

SMPTE ENGINEERING GUIDELINE

SMPTE Metadata
Naming Guidelines



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Foreword

SMPTE (the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers) is an internationally-recognized standards developing organization. Headquartered and incorporated in the United States of America, SMPTE has members in over 80 countries on six continents. SMPTE's Engineering Documents, including Standards, Recommended Practices, and Engineering Guidelines, are prepared by SMPTE's Technology Committees. Participation in these Committees is open to all with a bona fide interest in their work. SMPTE cooperates closely with other standards-developing organizations, including ISO, IEC and ITU.

SMPTE Engineering Documents are drafted in accordance with the rules given in Part XIII of its Operations Manual.

SMPTE EG 2074 was prepared by Technology Committee TC-30MR.

Introduction

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

Proposals for metadata items are submitted by users for approval and entry into the SMPTE family of metadata registers. This document gives guidance on the structuring of metadata item names in order to improve the consistency and presentation of the resulting registers.

1 Scope

This document contains naming guidelines for metadata item names and symbols in the SMPTE family of metadata registers that follow the provisions of SMPTE ST 336. A metadata item may be an entry in the Elements, Labels, Groups, Types, or other registers. These naming standards have been developed to aid consistency and precision, and prevent unnecessary redundancy.

This document contains semantic, syntactic, and lexical guidelines relating to the naming of items in SMPTE metadata registers.

This document contains an annex of preferred terminology that will be updated as required.

2 Metadata Item Naming Guidelines

Provisions in this section are expressed in the form of rules for clarity, but it should be recognized that this document is an Engineering Guideline and as such its provisions are not normative.

This document provides guidelines in an effort to represent data concepts with the best possible unique names within a namespace. It is often better for the description of a proposed metadata item to be developed first, to guide the best choice of a metadata item name.

Metadata items are divided into Classes, as defined by SMPTE ST 336 (see Annex A Bibliography). Ideally, these guidelines will be applied to all publicly-visible metadata item Classes, though the owners of Class 13 space have complete freedom to name their metadata items in any way they wish.

Class 14 metadata items are not registered by SMPTE and the names are only known within the organization that owns the space.

2.1 Spelling Conventions

The metadata item names are spelled in U.S. English according to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Where more than one spelling is provided for any word, the first spelling listed is preferred. Avoid variant spellings.

Avoid	Best Practice
Organisation Name	Organization Name
Programme Name	Program Name

2.2 Consistent Semantics/Terminology

To aid consistency and help prevent conceptual redundancy, it is important that consistent semantics are assigned to terms used to form metadata item names. The preferred terms will be updated regularly in Annex B of this document.

- Preferably, only one word or term is used to represent an identified concept within metadata item names. These terms, and guidance on style issues, will be tracked in the Annex B style guide.
- Avoid abbreviations in metadata item names and symbols. An abbreviation can be used when it is more recognizable than the terminology it represents or when an internationally-recognized abbreviation avoids a long name, but whenever possible, use the full word to avoid ambiguity.