



**Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB);  
Specification for conveying ITU-R System B Teletext  
in DVB bitstreams**

**DVB Document A041**

**June 2016**



---

# Contents

Intellectual Property Rights .....	4
Foreword.....	4
Modal verbs terminology .....	4
1 Scope.....	5
2 References .....	5
2.1 Normative references .....	5
3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	5
3.1 Definitions .....	5
3.2 Abbreviations.....	6
4 Insertion of Teletext into MPEG-2 transport multiplex .....	6
4.0 Packetisation and signalling.....	6
4.1 Transport Stream (TS) packet format .....	6
4.2 PES packet format .....	6
4.3 Syntax for PES data field.....	7
4.4 Semantics for PES data field.....	7
5 Teletext decoder model .....	8
<b>Annex A (informative): PTS transmission .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Annex B (informative): Change History .....</b>	<b>10</b>
History .....	11

---

## Intellectual Property Rights

IPRs essential or potentially essential to the present document may have been declared to ETSI. The information pertaining to these essential IPRs, if any, is publicly available for **ETSI members and non-members**, and can be found in ETSI SR 000 314: "*Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); Essential, or potentially Essential, IPRs notified to ETSI in respect of ETSI standards*", which is available from the ETSI Secretariat. Latest updates are available on the ETSI Web server (<https://ipr.etsi.org>).

Pursuant to the ETSI IPR Policy, no investigation, including IPR searches, has been carried out by ETSI. No guarantee can be given as to the existence of other IPRs not referenced in ETSI SR 000 314 (or the updates on the ETSI Web server) which are, or may be, or may become, essential to the present document.

---

## Foreword

This European Standard (EN) has been produced by Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Broadcast of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), and is now submitted for the combined Public Enquiry and Vote phase of the ETSI standards EN Approval Procedure.

NOTE: The EBU/ETSI JTC Broadcast was established in 1990 to co-ordinate the drafting of standards in the specific field of broadcasting and related fields. Since 1995 the JTC Broadcast became a tripartite body by including in the Memorandum of Understanding also CENELEC, which is responsible for the standardization of radio and television receivers. The EBU is a professional association of broadcasting organizations whose work includes the co-ordination of its members' activities in the technical, legal, programme-making and programme-exchange domains. The EBU has active members in about 60 countries in the European broadcasting area; its headquarters is in Geneva.

European Broadcasting Union  
 CH-1218 GRAND SACONNEX (Geneva)  
 Switzerland  
 Tel: +41 22 717 21 11  
 Fax: +41 22 717 24 81

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies, content owners and others committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. DVB fosters market driven solutions that meet the needs and economic circumstances of broadcast industry stakeholders and consumers. DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data. The consortium came together in 1993 to provide global standardization, interoperability and future proof specifications.

<b>Proposed national transposition dates</b>	
Date of latest announcement of this EN (doa):	3 months after ETSI publication
Date of latest publication of new National Standard or endorsement of this EN (dop/e):	6 months after doa
Date of withdrawal of any conflicting National Standard (dow):	6 months after doa

---

## Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

"**must**" and "**must not**" are **NOT** allowed in ETSI deliverables except when used in direct citation.

---

# 1 Scope

The present document specifies the method by which ITU-R System B Teletext (ITU-R Recommendation BT.653 [3]), also known as EBU Teletext (see EN 300 706 [4]), may be carried in DVB bitstreams. This transport mechanism is intended to satisfy the following requirements:

- to support the transcoding of the Teletext data into the Vertical Blanking Interval (VBI) of analogue video. The transcoded signal should be compatible with existing TV receivers with Teletext decoders;
- the maximum data rate for each Teletext service is equivalent to 16 lines per field so that the service is always suitable for transcoding into the VBI;
- the transmission mechanism should be capable of transmitting subtitles with accurate timing with respect to the video (i.e. to within or near frame accuracy).

A more general data transport mechanism for conveying new types of data services is outside the scope of the present document, but the transport syntax specified here can also be adapted for other data.

---

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference/>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| [1] | ISO/IEC 13818-1: "Information technology - Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information: Systems". |
| [2] | ETSI EN 300 468: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Specification for Service Information (SI) in DVB systems".          |
| [3] | ITU-R Recommendation BT.653: "Teletext systems".   |
| [4] | ETSI EN 300 706: "Enhanced Teletext specification".  |
- 

## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

**MPEG-2:** Refers to the standard ISO/IEC 13818. Systems coding is defined in part 1 [1]. Video coding is defined in part 2. Audio coding is defined in part 3 of ISO/IEC 13818.

**section:** syntactic structure used for mapping all service information defined in EN 300 468 into ISO/IEC 13818-1 Transport Stream (TS) packets

**service:** sequence of programmes under the control of a broadcaster which can be broadcast as part of a schedule

**Teletext descriptor:** See EN 300 468 [2], it is used in the Program Specific Information (PSI) Program Map Table (PMT) to identify streams which carry EBU data. The descriptor is located in a program map section following the relevant ES\_info\_length field.

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

DVB	Digital Video Broadcasting
MPEG	Moving Pictures Expert group
PES	Packetized Elementary Stream
PID	Packet IDentifier
PMT	Program Map Table
PSI	Program Specific Information
PTS	Presentation Time Stamp
SI	Service Information
TS	Transport Stream
TV	TeleVision
VBI	Vertical Blanking Interval

---

## 4 Insertion of Teletext into MPEG-2 transport multiplex

### 4.0 Packetisation and signalling

Teletext data shall be conveyed in Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) packets as defined in clause 4.2, carried by Transport Stream (TS) packets as defined in ISO/IEC 13818-1 [1] and according to clause 4.1.

The Packet Identifier (PID) of a Teletext stream associated with a service shall be signalled in the Program Map Table (PMT) of the Program Specific Information (PSI) for that service.

The Teletext data stream shall use `stream_type` value 0x06 (which indicates a PES stream carrying private data).

The appropriate `ES_info` field of the program map section describing Teletext data streams shall contain a Teletext descriptor as defined in EN 300 468 [2].

A service may include more than one Teletext data stream, provided that each stream has a different value of `data_identifier`, and that the streams are distinguishable by their respective Teletext descriptors in the PSI.

### 4.1 Transport Stream (TS) packet format

The standard TS packet syntax and semantics shall be followed, noting the following constraint:

**adaptation\_field\_control**      only the values "01" and "10" shall be permitted.

### 4.2 PES packet format

The standard PES packet syntax and semantics shall be followed noting the following constraints:

<b>stream_id</b>	shall be set to "1011 1101" meaning "private_stream_1".
<b>PES_packet_length</b>	shall be set to the value $(N \times 184) - 6$ , where N is an integer, so that the PES packet finishes at the end of a Transport packet.
<b>Data_alignment_indicator</b>	shall be set to "1" indicating that the Teletext access units are aligned with the PES packets.
<b>PES_header_data_length</b>	shall be set to "0x24".
<b>stuffing_byte</b>	the PES header shall be followed by as many stuffing bytes as are required to make up the header data length, so that the entire PES header is 45 bytes long.
<b>PES_packet_data_byte</b>	these bytes shall be coded in accordance with the <code>PES_data_field</code> syntax specified in clause 4.3.

PTS and other optional fields may be present in the PES header, but the header length is always fixed for streams identified in the Program Specific Information (PSI) by the DVB Teletext descriptor (see EN 300 468 [2]).

NOTE: See annex A.

## 4.3 Syntax for PES data field

**Table 1: Syntax for PES data field**

Syntax	No. of bits	Identifier
PES_data_field() { data_identifier for (i=0; i<N; i++) { data_unit_id data_unit_length data_field() } }	8	uimsbf
	8	uimsbf
	8	uimsbf

### Data\_field for EBU Teletext

**Table 2: Syntax for Data\_field for EBU Teletext**

Syntax	No. of bits	Identifier
data_field() { reserved_future_use field_parity line_offset framing_code magazine_and_packet_address data_block }	2	bslbf
	1	bslbf
	5	uimsbf
	8	bslbf
	16	bslbf
	320	bslbf

## 4.4 Semantics for PES data field

**data\_identifier:** this 8-bit field identifies the type of data carried in the PES packet. It shall be coded according to table 3:

**Table 3: data\_identifier**

data_identifier	value
0x00 to 0x0F	reserved for future use
0x10 to 0x1F	EBU data
0x20 to 0x7F	reserved for future use
0x80 to 0xFF	user defined

The data\_identifier shall be set to the same value for each PES packet conveying data in the same Teletext data stream.

**data\_unit\_id:** this 8-bit field identifies the type of data unit. It shall be coded according to table 4:

**Table 4: data\_unit\_id**

data_unit_id	value
0x00 to 0x01	reserved for future use
0x02	EBU Teletext non-subtitle data
0x03	EBU Teletext subtitle data
0x04 to 0x7F	reserved for future use
0x80 to 0xFE	user defined
0xFF	data_unit for stuffing

For streams identified in the PSI by the DVB Teletext descriptor (see EN 300 468 [2]), only values 0x02, 0x03 and 0xFF shall be permitted.

**data\_unit\_length:** this 8-bit field indicates the number of bytes in the data unit following the length field. For data units carrying EBU Teletext data, this field shall always be set to 0x2C.

**reserved\_future\_use:** this field may be used in the future for ETSI defined extensions. As a default reserved\_future\_use bits shall be set to "1".

**field\_parity:** this 1-bit flag specifies the field for which the data is intended; the value "1" indicates the first field of a frame, the value "0" indicates the second field of a frame.

**line\_offset:** this 5-bit field specifies the line number on which the Teletext data packet is intended to be presented if it is transcoded into the VBI. Within a field, the line\_offset numbering shall follow a progressive incremental order except for the undefined line\_offset value "0". The toggling of the field\_parity flag indicates a new field. The line\_offset shall be coded according to table 5:

**Table 5: line\_offset**

line_offset	Meaning	
	field_parity = 1	field_parity = 0
0x00	Line number undefined	Line number undefined
0x01 to 0x06	reserved for future use	reserved for future use
0x07	Line number = 7	Line number = 320
0x08	Line number = 8	Line number = 321
:	:	:
0x16	Line number = 22	Line number = 335
0x17 to 0x1F	reserved for future use	reserved for future use

Only values 0x00 and 0x07 to 0x16 shall be permitted for EBU Teletext data\_units in streams identified in the PSI by the DVB Teletext descriptor, see EN 300 468 [2].

**framing\_code, magazine\_and\_packet\_address, data\_block:** these fields correspond to the 43 bytes following the clock-run-in sequence of an EBU Teletext data packet as defined in ITU-R Recommendation BT.653 [3], and also in EN 300 706 [4]. Data packets shall be inserted in the same order as they are intended to arrive at the Teletext decoder or to be transcoded into the VBI. Data bits shall be inserted in the PES packet in the same order as they would appear in the VBI.

EXAMPLE: The framing code is 11100100.

## 5 Teletext decoder model

The Teletext decoder model is a conceptual model for decoding, which the bitstream is required to satisfy. The decoder model does not specify the operation or behaviour of a real decoder implementation and implementations which do not follow the architecture or timing of this model are not precluded.

A Teletext access unit is defined as a Teletext data packet. The PTS applies to the first access unit following the PTS field. The presentation time is the time at which the decoded text is intended to be presented on the screen, or in the case of a transcoding operation, the time at which the access unit is to be inserted in the VBI.

The system target decoder has buffers  $TB_{\text{ttx}} = 480$  bytes, and  $B_{\text{ttx}} = 1\,504$  bytes.

The transfer rate from  $TB_{\text{ttx}}$  to  $B_{\text{ttx}}$  is 6,75 Mbit/s.

For a transcoding process an access unit is extracted from  $B_{\text{ttx}}$  instantaneously whenever a video line of the appropriate number and field-parity is available in the associated video, provided that the system time clock has reached the value of the PTS associated with this or any previous access unit. For a direct decoding process, access units are extracted from  $B_{\text{ttx}}$  instantaneously whenever a complete access unit is available, provided that the system time clock has reached the value of the PTS associated with this or any previous access unit.

NOTE 1: The model for the direct decoding process is always satisfied if the transcoding model is obeyed.



Data remains in the buffer  $B_{\text{tx}}$  for a maximum of 40 ms.

NOTE 2: In a real decoder implementation, there may need to be additional buffering relative to the target decoder model described here to account for the variable synchronization process between the decoded video and the display output.

---

## Annex A (informative): PTS transmission

It appears that the wording "*PTS and other optional fields may be present in the PES header*" in clause 4.2 on the PES packet format has led to multiple interpretations.

Though the original intention of the authors was to express that the PTS should always be included in the transmission - hence the choice of the PES format - it was also recognized that not all decoders might need the accuracy offered by the PTS. Therefore, clause 5 on the Teletext decoder model, includes the specification of a maximum retention time of 40 ms for the  $B_{\text{tx}}$  buffer of the System Target Decoder's buffer model. By adding this timing constraint to the transmission channel it was ensured that decoders could work with reasonable accuracy even if the PTS values in the coded Teletext stream were ignored.

In practice, however, this specification resulted in at least two ways of conveying and subsequently decoding Teletext data:

- the method where PTS *is* indeed transmitted and actually used for decoding (and for validation of the 40 ms timing constraint in the multiplex), and
- the method where not only the PTS *is not* used for decoding, but is also *not* transmitted.

As for legacy reasons we cannot change PTS transmission from mandatory to optional or vice versa depending on the interpretation of the current standard the recommended practice for new implementations should be as follows:

- encoders should support the insertion of Presentation Time Stamps whenever possible, and
- decoders may use the PTS to synchronize the decoding process, but will also need be able to perform the decoding process before the maximum retention time of 40 ms is elapsed.

---

## Annex B (informative): Change History

Date	Version	Information about changes
2016-06	1.4.1	No technical changes. Only addressing editorial errors, and updates for clarity. Implemented change requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1452: Typo in data_identifier table</li><li>• 1476: "shall" in informative annex A</li><li>• 1477: hanging text at top of section 4</li><li>• 1478: should "is" be changed to "shall" throughout section 4?</li></ul>

---

## History

<b>Document history</b>		
Edition 1	December 1994	Publication as ETS 300 472
Edition 2	October 1996	Publication as ETS 300 472
V1.2.2	August 1997	Publication
V1.3.1	January 2003	One-step Approval Procedure      OAP 20030523: 2003-01-22 to 2003-05-23
V1.3.1	May 2003	Publication
V1.4.1		