9 Application Issues

## 9.1 Application of the KAG

MXF encoders and decoders shall comply with the KAG rules defined in SMPTE ST 377-1. The default value of the KAG is 1. Other KAG values may be used within the range defined by SMPTE ST 377-1.

## 9.2 Index Tables and the Fill Item

VC-6 coding is frame-based and the KLV fill item can be used to maintain a constant edit unit size for all frames.

Where the application defines a constant edit unit size, an index table shall be used. This includes the cases where the VC-6 essence element is the sole essence component and where it is interleaved with other essence components.

Where the application has a variable edit unit size an index table should be used wherever possible. SMPTE EG 377-3 illustrates the use of index tables for both mono and multi-essence mappings and for both constant and variable length edit unit sizes.

## 9.3 Operational Pattern Usage

This essence mapping may be used with any generalized operational pattern.

NOTE This does not preclude the use of specialized operational patterns.

## 9.4 Mapping Track Numbers to Generic Container Elements

Each track number value for an essence element defined in this standard shall be derived as described in the MXF Constrained Generic Container specification (SMPTE ST 379-2).

## 9.5 Essence Container Partitions

Frame wrapping maintains each content package of the generic container as a separate editable unit with the contents of the system, picture, sound and data items in synchronism. If a frame-wrapped essence container is partitioned, then individual content packages should not be fragmented by the partitioning process.

NOTE SMPTE ST 377-1:2019, Section 6.2.2 (Partition Rules Summary) summarizes the use of partitions in MXF files.

## 9.6 MXF Header Metadata Property Values

The following restrictions apply to Picture Stream wrapped with this standard

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Property | Progressive Pictures | Interlaced Pictures |
| Bitstreams per KLV Element | 1 | 2 |
| Frame Layout (ST 377-1 §G.2.1) | 0 (full\_frame) | 1 (separate\_fields) or 4 (segmented\_frame) |
| Sample Rate (ST 377-1 §G.2.2) | Frame | Frame |
| Edit Rate (ST 377-1 §B.12) | Frame | Frame |
| Index Edit Rate (ST 377-1 §11.2.3) | Frame | Frame |
| Aspect Ratio (ST 377-1 §G.2.4) | Frame | Frame |

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The following documents have useful reference material for document editors. SMPTE AG 16:2018 – SMPTE Engineering Document Style Guidelines

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) / International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Directives, Part 2:2016-05, Principles and rules for the structure and drafting of ISO and IEC documents, 7.0

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