

# **SCTE** | **STANDARDS**

---

**Digital Video Subcommittee**

---

**SCTE STANDARD**

**SCTE 215-1 2024**

**HEVC Video Constraints for Cable Television  
Part 1- Coding**

## NOTICE

The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) Standards and Operational Practices (hereafter called “documents”) are intended to serve the public interest by providing specifications, test methods and procedures that promote uniformity of product, interoperability, interchangeability, best practices, and the long term reliability of broadband communications facilities. These documents shall not in any way preclude any member or non-member of SCTE from manufacturing or selling products not conforming to such documents, nor shall the existence of such standards preclude their voluntary use by those other than SCTE members.

SCTE assumes no obligations or liability whatsoever to any party who may adopt the documents. Such adopting party assumes all risks associated with adoption of these documents and accepts full responsibility for any damage and/or claims arising from the adoption of such documents.

NOTE: The user’s attention is called to the possibility that compliance with this document may require the use of an invention covered by patent rights. By publication of this document, no position is taken with respect to the validity of any such claim(s) or of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder has filed a statement of willingness to grant a license under these rights on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions to applicants desiring to obtain such a license, then details may be obtained from the standards developer. SCTE shall not be responsible for identifying patents for which a license may be required or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of those patents that are brought to its attention.

Patent holders who believe that they hold patents which are essential to the implementation of this document have been requested to provide information about those patents and any related licensing terms and conditions. Any such declarations made before or after publication of this document are available on the SCTE web site at <https://scte.org>.

All Rights Reserved  
© 2024 Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers, Inc.  
140 Philips Road  
Exton, PA 19341

## Document Tags

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification	<input type="checkbox"/> Checklist	<input type="checkbox"/> Facility
<input type="checkbox"/> Test or Measurement	<input type="checkbox"/> Metric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access Network
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture or Framework	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cloud	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Premises
<input type="checkbox"/> Procedure, Process or Method		

## Document Release History

Release	Date
SCTE 215-1 2015	<i>2015</i>
SCTE 215-1 2018	<i>2018</i>
SCTE 215-1 2020	<i>2020</i>
SCTE 215-1 2024	<i>2/2/2024</i>

Note: Standards that are released multiple times in the same year use: a, b, c, etc. to indicate normative balloted updates and/or r1, r2, r3, etc. to indicate editorial changes to a released document after the year.

# Table of Contents

Title	Page Number
NOTICE.....	2
Document Tags.....	3
Document Release History .....	3
Table of Contents .....	4
1. Introduction.....	6
1.1. Executive Summary .....	6
1.2. Scope .....	6
1.3. Benefits .....	6
1.4. Intended Audience .....	6
2. Normative References .....	6
2.1. SCTE References .....	6
2.2. Standards from Other Organizations .....	7
2.3. Other Published Materials .....	8
3. Informative References .....	8
3.1. SCTE References .....	8
3.2. Standards from Other Organizations .....	8
3.3. Other Published Materials .....	9
4. Compliance Notation .....	10
5. Abbreviations and Definitions.....	10
5.1. Abbreviations.....	10
5.2. Definitions.....	11
6. Video Production Formats (Informative) .....	13
7. Video Emission Formats .....	14
8. Constraints on HEVC Coding.....	16
8.1. Syntactical Constraints on Parameter Sets .....	16
8.1.1. Profiles, Levels, and Tiers constraints .....	16
8.1.2. Constraints Restrictions with respect to nal_unit_type .....	17
8.1.2.1. Constraints for nal_unit_types associated with an SHRAP .....	19
8.1.3. Video Parameter Set (VPS) constraints .....	20
8.1.4. Sequence Parameter Set (SPS) constraints .....	20
8.1.5. VUI Constraints .....	21
8.1.6. Picture Parameter Constraints and Level Limits.....	23
8.1.7. Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI) Constraints .....	24
8.1.7.1. HDR Dynamic Metadata .....	26
8.2. Compression format, conformance points & format constraints .....	27
8.3. Constraints on Alternative Application Modes .....	28
8.3.1. Low Delay Mode .....	29
8.3.2. Program Splicing Constraint .....	29
8.3.3. Support of Still Picture Mode in HEVC .....	30
9. Carriage of Captioning, AFD, and Bar Data.....	30
Appendix A. Examples of Common Broadcast Resolutions, Formats, & Frame Constraints	31
Appendix B. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE DM App #1 .....	32
Appendix C. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE DM App #4 .....	32
Appendix D. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE SDR Derived .....	32

## List of Figures

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Figure 1: NAL Unit Order for a Typical SHRAP Access Unit .....	20

## List of Tables

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Table 1- Numerical Format Definitions .....	13
Table 2- Standardized Video Input Formats .....	13
Table 3 - Dynamic Range Types of Video .....	14
Table 4- General HEVC Coding Constraints .....	16
Table 5- Profile, Tiers, Levels Constraints .....	16
Table 6- Constraints and Guidance on NAL Unit Types .....	17
Table 7- Sequence Parameter Set Constraints .....	21
Table 8- Video Usability Information Constraints .....	21
Table 9- Video Usability Information Constraints .....	22
Table 10 - HRD Parameter Constraints for fixed frame rate .....	23
Table 11 - HRD Parameter Constraints for Low Delay Mode .....	23
Table 12- Picture Parameter Set Constraints .....	24
Table 13- Supplementary Enhancement Information Constraints .....	24
Table 14- Format Constraints Based on Production Format for HEVC Bitstreams .....	27
Table 15- Complete Frame Rate VUI Parameter Constraints for HEVC .....	28
Table 16- Resolution/Compression Format Constraints for HEVC Bitstreams .....	31
Table 17- Frame Rate VUI Parameter Constraints for HEVC .....	32

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Executive Summary

This document specifies the creation of a HEVC coded video elementary stream for SDR and HDR formats (specifically HDR10) and is intended for cable video services applications such as broadcast, time-shifting (e.g., PVR/DVR service), Video-on-Demand services, and splicing (e.g., Ad-insertion) that could employ the specifications in this document. However, constraints specific to those applications are outside of the scope of this document.

A single type of HDR transfer function is mandated for delivery in a cable network. Dynamic metadata applications backwards compatible to the specified HDR format can be used to adapt HDR imagery to a multiplicity of displays that have different characteristics than the underlying content.

The means to carry SCTE dynamic metadata Application #1 (DM App #1) and Application #4 (DM App #4) in an HEVC bitstream is described in Section 6 and in Appendix B and C. SCTE DM Apps describe parametric data sets to be used to adapt the imagery for viewers' displays and environment.

### 1.2. Scope

This document defines the coding constraints on ITU-T Rec. H.265 | ISO/IEC 230008-2 [MPEG-HEVC] video compression (hereafter called "HEVC") for Cable Television. In particular, this document describes the coding of a single HEVC coded video elementary stream in an SDR or HDR format carried in MPEG-2 transport (ISO/IEC 13818-1) [MPEG-2 TS] for linear delivery systems supporting ad insertion services [SCTE 35] or for adaptive bitrate streaming delivery technologies [SCTE 214-1]. Beyond linear delivery with DPI, signaling is provided for segmentation of content for xDVR applications.

### 1.3. Benefits

The benefit of following this specification is an MPEG-HEVC stream can be created that can be smoothly played across multiple types of MPEG-HEVC decoders that are used in cable applications.

### 1.4. Intended Audience

This document specifies the creation of a HEVC coded video elementary stream and is intended for cable video services applications such as broadcast, time-shifting (e.g., PVR/DVR service), Video-on-Demand services, and splicing (e.g., Ad-insertion) that could employ the specifications in this document. However, constraints specific to those applications are outside of the scope of this document at this time.

## 2. Normative References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document. The editions indicated were valid at the time of subcommittee approval. All documents are subject to revision and, while parties to any agreement based on this document are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the documents listed below, they are reminded that newer editions of those documents might not be compatible with the referenced version.

### 2.1. SCTE References

[SCTE 54] ANSI/SCTE 54 2020, Digital Video Service Multiplex and Transport System Standard for Cable Television.

SCTE 215-1 2024

- [SCTE 128-1] ANSI/SCTE 128-1 2020, AVC Video Constraints for Cable Television: Part 1 – Coding
- [SCTE 35] ANSI/SCTE 35 202x, Digital Program Insertion Cueing Message for Cable
- [SCTE 214-1] ANSI/SCTE 214-1 202x, MPEG DASH for IP-Based Cable Services Part 1:MPD Constraints and Extensions

## 2.2. Standards from Other Organizations

- [MPEG-2 TS] ISO/IEC 13818-1:2022, “Information Technology – Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio – Part 1: Systems.
- [HEVC] ITU-T Rec. H.265 | ISO/IEC 23008-2:2021 – MPEG-H Part 2: High Efficiency Video Coding
- [CTA 608-E] ANSI/CTA-608-E S-2019, Line 21 Data Services.
- [CTA 708-E] ANSI/CTA-708-E S-2023, Digital Television (DTV) Closed Captioning.
- [ATSC A/53] ATSC A/53 Part 4:2009, Digital Television Standard, MPEG-2 Video System Characteristics.
- [SMPTE ST 2016-1] SMPTE ST 2016-1-2009: Standard for Television – Format for Active Format Description and Bar Data.
- [MPEG-2 Video] ISO/IEC 13818-2:2013, Information Technology – Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio -Part 2: Video
- [ITU-R 2100] ITU-R BT.2100-2:2018 Image parameter values for high dynamic range television for use in production and international programme exchange.
- [CTA 861-H] ANSI/CTA-861-H:2021 “A DTV Profile for Uncompressed High Speed Digital Interfaces”
- [SMPTE ST 2086] SMPTE ST 2086:2018: SMPTE Standard – Mastering Display Color Volume Metadata Supporting High Luminance and Wide Color Gamut Images.
- [ETSI TS 103 572] ETSI TS 103 572 V1.2.1 (2020-10): HDR Signalling and Carriage of Dynamic Metadata for Colour Volume Transform: Application #1.
- [ETSI TS 103 433-1] ETSI TS 103 433-1 V1.4.1 High-Performance Single Layer High Dynamic Range (HDR) System for use in Consumer Electronics devices; Part 1: Directly Standard Dynamic Range (SDR) Compatible HDR System (SL-HDR1).
- [SMPTE ST 2094-10] SMPTE ST 2094-10: 2021: SMPTE Standard – Dynamic Metadata for Color Volume Transform – Application #1.
- [SMPTE ST 2094-40] SMPTE ST 2094-40: 2020: SMPTE Standard – Dynamic Metadata for Color Volume Transform – Application #4.

### 2.3. Other Published Materials

No normative references are applicable.

## 3. Informative References

The following documents might provide valuable information to the reader but are not required when complying with this document.

### 3.1. SCTE References

- [SCTE 215-2] ANSI/SCTE 215-2, HEVC Video Constraints for Cable Television Part 2- Transport.
- [SCTE 43] ANSI/SCTE 43, Digital Video Systems Characteristics Standard for Cable Television.
- [SCTE 07] ANSI/SCTE 07, Digital Transmission Standard for Cable Television.
- [SCTE 172] ANSI/SCTE 172, Constraints on AVC and HEVC Structured Video Coding for Digital Program Insertion.
- [SCTE 128-2] ANSI/SCTE 128-2, AVC Transport Constraints for Cable Television Part 2: Transport
- [SCTE 54] ANSI/SCTE 54, Digital Video Service Multiplex and Transport System Standard for Cable Television.
- [SCTE 187-2] ANSI/SCTE 187-2, Stereoscopic 3D PSI Signaling.
- [SCTE 67] ANSI/SCTE 67, Recommended Practice for SCTE 35 Digital Program Insertion Cueing Message for Cable

### 3.2. Standards from Other Organizations

- [ETSI TS 101 154] ETSI TS 101 154 V2.4.1 Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB): Specification for the use of Video and Audio Coding in Broadcasting Applications based on the MPEG-2 Transport Stream.
- [SMPTE ST 170] SMPTE ST 170, Television – Composite Analog Video Signal – NTSC for Studio Applications.
- [SMPTE ST 274] SMPTE ST 274, Standard for television, 1920 x 1080 Scanning and Interface.
- [SMPTE ST 296] SMPTE ST 296, Standard for television, 1280 x 720 Scanning, Analog and Digital Representation, and Analog Interface.
- [ITU-R BT.601-6] ITU-R BT.601-6, Encoding parameters of digital television for studios.
- [ITU-R BT.709-6] ITU-R BT.709-6, Parameter values for the HDTV standards for production and international programme exchange.
- [ITU-R BT.2020-2] ITU-R BT.2020-2, Parameter values for ultra-high definition television systems for production and international programme exchange.



SCTE 215-1 2024

- [ITU-T J.83] ITU-T J.83 Digital Video Transmission Standard for Cable Television.
- [CEA-CEB16] CEA-CEB16: Active Format Description (AFD) & Bar Data Recommended Practice.
- [SMPTE ST 125] SMPTE ST 125, Standard for television, Component Video Signal 4:2:2, Bit Parallel Digital Interface.
- [SMPTE ST 293] SMPTE ST 293, Standard for television, 720x483 Active Line at 59.95 Hz Progressive Scan Production, Digital Representation.
- [SMPTE ST 267] SMPTE ST 267, Standard for television, Bit Parallel Digital Interface- Component Video Signal 4:2:2 16x9 Aspect Ratios.
- [ITU-T T.35] ITU-T Rec. T.35, “Procedure for the allocation of ITU-T defined codes for non-standard facilities.”
- [ATSC A/53] ATSC A/53, Part 3, “Service Multiplex and Transport Subsystem Characteristics”
- [SMPTE ST 2036-1] SMPTE ST 2036-1, Ultra High Definition Television- Image Parameter Values for Program Production.
- [SMPTE ST 2046-1] SMPTE ST 2046-1, Specifications for Safe Action and Safe Title Areas for Television.
- [ITU-R BT.2390] ITU: Report ITU-R BT.2390, “High dynamic range television for production and international programme exchange,” International Telecommunications Union, Geneva.
- [CICP 23091-2] ITU-T H.273| ISO/IEC 23091-2:2022, Information technology-Coding independent code points – Part 2:Video.
- [CICP 23091-4] ITU-T H. Supplemental 19| ISO/IEC TR 23091-4:2021, Information technology-Coding independent code points – Part 4: Usage of video signal type code points

### **3.3. Other Published Materials**

No informative references are applicable.

## 4. Compliance Notation

<i>shall</i>	This word or the adjective “ <i>required</i> ” means that the item is an absolute requirement of this document.
<i>shall not</i>	This phrase means that the item is an absolute prohibition of this document.
<i>forbidden</i>	This word means the value specified <i>shall</i> never be used.
<i>should</i>	This word or the adjective “ <i>recommended</i> ” means that there <i>may</i> exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore this item, but the full implications <i>should</i> be understood and the case carefully weighed before choosing a different course.
<i>should not</i>	This phrase means that there <i>may</i> exist valid reasons in particular circumstances when the listed behavior is acceptable or even useful, but the full implications <i>should</i> be understood and the case carefully weighed before implementing any behavior described with this label.
<i>may</i>	This word or the adjective “ <i>optional</i> ” indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.
deprecated	Use is permissible for legacy purposes only. Deprecated features <i>may</i> be removed from future versions of this document. Implementations <i>should</i> avoid use of deprecated features.

## 5. Abbreviations and Definitions

### 5.1. Abbreviations

AFD	Active Format Description
ATSC	Advanced Television Systems Committee
AU	Access Unit
AVC	Advanced Video Coding
BLA	Broken Link Access
cDVR	Cloud DVR
CPB	Coded Picture Buffer
CRA	Clean Random Access
CVS	Coded Video Sequence
DM	Dynamic Metadata
DPB	Decoded Picture Buffer
DPI	Digital Program Insertion
DTS	Decoding Time Stamp
DTV	Digital Television
DVB	Digital Video Broadcasting
DVR	Digital Video Recorder
DVS	Digital Video Subcommittee
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
FPP	Forward Predicted Picture
FPS	Frames Per Second
HEVC	High Efficiency Video Coding
HDR	High Dynamic Range
HDTV	High Definition Television
HRD	Hypothetical Reference Decoder
IDR	Instantaneous Decoding Refresh

IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IRAP	Intra Random Access Point [see definitions in Section 5.2)
ITM	Inverse Tone Mapped
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MDCV	Mastering Display Color Volume
MPEG	Moving Picture Experts Group
MVPD	Multichannel Video Programming Distributor
NAL	Network Abstraction Layer
NALU	NAL Unit
NCG	Narrow Color Gamut
nDVR	Networked DVR
nPVR	Network based Personal Video Recorder
PES	Packetized Elementary Stream
POC	Picture Order Count
PPS	Picture Parameter Set
PQ	Perceptual Quantizer
PTS	Presentation Time Stamp
PVR	Personal Video Recorder
RADL	Random Access Decodable Leading (Picture)
RASL	Random Access Skipped Leading (Picture)
SCTE	Society of Cable Television Engineers
SDR	Standard Dynamic Range
SDTV	Standard Definition Television
SEI	Supplemental Enhancement Information
SGOP	SCTE Group of Pictures [see definitions in Section 5.2)
SHRAP	SCTE HEVC Random Access Point [see definitions in Section 5.2)
SPS	Sequence Parameter Set
SRAP	SCTE (AVC) Random Access Point
T-STD	Transport Stream System Target Decoder
UHD	Ultra High Definition
VCL	Video Coding Layer
VOD	Video on Demand
VPS	Video Parameter Set
VUI	Video Usability Information
WCG	Wide Color Gamut
xDVR	Generic Digital Video Recorder [see definitions in Section 5.2)

## 5.2. Definitions

Definitions of terms used in this document are provided in this section. Defined terms that have specific meanings are capitalized. When the capitalized term is used in this document, the term has the specific meaning as defined in this section.

Forward Predicted Picture (FPP)	A predicted picture that does not use any later-displayed picture as a reference.
High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC)	ITU-T Rec. H. 265   ISO/IEC 23008-2:2022 High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC)

<p>HEVC Receiver</p>	<p>The term "HEVC Receiver" in this standard for coding means a receiver having at least the attributes (in no particular order) listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Able to parse and decode the normative elements from HEVC [HEVC] that are specified with constraints in this standard;</li> <li>2. Not adversely affected by the presence or absence of optional and informative elements from HEVC [HEVC];</li> <li>3. Not adversely affected by the presence or absence of optional and informative elements in this standard;</li> <li>4. Able to parse and process all elements from HEVC [HEVC] Annex D (SEI messages) and Annex E (VUI syntax elements) that are normatively specified and/or constrained by this standard and conveyed in-band; NOTE 1: These are optional elements in the HEVC specification [HEVC].</li> <li>5. Supports the processing of end_of_bitstream_rbsp() syntax element (NAL unit type =37, EOB_NUT) required by applications where another bitstream follows the end_of_bitstream NAL unit. The bitstream that follows will start with an IDR picture (NAL unit type = 20, IDR_N_LP) and may be accompanied by a time base discontinuity. The “no_output_of_prior_pics_flag” shall be read and not inferred. NOTE 2: Management of DPB frame buffers in accordance with the HEVC Specification [HEVC] supports graceful output transitions between fields and frames at an SHRAP containing an IDR or BLA picture.</li> <li>6. Supports the processing of elementary streams in Low Delay Mode and Still Pictures. NOTE 3: The additional information from items 5 and 6 is optionally provided for the benefit of HEVC receivers that include support for applications such as PVR, DPI and VOD. NOTE 4: Transport related attributes for an HEVC Receiver definition can be found in SCTE 215-2 (Transport) [SCTE 215-2]</li> </ol>
<p>Intra Random Access Point (IRAP)</p>	<p>IRAP as specified in HEVC [HEVC]</p>
<p>SCTE Group of Pictures (SGOP)</p>	<p>A SCTE Group of Pictures (SGOP) is the group of pictures spanning two consecutive SHRAPs, starting with a SHRAP AU but not including the subsequent SRAP AU.</p>
<p>SHRAP Picture</p>	<p>An IRAP picture that is part of an SHRAP AU or an intra-coded field picture with NAL unit type = TRAIL_R that is part of an SHRAP AU.</p>
<p>Generic Digital Video Recorder (xDVR)</p>	<p>Generic DVR implementation. This could be ‘Cloud DVR (cDVR)’, ‘Network DVR (nDVR), local DVR or any other generic DVR.</p>

Numerical formats are defined in the following Table 1:

**Table 1- Numerical Format Definitions**

<b>Example Values</b>	<b>Description</b>
12345	Example of a decimal value format
0x2A	Example of a hexadecimal value format
'10010100'	Example of a string of binary digits

## 6. Video Production Formats (Informative)

The television production standards shown in Table 2 correspond to the video production formats specified in Table 14.

**Table 2- Standardized Video Input Formats**

<b>Video Standard</b>	<b>Active Lines</b>	<b>Active Samples/ Line</b>	<b>Name</b>
SMPTE ST 2036-1 [SMPTE ST 2036-1]	4320	7680	UHDTV2
SMPTE ST 2036-1 [SMPTE ST 2036-1]	2160	3840	UHDTV1
SMPTE ST 274 [SMPTE ST 274]	1080	1920	HDTV
SMPTE ST 296 [SMPTE ST 296]	720	1280	HDTV
SMPTE ST 125 [SMPTE ST 125]	576	720	SDTV
SMPTE ST 2046-1 [SMPTE ST 2046-1]	480	720	SDTV

The compression formats *may* be derived from one or more appropriate video input formats.

Production standards supported by this standard may include formats with frame rates of 24/1.001 (23.976), 24, 25, 30/1.001 (29.97), 30, 50, 60/1.001 (59.94), 60, 100, 120 and 120/1.001 Hz.

Video streams can be in the form of standard dynamic range (SDR) which are identified by video streams using a transfer characteristic for BT.709 [ITU-R BT.709-6] assuming a display characteristic corresponding to BT.1886 [CICP 23091-4] Video streams can also be in the form of high dynamic range (HDR) which consists of streams of dynamic range types as identified in HDR subpart documents.

## 7. Video Emission Formats

Video streams can be in the form of standard dynamic range (SDR) which are identified by video streams using a transfer characteristic for BT.709 [ITU-R BT.709-6] assuming a display characteristic corresponding to BT.1886 [ITU-R BT.1886]

Video streams can also be in the form of high dynamic range (HDR) which consists of streams of dynamic range types identified in Table 3. Within a single cable distribution network, distributed HDR streams *shall* be backwards compatible to a single specific HDR transfer format (e.g. HDR10). Bitstreams that contain additional dynamic metadata *shall* use either HDR10 with SCTE DM App #1 [SMPTE ST 2094-10] HDR10 with SCTE DM App #4 [SMPTE ST 2094-40], or SDR Derived (SL-HDR1) types of dynamic metadata formats.

**Table 3 - Dynamic Range Types of Video**

Delivery Format	Transfer Function	Color Primaries	Bits/Pixel	Additional Info
SDR [ITU-R 2100]	BT.709 [ITU-R BT.709-6]	BT.709 [ITU-R BT.709-6]	10	If HEVC encoder supports MDCV syntax option, then <b>mandatory</b> upon encode  MDCV SEI [SMPTE ST 2086]
HDR10 [ITU-R 2100]	PQ Native [ITU-R 2100]	BT.2020 [ITU-R 2100]	10	<b>Mandatory:</b> MDCV SEI [SMPTE ST 2086]  <b>Optional:</b> CLLI SEI
HDR10 with SCTE DM App #1 [SMPTE ST 2094-10]	PQ Native [ITU-R 2100]	BT.2020 [ITU-R 2100]	10	<b>Mandatory:</b> MDCV SEI [SMPTE ST 2086] SCTE DM App #1 SEI  <b>Optional:</b> CLLI SEI
HDR10 with SCTE DM App #4 [SMPTE ST 2094-40]	PQ Native [ITU-R 2100]	BT.2020 [ITU-R 2100]	10	<b>Mandatory:</b> MDCV SEI [SMPTE ST 2086] SCTE DM App #4 SEI  <b>Optional:</b> CLLI SEI

SDR Derived (SL-HDR1) [ETSI TS 103 433-1]	SDR (Derived) BT.709 [ITU- R BT.709-6]	SDR (Derived) BT.709 [ITU- R BT.709-6]	10	<b>Mandatory:</b> MDCV SEI (for SDR) [SMPTE ST 2086] SL_HDR_INFO SEI  Requires SL-HDR1 decoding capabilities support for HDR reconstruction  Please read notes 9,10,11
	PQ Native (Reconstructed) [ITU-R 2100]	BT.2020 (Reconstructed) [ITU-R 2100]	10	

*NOTE 5: Resolution of video can be considered orthogonal to the dynamic range properties of video. For example, HDR10 streams may be resolutions other than 2160P.*

*NOTE 6: Syntax and semantics for SCTE DM App #1 can be found in Appendix B.*

*NOTE 7: Syntax and semantics for SCTE DM App #4 can be found in Appendix C.*

*NOTE 8: A single HDR10-based program may have neither, either or both Dynamic Metadata types App#1 and App#4 present.*

*NOTE 9: SL-HDR1 uses native HDR video essence as input and outputs SDR-BT.709 video essence with dynamic metadata which become SL-HDR\_INFO SEI messages for reconstructing the original HDR input. While SL\_HDR\_INFO SEI messages optionally encapsulate MDCV SEI syntax elements, these are required for SCTE. The SL-HDR\_INFO SEI messages encapsulate MDCV SEI syntax elements such that an HDR10 equivalent output may be generated.*

*NOTE 10: The signal provider should take special care with native SDR video images that have been inverse-tone-mapped (ITM) to provide input to SL-HDR1 so that a roundtrip may retain the original artistic intent (more testing and research is required to understand best practice). SL-HDR1 ITM requires additional metadata in order to preserve original artistic intent during a roundtrip.*

*NOTE 11: Special consideration should be given to native HDR video essence input into SL-HDR1 with graphics that generate SDR output that is dynamically tone mapped. More testing and research are required to understand how to preserve the relationship between graphics white and SDR peak white during SL-HDR1 SDR dynamic tone mapping.*

## 8. Constraints on HEVC Coding

### 8.1. Syntactical Constraints on Parameter Sets

HEVC bitstreams *shall* conform to the HEVC Specification and *shall* also satisfy the normative constraints described in this document. Unless specified otherwise in this document, the allowable parameters *shall* be bounded by the upper limits specified in the HEVC Specification. Parameters pertaining to Profile, Level, and Tier *shall* be constrained as shown in Table 3 and Table 5 of Section 8.1.1.

Profiles and levels for respective production formats *shall* be constrained as shown in Table 14.

HEVC bitstreams *shall* include the SEI and the VUI syntactic elements as normatively specified and/or constrained in this document. SEI and the VUI syntactic elements are defined in HEVC [HEVC] Annexes D and E, respectively. Some VUI and SEI messages are optional and *may* be ignored by the HEVC Receiver as specified herein. Unless otherwise constrained by this standard, HEVC Receivers should be able parse and decode and not be adversely affected by any legal structure permitted by HEVC [HEVC], including the presence of syntax elements with values, specified as reserved or unspecified at the time of publication of this document.

#### 8.1.1. Profiles, Levels, and Tiers constraints

HEVC *shall* operate with the coding constraints described below:

**Table 4- General HEVC Coding Constraints**

Allowed HEVC coding constraints	Value
Profiles	Main, Main 10
Levels	Up to Level 5.1 (2160p60)
Tier	Main

In addition, if the bitstream contains multiple sub-layers, (for which `sps_max_sub_layers_minus1` is greater than 0), then the values of the following flags *shall* be:

`sub_layer_profile_present_flag[ i ] = 0`

`sub_layer_level_present_flag[ i ] = 0.`

The tables in the following sections list the allowed values for each of the HEVC syntax elements that are restricted beyond the limits imposed for the above specified profiles, levels, and tiers in the HEVC Specification.

**Table 5- Profile, Tiers, Levels Constraints**

profile tier level constraints	Allowed Value
general profile space	0
general tier flag	0- Main Tier
general profile idc	1- Main, 2-Main10
general_level_idc	Up to Level 5.1 for UHD TV1 (2160p60) see Table 2 and Table 14
sub layer profile present flag	0 if present



<b>profile tier level constraints</b>	<b>Allowed Value</b>
sub layer level present flag	0 if present

All HEVC receivers are defined to support a specified Level and be capable of processing HEVC Bitstreams with the video formats and constraints specified in Table 14 up to that Level.

HDR streams *shall* have `general_profile_idc` set to 2 which is the Main 10 profile.

The time interval between consecutive changes in `general_profile_idc` and/or `general_level_idc` *shall* be greater than or equal to one second.

*NOTE 6: Profile and level changes should be avoided as they may result in disruption of the decoder's video output.*

*NOTE 7: It is envisioned that there may be services that include both Main bitstreams (`general_profile_idc = 1`) and Main 10 bitstreams (`general_profile_idc = 2`). Main-10 capable receivers are expected to handle the transitions in `general_profile_idc` values for such services.*

### **8.1.2. Constraints Restrictions with respect to nal\_unit\_type**

This section provides constraints to the values of `nal_unit_type` in a `nal_unit_header`.

The parameter `nuh_layer_id` *shall* be equal to 0.

The following **Table 6** lists the constraints and guidance on the values of `nal_unit_type`.

**Table 6- Constraints and Guidance on NAL Unit Types**

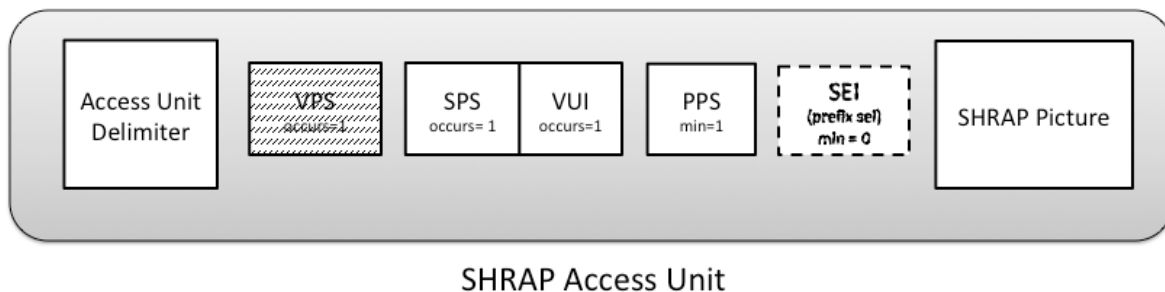
<b>nal_unit_type</b>	<b>Category of nal_unit_type</b>	<b>Constraints</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Note</b>
0	Coded slice segment of a non-TSA, non-STSA trailing picture: TRAIL_N		Use for trailing sub layer non-reference pictures	
1	Coded slice for TRAIL_R picture		Use for trailing reference pictures, or for SHRAP picture when <code>field_seq_flag = 1</code>	
2-5	TSAs, STSAs	Prohibited from use		Due to constraint that <code>sps_temporal_id_nesting_flag = 0</code> per Table 7

nal_unit_type	Category of nal_unit_type	Constraints	Guidance	Note
6-9	Coded Slice of RADL and RASL pictures slice_segment_layer_rbsp(): RADL_N, RADL_R, RASL_N, RASL_R		Use for RADL and RASL pictures	
10-15	RSVs		Ignore: nal_unit_type reserved in HEVC specification [HEVC]	
16-21	Coded slice of IRAP picture: BLA_W_LP, BLA_W_RADL, BLA_N_LP, IDR_W_RADL, IDR_N_LP, CRA_NUT		Use for SHRAP picture when field_seq_flag = 0 or 1	
22-31	RSVs		Ignore: nal_unit_type reserved in HEVC specification [HEVC]	
32 33 34	VPS_NUT SPS_NUT PPS_NUT	see 8.1.2.1 For SHRAP Picture		
35	Access unit delimiter: AUD_NUT	Each access unit <b>shall</b> start with an AUD_NUT		
36	End of sequence: EOS_NUT	The next AU after an AU containing an EOS_NUT <b>shall</b> be an IDR AU, BLA AU, or CRA AU		The next AU after an AU containing an EOS NUT is prohibited from being a TRAIL_R AU
37	End of bitstream: EOB_NUT	The next AU after an AU containing an EOB_NUT <b>shall</b> be a SHRAP that is an IDR AU		

nal_unit_type	Category of nal_unit_type	Constraints	Guidance	Note
38	FD_NUT		As per [HEVC FD NUT needs to come after the first VCL of the AU	
39 40	PREFIX_SEI SUFFIX_SEI	See 8.1.2.1 & 8.1.7 See 8.1.7		
41-47	Reserved		Ignore: nal_unit_type reserved in HEVC specification [HEVC]	
48-61	Unspecified			
62	SCTE DM App #1 SCTE_DM_App1()	See Section 8.1.7.1		Bitstreams containing this metadata should not change from SEI to NALU or from NALU to SEI within the same content.
63	Reserved			

#### 8.1.2.1. Constraints for nal\_unit\_types associated with an SHRAP

A SHRAP access unit is an HEVC access unit shown pictorially in Figure 1. A SHRAP access unit *shall* include exactly one access unit delimiter (AUD), exactly one VPS, exactly one Sequence Parameter Set (SPS) (that is active) with VUI, and at least one Picture Parameter Set (PPS) that is required for decoding the associated picture. The SPS and any PPS *shall* precede any SEI NAL units that *may* be present in an SHRAP access unit.



**Figure 1: NAL Unit Order for a Typical SHRAP Access Unit**

The value of `nuh_temporal_id_plus1` *shall* be equal to 1 for all NAL units in an SHRAP AU.

The constraints for Video Usability Information (VUI) parameters are specified in Section 8.1.5 of this document. If the value of `field_seq_flag` in the VUI parameters is equal to 0, the SHRAP picture *shall* have a `nal_unit_type` value in the range of 16 to 21, inclusive. This range of `nal_unit_type` values corresponds to an IRAP picture in accordance with the HEVC Specification [HEVC].

When the value of `field_seq_flag` in the VUI parameters is equal to 1, the SHRAP picture *shall* correspond to an intra-coded field picture with a `NAL_unit_type` value that is either:

in the range of 16 to 21, inclusive, or equal to 1.

A `NAL_unit_type` value equal to 1 corresponds to `TRAIL_R`. The value of `field_seq_flag` in the VUI parameters *shall* be equal to 1 if the NAL unit type of an SHRAP is equal to 1. A recovery point SEI *shall* be present in the AU of a SHRAP with a NAL unit type equal to 1.

The first access unit after an access unit that contains an end of sequence NAL unit *shall* be the access unit of an SHRAP containing an IDR, BLA, or CRA picture. An SHRAP picture with NAL unit type corresponding to `TRAIL_R` *shall* not follow an access unit containing an end of sequence NAL unit.

The first access unit after an access unit that contains an end of bitstream NAL unit *shall* be an IDR access unit corresponding to an SHRAP.

### 8.1.3. Video Parameter Set (VPS) constraints

For each SHRAP, there *shall* be one active Video Parameter Set (VPS) present in the bitstream. As per Note 1 in HEVC section 7.4.3.1 [HEVC], the information in the VPS *shall* be ignored by decoders conforming to the Main and Main 10 profiles.

### 8.1.4. Sequence Parameter Set (SPS) constraints

The Sequence Parameter Set (SPS) *shall* comply with Table 7.

**Table 7- Sequence Parameter Set Constraints**

Parameter Set Syntactic Element	Allowed Value	
	SDR	HDR
sps_temporal_id_nesting_flag	0	0
chroma_format_idc	1 (4:2:0)	1
sps_sub_layer_ordering_info_present_flag	0	0
long_term_ref_pics_present_flag	0	0
vui_parameters_present_flag	1	1
bit_depth_luma_minus8	0 (8 bit) or 2 (10 bit)	2
bit_depth_chroma_minus8	0 (8 bit) or 2 (10 bit)	2

The use of bitstreams using a BT.2100 [ITU-R 2100] colorspace *shall* require the use of Main 10 Profile.

### 8.1.5. VUI Constraints

The VUI parameters *shall* comply with Table 8.

**Table 8- Video Usability Information Constraints**

VUI Header Syntactic Element	Allowed Value
aspect_ratio_idc	See Appendix A
video_signal_type_present_flag	1 for Level 5 and 5.1 (UHDTV1) and for HDR
colour_description_present_flag	1 for Level 5 and 5.1 (UHDTV1) and for HDR
chroma_loc_info_present_flag	<i>Shall</i> be 1 when field_seq_flag = 1
field_seq_flag	<i>Shall</i> be 1 for a field-coded video sequence <i>Shall</i> be 0 otherwise
frame_field_info_present_flag	1
vui_timing_info_present_flag	<i>Shall</i> be 1 for fixed frame rate <i>May</i> be either 0 or 1 for low delay
vui_num_units_in_tick	See Table 15
vui_time_scale	See Table 15
vui_poc_proportional_to_timing_flag	0
vui_hrd_parameters_present_flag	Preferred to be 0 for fixed frame rate <i>Shall</i> be 1 for low delay mode

It is recommended to send colorimetry information in the form of the following parameters in the VUI (colour\_primaries, transfer\_characteristics, and matrix\_coefficients) as the implied values for these parameters results in unspecified values. It is noted that ITU-R BT.2100 [ITU-R 2100], ITU-R BT.709-6 [ITU-R BT.709-6] and SMPTE ST 170 [SMPTE ST 170] are the most likely parameters to be used in practice.

Additional VUI constraints sets for colorimetry information are listed below in Table 9:

**Table 9- Video Usability Information Constraints**

VUI Header Syntactic Element	Allowed Value	
	SDR	HDR
colour_primaries	1 9 (for UHD TV1)	9
transfer_characteristics	1	16
matrix_coefficients	1	9
VideoFullRangeFlag	0	0
ChromaLocType	0	2

It is required that the colorimetry information be sent for Level 5 and Level 5.1 (UHD TV1) bitstreams and for all HDR type bitstreams. For SDR streams with unspecified values for colorimetry information, a decoder *may* assume that the values are those listed in Table 9.

*NOTE 8: matrix\_coefficients* are orthogonal to the dynamic range type of the stream and in the future could extend to additional values.

For 4:2:0 content (chroma\_format\_idc is set to 1), ChromaLocType of HEVC [HEVC] *should* be set to '0' for SDR (both SD and HD) Content and '2' for HDR content [CICP 23091-4]

*NOTE 9: Some Syntactical elements require that the corresponding preceding flag, "xxx\_present\_flag", if it exists, be equal to 1 (for example, the colour\_description\_present flag).*

The value of field\_seq\_flag *shall* be equal to 1 only for field-coded video sequences.

In accordance with Annex E of the HEVC [HEVC] HRD parameters *may* be conveyed to decoders by other means not specified. HRD parameters *shall* be constrained when present as shown in Table 10 and Table 11.

A fixed frame rate bitstream *may* or *may* not include HRD parameters. When **vui\_hrd\_parameters\_present\_flag** = 0, the bitstream *shall* comply to fixed picture rate and the parameter values shown in Table 10 *shall* be inferred.

A fixed frame rate bitstream with **vui\_hrd\_parameters\_present\_flag** = 1 *shall* be constrained with parameter values shown in Table 10.

*NOTE 10: low\_delay\_hrd\_flag [maxNumSubLayersMinus1] = 0 when fixed\_pic\_rate\_general\_flag [maxNumSubLayersMinus1] = 1.*

**Table 10 - HRD Parameter Constraints for fixed frame rate**

HRD Syntactic Element	Allowed Value	
	$i = \text{maxNumSubLayersMinus1}$	$i < \text{maxNumSubLayersMinus1}$
nal_hrd_parameters_present_flag	0	0
vcl_hrd_parameters_present_flag	0	0
fixed_pic_rate_general_flag [i]	1	0
fixed_pic_rate_within_cvs_flag [i]	1	0
elemental_duration_in_tc_minus1 [i]	0	0
low_delay_hrd_flag [i]	0	0

The value of vui\_hrd\_parameters\_present\_flag *shall* be equal to 1 for Low Delay mode. HRD parameters *shall* have the values shown in Table 11 for Low Delay Mode.

**Table 11 - HRD Parameter Constraints for Low Delay Mode**

HRD Syntactic Element	Allowed Value	
	$i = \text{maxNumSubLayersMinus1}$	$i < \text{maxNumSubLayersMinus1}$
nal_hrd_parameters_present_flag	0	0
vcl_hrd_parameters_present_flag	0	0
fixed_pic_rate_general_flag [i]	0	0
fixed_pic_rate_within_cvs_flag [i]	0	0
elemental_duration_in_tc_minus1 [i]	0	0
low_delay_hrd_flag [i]	1	0

### 8.1.6. Picture Parameter Constraints and Level Limits

The Picture Parameter Set (PPS) *shall* comply with Table 12.

HEVC Bitstreams *shall not* include non-paired fields (as defined in HEVC).

*NOTE 11: In the context of HEVC, paired fields are two fields that are in consecutive access units in decoding order as two coded fields of opposite parity of the same frame, regardless of their display order.*

All pictures in HEVC Bitstreams *shall* be displayable pictures except when a RASL picture of an associated IRAP has unavailable reference pictures.

Between two SHRAPs, the content of a picture parameter set with a particular pps\_pic\_parameter\_set\_id *shall not* change. That is, if more than one picture parameter set is present in the bitstream and these picture parameter sets are different from each other, then each picture parameter set *shall* have a different pps\_pic\_parameter\_set\_id.

**Table 12- Picture Parameter Set Constraints**

PPS Header Syntactic Element	Allowed Value
output_flag_present_flag	0
num_extra_slice_header_bits	0
slice_segment_header_extension_present_flag	0

### 8.1.7. Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI) Constraints

SEI Messages can either be specified in VSEI [MPEG VSEI] for codec agnostic type of information or [HEVC] specific type of information. In this document, codec agnostic types of SEI messages where defined will be referenced from HEVC specification. Unless specified as a constraint or as indicated through syntax restrictions on the configuration of the bitstream, SEI messages not indicated in the document are permitted in the bitstream.

All prefix SEIs **shall not** occur after the first VCL NAL unit of the access unit and **shall** be placed after all NAL units of type VPS\_NUT, SPS\_NUT and PPS\_NUT and prior to the first VCL NAL unit. All suffix SEIs **shall not** occur before the last VCL NAL unit of the access unit.

*NOTE 12: The constraint in the present clause forbids SEI messages from occurring between the first and the last VCL NAL units of an access unit. The HEVC specification allows SEI messages (both prefix and suffix SEI) to occur between the first and the last VCL NAL units of an access unit.*

Repeated SEI messages of the same type in the same access unit **should not** occur. The use of SEI messages with identical payload information for the same persistence scope, as defined in Table D.1 of [HEVC], provide no additional information at the expense of increased bitrate and require increased decoder processing capabilities. The use of SEI messages with inconsistent payload information for the same persistence scope results in ambiguity about which payload is the proper one to utilize.

MVPD usage constraints on types of SEI messages are listed in Table 13.

**Table 13- Supplementary Enhancement Information Constraints**

SEI Header Syntactic Element	Usage Constraints
Picture Timing SEI message	Present in each AU
Frame packing SEI message	Top/Bottom & Side by Side Configurations only permitted as per SCTE 187 <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>
Decoding Unit Information SEI message	Prohibited
Scalable nesting SEI message	Prohibited
User data registered by ITU-T Rec. T.35 SEI message	Sent in prefix SEI Only

There *may* be additional SEI messages needed for HDR content as identified in each HDR subpart document.

The pic\_timing SEI **shall** be present in each AU and **shall** be constrained as follows:



**pic\_struct shall not** be equal to 1 or 2.

The value of CpbDpbDelaysPresentFlag **shall** be inferred equal to 0.

A coded field video sequence containing an SHRAP corresponding to a TRAIL\_R picture **shall** have an output recovery point not later than the output time of the SHRAP picture. When the SHRAP picture has a NAL unit type in the range from 16 to 21, the output recovery point is derived from the NAL unit type of the respective coded pictures in accordance with the HEVC Specification [HEVC].

The recovery point SEI **shall** be present in the AU of an SHRAP picture with NAL unit type equal to 1 (TRAIL\_R) and its use for other AUs is optional. The recovery point SEI *may* be used to signal a recovery point that precedes the output time of the SHRAP picture, such as when some pictures with output time earlier than the SHRAP picture are backward predicted from the SHRAP picture or the field paired with the SHRAP picture. When the recovery point SEI is present, the value of exact\_match\_flag **shall** be set to 1, and the value of broken\_link\_flag **shall** be set to 0.

*NOTE 13: An HEVC receiver may ignore the recovery point SEI.*

A field coded video sequence **shall** contain only paired fields. The pic\_struct in the pic\_timing SEI **shall** not be equal to 1 or 2.

The field paired with a field-coded SHRAP picture with a NAL unit type corresponding to TRAIL\_R **shall not** reference a picture that precedes the SHRAP picture in the bitstream.

Pictures after the SHRAP picture in the bitstream that have output time prior to the SHRAP picture are leading pictures. The output time of a picture is equal to its PTS. The PTS of a picture *may* be used to identify leading pictures after the SHRAP picture. The PTS is not sufficient to distinguish between decodable and non-decodable leading pictures. Upon entering a bitstream at an SHRAP AU containing a field-coded picture with NAL unit type corresponding to TRAIL\_R, except for the coded field paired with the SHRAP picture, the following derivations and inferences **shall** be made:

- All pictures with a PTS prior to the PTS of the SHRAP **shall** be leading pictures.
- If the recovery point SEI is present in the SHRAP AU:
  - Any leading pictures with a PTS prior to the recovery point specified by the recovery point SEI **shall** be inferred as a RASL picture, and
  - Any leading pictures that are not inferred as a RASL picture **shall** be inferred as a RADL picture.
- If the recovery point SEI is not present in the SHRAP AU:
  - All leading pictures **shall** be inferred as RASL pictures.
- The value of NoRaslOutputFlag **shall** be equal to 1 for each inferred RASL picture.

When supporting AFD, bar data, and closed captioning (see section 9 for more details), related SEI information **shall** comply with what is described in SCTE 128-1 [SCTE 128-1] section 7.2.1.4 (“Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI) Constraints”).

### 8.1.7.1. HDR Dynamic Metadata

When supporting Dynamic Metadata through a T.35 SEI payload 4 construct, one or more data structures can be carried in separate SEI messages. For signaling of streams containing HDR dynamic metadata in DASH manifests, it **shall** follow the section on Supplemental Profiles and Supplemental Codecs in SCTE 214-1 [SCTE 214-1].

For SCTE DM App #1, the video stream **shall** contain metadata messages as specified in Appendix B, which **shall** be included in a "user\_data\_registered\_itu\_t\_t35" SEI T.35 construct as defined in SCTE 128-1 [SCTE 128-1]

For SCTE DM App #4, the video stream **shall** contain metadata messages as specified in Appendix C.

#### (a) Additional Constraints for SCTE DM App #1

Where a SCTE DM App #1 metadata message is present, the following constraints **shall** apply:

- The SCTE DM App #1 metadata message **shall** be associated with every access unit of the bitstream.
- The number of extension blocks with ext\_block\_level equal to 1 **shall** be constrained to be equal to 1.
- The number of extension blocks with ext\_block\_level equal to 2 **shall** be constrained to be less than 16.
- The number of extension blocks with ext\_block\_level equal to 4 **shall** be constrained to be equal 0 or 1.
- The number of extension blocks with ext\_block\_level equal to 5 **shall** be constrained to be equal 0 or 1.

Data structure of SCTE DM App #1 is defined in Appendix B.

#### (i) Additional Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI) Constraints

When SCTE DM App #1 is present in the bitstream, the MDCV SEI message **shall** also be present.

#### (b) Additional Constraints for SCTE DM App #4

SCTE DM App #4 uses a NAL\_unit\_type set equal to PREFIX\_SEI\_NUT to convey the metadata message. Where a SCTE DM App #4 metadata message is present, the following constraint **shall** apply:

- The SCTE DM App #4 metadata message **shall** be associated with every access unit of the bitstream.

Data structure of SCTE DM App #4 is defined in Appendix C.

#### (i) Additional Supplemental Enhancement Information (SEI) Constraints

When SCTE DM App #4 is present in the bitstream, the MDCV SEI message **shall** also be present.

## 8.2. Compression format, conformance points & format constraints

This section supports definition and constraints on compression formats with horizontal sizes and vertical sizes as well as frame rates. The `aspect_ratio_idc` *should* equal 1 (square samples) for most formats. The display aspect ratio is nominally 16:9 (for UHDTV1 and HDTV signals) or 4:3 (for SDTV signals).

All compression *shall* comply with the constraints and levels of the Main Tier. Therefore `general_tier_flag` *shall* equal 0.

Tables for format resolutions and codec constraints are listed in Appendix A specific to different applications used in cable systems.

Video formats with vertical sizes of 1080 lines can be coded as either 1080 lines or 1088 lines with a conformance cropping window of 1080 lines. If 1088 lines is used to code 1080 line pictures, the conformance cropping window *shall* be defined with `conf_win_top_offset` equal to 0 and `conf_win_bottom_offset` = 4.

*NOTE 14: The formula to determine the number of lines to crop from the bottom is  $SubHeightC * conf\_win\_bottom\_offset$  and `SubHeightC` has a value of 2 when `chroma_format_idc` = 1 for 4:2:0 video.*

**Table 14- Format Constraints Based on Production Format for HEVC Bitstreams**

Production Format	Profile	general_profile_idc <sup>1</sup>	general_level_idc (max permitted value)
UHDTV1	Main 10	2	153
HDTV (1080)	Main or Main 10  HDR is Main10	1 or 2	123 (<= 60 fps) / 150 (> 60fps)
HDTV (720)	Main or Main 10  HDR is Main 10	1 or 2	120 (<= 60fps) / 123 (> 60fps)
SDTV or Below	Main	1	90

The values for `vui_num_units_in_tick`, `vui_time_scale`, and `fixed_pic_rate_general_flag[i]` *shall* be explicitly indicated in the `vui_parameters()`. Table 15 indicates the entire set of defined frame rates, and the values for `vui_num_units_in_tick`, `vui_time_scale`, and `pic_struct` that *shall* be used. In the Appendix section describing format constraints for each application, a numbered subset of frame rates will be defined.

**Table 15- Complete Frame Rate VUI Parameter Constraints for HEVC**

Interlaced or Progressive	Frame Rate	vui_time_scale	vui_num_units_in_tick	Allowed pic_struct
P	24/1.001 Hz	24,000	1001	0,7,8
P	24 Hz	24	1	0,7,8
P	25 Hz	25	1	0,7,8
I (encoded as frames)	25 Hz	50	1	3,4,5,6
I (encoded as fields)	25 Hz	50	1	9,10,11,12
P	30/1.001 Hz	30,000	1001	0,7,8
I (encoded as frames)	30/1.001 Hz	60,000	1001	3,4,5,6
I (encoded as fields)	30/1.001 Hz	60,000	1001	9,10,11,12
P	30 Hz	30	1	0,7,8
P	50 Hz	50	1	0,7,8
P	60/1.001 Hz	60,000	1001	0,7,8
P	60 Hz	60	1	0,7,8
P	100 Hz	100	1	0,7,8
P	120 Hz	120	1	0,7,8
P	120/1.001 Hz	120,000	1001	0,7,8

The Maximum Luma Picture Size, Max Video Bit Rate, and Max CPB (Coded Picture Buffer) for a particular Profile, Level, and Tier does not exceed the limitations set forth in Appendix A of the HEVC specification [HEVC].

### 8.3. Constraints on Alternative Application Modes

Most common cable applications are in fixed frame rate mode, however, there are alternative applications such as VOD trickplay speeds or music channels that *may* not require fixed frame rate operation and do not have associated audio or require audio/video synchronization. This section describes some of the constraints on these alternative application modes.

### 8.3.1. Low Delay Mode

In Low Delay Mode, picture coding constraints are as follows:

1. All pictures **shall** be intra coded pictures or FPP pictures.
2. The output time of each picture **shall** be equal to or inferred equal to its decode time.

*NOTE 1: The decode time of a picture, or DTS in accordance with the HEVC Transport constraints [SCTE 215-2], may or may not be present in the PES packet header.*

3. The POC value, or PTS, in accordance with the HEVC Transport constraints [SCTE 215-2], of each picture in the bitstream **shall** be greater than the POC value of the prior picture.
4. Each decoded picture **shall** be output repeatedly until the next decoded picture is available.
5. The CPB *may* underflow.

*NOTE 15: An HEVC receiver may ignore the information in the pic\_timing SEI in Low Delay Mode.*

*NOTE 16: Transport related low-delay constraints can be found in SCTE 215-2 (Transport) [SCTE 215-2].*

### 8.3.2. Program Splicing Constraint

System processes (such as digital ad insertion and program splicing) *may* require a resolution change in the HEVC stream within the same program that results in a seamless or near-seamless behavior in the HEVC receiver. The stream may also undergo colorimetry changes. When a user of this standard wishes to facilitate such a change, the HEVC elementary stream **shall** be encoded in accordance with these additional constraints (also see [SCTE 172]):

If such seamless or near-seamless behavior in the HEVC receiver is desired, it is highly recommended that parameters such as general\_level\_idc, the vertical picture size, and colorimetry information in the HEVC elementary stream *should* not change within the same program.

*NOTE 17: Profile changes, display aspect ratio changes, frame rate changes, colorimetry changes and interlaced/progressive transitions (in either order) should be avoided as they may result in disruption of the decoder's video output.*

*NOTE 18: A disruption of the pixel clock rate may cause non-seamless output behavior receivers*

A DPI operation that returns to the network feed at an SHRAP AU containing a field-coded picture with NAL unit type corresponding to TRAIL\_R **shall** convert the SHRAP picture from TRAIL\_R to BLA or IDR. Some or possibly all pictures after the SHRAP AU in the bitstream *may* need to be transcoded to satisfy picture dependencies and/or converted to different NAL unit types in accordance to the HEVC Specification [HEVC]. If the NAL unit type of the SHRAP picture is changed to BLA and the pictures after the SHRAP AU are not transcoded, then except for the coded field paired with the SHRAP picture, the NAL unit type of each picture after the SHRAP picture in decode order that is determined to be a leading picture **shall** be changed to a NAL unit type corresponding to the RASL NUT.

### **8.3.3. Support of Still Picture Mode in HEVC**

HEVC still pictures *may* be used in transport multiplex and when used *shall* comply with the following picture coding constraints. Transport constraints for HEVC still pictures are found in part 2 of HEVC video constraints for cable television.

- The still picture coding *shall* comply with Section 2.1.103 of 13818-1 [MPEG-2 TS]. In addition, still picture applications *should* conform to the video coding constraints (except frame rate) specified in Table 16 in Appendix A
- Low\_delay\_hrd\_flag (as defined in [HEVC]) *may* be either set to ‘0’ or ‘1’. Still picture applications *should* follow the coding constraints specified in section 8.3.1 when set to low\_delay.
- The time interval between successive still pictures *shall* be less than or equal to 60 seconds.
- The fixed\_pic\_rate\_general\_flag and fixed\_pic\_rate\_within\_cvs\_flag are set to ‘0’ in the HRD parameters.

## **9. Carriage of Captioning, AFD, and Bar Data**

The carriage of closed captions, AFD, and bar data when present *shall* be carried as per specified in SCTE 128-1 [SCTE 128-1] in section 8.0.

## Appendix A. Examples of Common Broadcast Resolutions, Formats, & Frame Constraints

Table 16 lists the resolutions and their format constraints for compliance with this specification for broadcast applications. Content originally created for broadcast is native to one of these resolutions supported in the intended 16:9 or 4:3 display aspect ratios which makes the encoding and display of content more automated since native resolutions are followed. Other resolutions beyond this table can be used for encoding and displaying this content but require additional transformations to display in 16:9 or 4:3 display aspect ratios.

**Table 16- Resolution/Compression Format Constraints for HEVC Bitstreams**

Vertical Size (lines)	Horizontal Size (pixels)	aspect_ratio_idc	Display Aspect Ratio	Supported Frame Rates (P-progressive i-interlaced)	Production Format
2160	3840	1	16:9	P-1,2,3,6,7,8	UHDTV1
1080	1920	1	16:9	P-1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10 I- 4,5	HDTV
1080	1440	14	16:9	P-1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10 I- 4,5	HDTV
720	1280	1	16:9	P-1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10	HDTV
480	720	3	4:3	P-1,2,3,6 I- 4,5	SDTV
480	720	5	16:9	P-1,2,3,6 I- 4,5	SDTV
480	704	3	4:3	P-1,2,3,6 I- 4,5	SDTV
480	704	5	16:9	P-1,2,3,6 I- 4,5	SDTV
480	640	1	4:3	P-1,2,3,6 I- 4,5	SDTV

The frame rates associated with the integer values in the “Supported Frame Rates” column of Table 16 are defined in Table 17.

**Table 17- Frame Rate VUI Parameter Constraints for HEVC**

Frame Rate Number	Interlaced or Progressive	Frame Rate	vui_time_scale	vui_num_units_in_tick	Allowed pic_struct
1	P	24000/1001 Hz	24,000	1001	0,7,8
2	P	24 Hz	24	1	0,7,8
3	P	30000/1001 Hz	30,000	1001	0,7,8
4	I (encoded as frames)	30000/1001 Hz	60,000	1001	3,4,5,6
5	I (encoded as fields)	30000/1001 Hz	60,000	1001	9,10,11,12
6	P	30 Hz	30	1	0,7,8
7	P	60000/1001 Hz	60,000	1001	0,7,8
8	P	60 Hz	60	1	0,7,8
9	P	120 Hz	120	1	0,7,8
10	P	120/1.001 Hz	120,000	1001	0,7,8

*NOTE 22: Refer to Table D.2 of HEVC for the interpretation of pic\_struct for allowable display modes for progressive and interlaced formats modes.*

## **Appendix B. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE DM App #1**

Refer to ETSI TS 103 572 [ETSI TS 103 572]

## **Appendix C. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE DM App #4**

Refer to CTA 861.H [CTA 861-H]

## **Appendix D. Syntax and Semantics for SCTE SDR Derived**

Refer to ETSI TS 103 433-1 [ETSI TS 103 433-1]