



Described Video Working Group

Questions arising from the CRTC letter to the DV WG, September 28, 2012

In its letter to the DV Working Group of September 28, 2012 the CRTC requires clarification and action on a number of items pertaining to the DV WG mandate.

For transparency, this list of questions has been circulated to all members of the DV WG. Some of the questions are for BDUs; some are for programmers; others are for general comment.

Please provide your response(s) under each question you answer, and email the document to Richard Cavanagh (richard@connectusinc.ca) by end of day **Tuesday, October 16, 2012.**

Thank you for your continued support of the DV Working Group.

Name of Company/Organization

Astral Media Inc.

Responses provided by (name, email)

Alicia Barin

abarin@astral.com

1) Pass through of DV for HD services

a) Please provide the status of your company with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services.

n/a

b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

n/a

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

n/a

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

n/a

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

n/a

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

The process put in place by the DV WG to ensure the availability of an up to date list of programming services that provide DV content may not be working as expected.

a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

Astral respectfully submits that the Commission should maintain the most current list of programming services that provide DV content. A proposed mechanism would be via the CRTC's website, where programmers and BDUs could update the list as new services make DV content available. Establishing a regulator update time frame (e.g. every 6 months) would ensure that the list is as accurate and timely as possible.

3) Audio silence

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

The Astral services are not a source of audio silence on DV. There is always some audio (either DV or the regular stereo audio) on all our services. We create all of our content with either DV (when available) or with regular Program audio when it is not.

4) Simple access to DV

The Commission's September 28, 2012 letter to the DV WG states the following:

...the Commission expects the DV WG to actively investigate and pursue one-button solutions and 'set and forget' in the shorter term, and that the DV WG and the industry should be able to report on the progress in this regard in the shorter term.

The Commission specifically notes the one-button remote available from Rogers.

a) Please explain the status of your company with respect to the availability of a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality. If an alternative option is being pursued, please explain the option and the reasons for it.

n/a

b) Please identify the timing for when your company will be able to provide a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality to DV users.

n/a

c) Please provide any other information relevant to the introduction of a one-button solution and/or set and forget functionality (e.g. are there any issues associated with these solutions).

n/a



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Name of Company/Organization

Bell Media Inc.

Responses provided by (name, email)

Harold Wesley – harold.wesley@bellmedia.ca

Janine Salvas – janine.salvas@bellmedia.ca

Du-Yi Leu – du-yi.leu@bellmedia.ca

1) Pass through of DV for HD services

a) Please provide the status of your company with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services.

Bell Media provides the signals of all our stations and services that offer DV to all BDUs. This includes both of our SD and HD signals for the following stations and services:

CTV Network CTV Toronto CTV Ottawa CTV Kitchener CTV Sudbury CTV Timmins CTV North Bay CTV Sault Ste. Marie CTV Montreal CTV Halifax CTV Sydney CTV Moncton CTV Saint-John CTV Vancouver CTV Interior BC CTV Saskatoon CTV Regina CTV Prince Albert CTV Yorkton CTV Calgary CTV Lethbridge CTV Edmonton CTV Winnipeg

CTV TWO CTV Two Toronto CTV Two Ottawa CTV Two London CTV Two Windsor CTV Two Vancouver CTV Two Atlantic (ASN) CTV Two Alberta (Access)

SPECIALTIES Discovery Channel Discovery World Discovery Science Investigation Discovery Space Bravo! Comedy

b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

The process put in place by the DV WG to ensure the availability of an up to date list of programming services that provide DV content may not be working as expected.

a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

In order to develop a centralized website that lists programming services offering DV and that is useful to the intended audience, it must be comprehensive and up to date. Both broadcasters and distributors have an important role to play to ensure that these objectives are met.

For broadcasters, they should be required to notify the distributors if any of their stations or services make any notable programming changes with respect to DV, such as transitioning a service to DV, so that the distributor can acquire the technical information that may be required to properly distribute the described programming.

Similarly, distributors should be in contact with broadcasters on a timely basis regarding any technical information they may require, to appropriately pass through the described programming and accommodate any programming service changes that develop.

3) Audio silence

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

Bell Media provides audio of the DV channel at all times whether a program is accompanied by DV or not.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

4) Simple access to DV

The Commission's September 28, 2012 letter to the DV WG states the following:

...the Commission expects the DV WG to actively investigate and pursue one-button solutions and 'set and forget' in the shorter term, and that the DV WG and the industry should be able to report on the progress in this regard in the shorter term.

The Commission specifically notes the one-button remote available from Rogers.

a) Please explain the status of your company with respect to the availability of a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality. If an alternative option is being pursued, please explain the option and the reasons for it.

b) Please identify the timing for when your company will be able to provide a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality to DV users.

c) Please provide any other information relevant to the introduction of a one-button solution and/or set and forget functionality (e.g. are there any issues associated with these solutions).



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Thank you for your continued support of the DV Working Group.

Name of Company/Organization

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Responses provided by (name, email)

Heather Boyce
heather.boyce@cbc.ca

1) Pass through of DV for HD services *(assume this to be a BDU question)*

a) Please provide the status of your company with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services.

b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

The process put in place by the DV WG to ensure the availability of an up to date list of programming services that provide DV content may not be working as expected.

a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

The services should be available on the CRTC website in a searchable format such as Excel, so that regardless of how someone thinks a service is titled/branded, it could be found. (CBC update in Excel attached as an example). BDUs brand services differently

than the broadcasters/programmers in many cases. For example a BDU may choose to call CBC British Columbia by the name CBC West, which is confusing because there are a number of CBC services in the “west”. Likewise, if only one of CBC Calgary or CBC Edmonton is carried, it might be referred to incorrectly as CBC Alberta. There should also be contact info supplied so BDUs can verify at any time. The CRTC could request updates on a semi-annual basis.

3) Audio silence (*assume this to be a BDU question. CBC services have no audio silence*)

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

4) Simple access to DV (*assume this to be a BDU question*)

The Commission’s September 28, 2012 letter to the DV WG states the following:

...the Commission expects the DV WG to actively investigate and pursue one-button solutions and ‘set and forget’ in the shorter term, and that the DV WG and the industry should be able to report on the progress in this regard in the shorter term.

The Commission specifically notes the one-button remote available from Rogers.

a) Please explain the status of your company with respect to the availability of a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality. If an alternative option is being pursued, please explain the option and the reasons for it.

b) Please identify the timing for when your company will be able to provide a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality to DV users.

c) Please provide any other information relevant to the introduction of a one-button solution and/or set and forget functionality (e.g. are there any issues associated with these solutions).



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Name of Company/Organization

Corus Entertainment

Responses provided by (name, email)

Bruce Cowan
bruce.cowan@corusent.com

1) Pass through of DV for HD services

a) Please provide the status of your company with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services.

n/a

b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

n/a

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

n/a

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

n/a

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

n/a

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

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a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

Due to the fact that the provision of DV content, and the ability to produce and deliver it, is an evolving process (much like the introduction of HD), I believe the list needs to be classified as a snapshot in time rather than a complete and exhaustive list. The

Commission should maintain the list and provide a means, via their web site, to permit programmers and BDU's to update the list. Possibly a more frequent update, such as every six months may be appropriate.

3) Audio silence

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

Corus is compliant and is not a source of audio silence on DV.

4) Simple access to DV

The Commission's September 28, 2012 letter to the DV WG states the following:

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a) Please explain the status of your company with respect to the availability of a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality. If an alternative option is being pursued, please explain the option and the reasons for it.

n/a

b) Please identify the timing for when your company will be able to provide a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality to DV users.

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c) Please provide any other information relevant to the introduction of a one-button solution and/or set and forget functionality (e.g. are there any issues associated with these solutions).

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Name of Company/Organization

Rogers Broadcasting Limited

Responses provided by (name, email)

**Susan Wheeler - susan.wheeler@rci.rogers.com
Provided on October 19, 2012**

1) Pass through of DV for HD services

a) Please provide the status of your company with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services.

n/a

b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

n/a

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

n/a

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

n/a

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

n/a

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

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a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

See Rogers Cable submission for details.

3) Audio silence

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

Programs with DV audio are inventoried and identified in both SM4 and BMS traffic scheduling systems. This data is passed to our broadcast automation system consisting of Harris ADC and internal software applications. Programs identified with DV allow audio channels 3 and 4 to pass through the broadcast chain, while programs identified in the traffic systems as not having DV audio cause an audio “gate” to close which replicates audio channels 1 and 2 onto channels 3 and 4. This duplicates the program audio onto the DV channels.

There is a low risk that DV could be missed if the traffic system field is not indicated (viewer would hear regular program audio instead of DV), or there is a technology failure at the “gate” stage (viewer would hear nothing if no DV is present). That said, these feeds are monitored through master control where there is an audio silence alarm if the audio is silent upon broadcast. To date we have not had any problems with audio silence on DV channels.

4) Simple access to DV

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n/a

b) Please identify the timing for when your company will be able to provide a one-button solution and set-and-forget functionality to DV users.

n/a

c) Please provide any other information relevant to the introduction of a one-button solution and/or set and forget functionality (e.g. are there any issues associated with these solutions).

n/a



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Thank you for your continued support of the DV Working Group.

Name of Company/Organization

Shaw Media

Responses provided by (name, email)

Karen Clout
Karen.clout@sjrb.ca

1) Pass through of DV for HD services

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b) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please explain the reasons/technical impediments for this.

c) If your company is not yet passing through DV programming for HD services, please identify the date when your company expects to do so.

d) In the view of your company, what is an acceptable industry standard for the pass through of DV in HD?

e) Is there any additional information your company would like to provide with respect to the pass through of DV for HD services?

2) List of programming services that provide DV content

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a) Does your company/organization have any suggestions as to how this process could be improved? Please comment on the appropriate frequency for updates, where the list should be located and the role of the CRTC.

Shaw Media believes that stations and services required to be on the list should only be those with specific regulatory requirements, and/or those services that meet the 50% threshold of the CRTC's new policy for Category A Standard Conditions of Licence (BRP 2011-443):

If the service devotes 50% or more of its program schedule to programming drawn from program categories 7 Drama and comedy or 2(b) Long-form documentary, set out in item 6 of Schedule I to the *Specialty Service Regulations, 1990* (the Regulations), and/or to children's programming, the licensee shall provide described video for a minimum of four hours per broadcast week, of which two hours must be broadcast in described video for the first time on the service. The minimum four hours of described video programming broadcast during each broadcast week may be drawn from the following program categories, set out in item 6 of Schedule I to the Regulations: 2(b) Long-form documentary; 7 Drama and comedy; 9 Variety; 11(a) General entertainment and human interest; and 11(b) Reality television, and/or may be programming targeting children.

Concurrent with our annual filings on November 30th each year, broadcasters should confirm their list of stations and services that have requirements and/or meet the aforementioned 50% threshold. If, during the broadcast year we become aware that a given service will reach the threshold during that broadcast year, we will notify the Commission to have the list updated.

The list should live on the CRTC website.

3) Audio silence

Persistent instances of audio silence are still occurring for at least one BDU.

a) What steps has/will your company take to ensure that instances of audio silence are completely eliminated?

Global:

Programs with DV audio are inventoried and identified in S4M, our traffic scheduling system, and this data is passed to our broadcast automation system consisting of Harris ADC and internal software applications. On Conventional TV, programs identified with DV allow audio channels 3&4 to pass through the broadcast chain, while programs identified in S4M as not having DV audio cause an audio "gate" to close which replicates audio channels 1&2 onto channels 3&4. This duplicates the program audio onto the DV channels.

Global – low risk - DV could be missed if the S4M field is not indicated (viewer would hear regular program audio instead of DV), or there is a technology failure at the "gate" stage (viewer would hear nothing if no DV is present).

Specialty:

In Specialty, presence of DV content is identified upon program ingest, and audio is mapped accordingly at that time. If DV is not present, program audio is mapped from channels 1&2 onto channels 3&4. This duplicates the program audio onto the DV channels at time of broadcast. If DV is present on channels 3&4, then the content is left as-is the signal passes through the broadcast chain at time of broadcast.

Specialty – low risk - If there is a failure at the ingest operator stage and also at the downstream QC operator, a tape could be ingest without the required mapping (viewer would hear nothing if no DV is present).

For Global & specialty: If there is a failure at the ingest operator stage, the content also passes through a QC step where DV is verified and there is an audio silence alarm if the audio is silent upon broadcast.

4) Simple access to DV

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