IEC 62942

Edition 1.0 2019-12

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

File format for professional transfer and exchange of digital audio data

IEC 62942:2019-12(en)

Currently in preview, click buy full version

THIS PUBLICATION IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED
Copyright © 2019 IEC, Geneva, Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either IEC or IEC's member National Committee in the country of the requester. If you have any questions about IEC copyright or have an enquiry about obtaining additional rights to this publication, please contact the address below or your local IEC member National Committee for further information.

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications
The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform
The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee,…). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished
Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc
If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org
The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 000 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 16 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

IEC Glossary - std.iec.ch/glossary
67 000 electrotechnical terminology entries in English and French extracted from the Terms and Definitions clause of IEC publications issued since 2002. Some entries have been collected from earlier publications of IEC TC 37, 77, 86 and CISPR.

currently in preview, click buy full version

IEC 62942

Edition 1.0 2019-12

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

File format for professional transfer and exchange of digital audio data

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 33.160.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-7722-5

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.

® Registered trademark of the International Electrotechnical Commission

currently in preview, click buy full version

CONTENTS

currently in preview, click buy full version

currently in preview, click buy full version

urrently in preview, click buy full versi

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

FILE FORMAT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE OF DIGITAL AUDIO DATA

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this IEC Publication may be the subject of patent rights. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard IEC 62942 has been prepared by technical area 6: Storage media, storage data structures, storage systems and equipment, of IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
100/3143/CDV	100/3226/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

currently in preview, click buy for full version

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

urrently in preview, click buy full versi

INTRODUCTION

The Broadcast Wave format file (BWFF) is based on the Microsoft WAVE[1] audio file format, which is a type of file specified in the Microsoft resource interchange file format (RIFF) [1][2] WAVE files specifically contain audio data. The basic building block of a RIFF file is a chunk which contains specific information, an identification field, and a size field. A RIFF file contains a number of chunks.

The BWFF specifically includes a <Broadcast Audio Extension> chunk to carry certain metadata important for broadcast and professional use. For reliable interchange, some restrictions apply to the format of the audio data.

The Broadcast Wave Format was first developed using ASCII text for all fields. Later as the format was further developed, it was proposed to use multi-byte characters to internationalize the format. It was understood that to use multi-byte character sets within the existing format would cause compatibility issues when multi-byte metadata was parsed by applications expecting ASCII text. The separate nature of human-readable and machine-readable metadata was established, and a new "universal" chunk was established to carry internationalized human-readable metadata using multi-byte character sets without interoperability issues. This is described in Annex K.

currently in preview, click buy for full version

---

1 Microsoft® is a registered trademark, and Windows™ is a trademark of Microsoft Corp.. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by IEC of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

2 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

FILE FORMAT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE OF DIGITAL AUDIO DATA

1 Scope

This document specifies a file format for interchanging audio data between compliant equipment. It is primarily intended for audio applications in professional recording, production, post-production, and archiving.

It is derived from the AES31-2 [2] but is also compatible with variant specifications including EBU Tech 3285 [3] to [10], ITU-R BR.1352-3-2007 [11] to [14], and the Japan Post Production Association's BWF-J [15].

This document contains the specification of the broadcast audio extension chunk and its use with PCM-coded audio data. Basic information on the RIFF format and how it can be extended to other types of audio data is given in Annex E. Details of the PCM WAVE format are also given in Annex A.

An optional extended format, BWF-E, supports 64-bit addressing to permit file sizes greater than 4 GB.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 10646:2017, *Information technology – Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats – Information interchange – Representation of dates and times*

SMPTE ST 330-2011; *SMPTE standard for television – Unique Material Identifier (UMID)*

INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE (IETF). RFC 3629: *UTF-8, a transformation format of ISO 10646* [online]. Edited by F. Yergeau. November 2003 [viewed 2019-11-26]. Available at https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc3629.txt

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

currently in preview, click buy full version