



Television Technical Performance Code

DRAFT

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Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 The Broadcasting Acts (1990 and 1996) as amended by the Communications Act (2003) require Ofcom to include conditions in its licences for Channels 3, 4 and 5 and for multiplex services which are appropriate for requiring the signals carrying these services to attain high standards of technical quality and reliability throughout so much of the service coverage area as is for the time being reasonably practicable. Those conditions require observance of this Television Technical Performance Code.

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Section 2

The Television Signal

- 2.1 All picture, sound, test and other signals broadcast by the licensee must comply with the technical standards specifications which are for the time being applicable in the UK.
- 2.2 For digital terrestrial television services the currently applicable transmission standards are described in 'Reference Parameters for Digital Terrestrial Television Transmissions in the United Kingdom', available from Ofcom¹.

¹ [INSERT URL FOR REFERENCE PARAMS]

Section 3

Technical Quality Standards

- 3.1 Multiplex and qualifying services licensees must provide Ofcom with a description of their procedures for ensuring high standards of technical quality.
- 3.2 Licensees are required to make their own assessment of the technical quality of their service. The objective of this monitoring should be to confirm the effectiveness of their procedures for ensuring high standards of technical quality.

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Section 4

Reliability

- 4.1 For multiplex services licensed under the Broadcasting Act, standards of transmitter reliability (measured in terms of service availability to viewers), must be maintained to levels that are as high as reasonably practicable. The minimum standard of availability is 99.8% for viewers served by reference transmitters² and 99.0% for other transmitters, averaged over the preceding six months (January to June inclusive and July to December inclusive). These availability figures should take account of any loss of video and sound or control data essential to view the services due to any cause under the control, either directly or through contract arrangements, of the licensee.
- 4.2 Multiplex licensees should notify Ofcom of any significant transmitter outages as soon as possible after they occur. Recognising that broadcasters will have specific contractual fault reporting arrangements with their own transmission providers, this Code does not specify minimum time or population thresholds which constitute a 'significant' outage. Ofcom will instead agree specific thresholds with individual multiplex operators directly so as to minimise any administrative burden on licensees. However, as guidance, we would normally expect to be notified within 24 hours of transmitter outages which last 30 minutes or more at Reference Transmitters, and of 2 hours or more at other transmitters.
- 4.3 A transmitter outage is considered to occur when the transmitter becomes incapable of radiating a decodable transport stream to its planned coverage area. For periodic maintenance purposes the transmitter power may be reduced by up to 3dB, or other changes made which result in up to an equivalent loss of population coverage, without the transmitter condition being treated as an outage.
- 4.4 Multiplex licensees must submit to Ofcom an annual report on transmission performance each July. The report should include a summary of reliability performance results for distribution and transmission in an agreed format, an analysis of viewer complaints relating to poor reception quality and technical faults, and a brief description of any notable developments in the technical architecture of the service.
- 4.5 Qualifying Service licensees must submit an annual report each July. The report should include an analysis of viewer complaints relating to poor reception quality and technical faults, a summary of any significant service-affecting studio or playout faults, and a brief description of any notable changes in the technical architecture of the service. Qualifying Services annual reports may be included in the relevant multiplex report for efficiency.

² A list of reference transmitters is provided in Annex 1 of this document.

Section 5

Coverage

- 5.1 The coverage of multiplex services is defined as that which is provided by the transmitters listed in the Annex to the Licence when operating in accordance with the Technical Performance Code. In order to meet this condition, transmitters must normally operate with an effective radiated power equal to the maximum power contained in the appropriate Wireless Telegraphy Act Licence.

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Annex 1

List of Digital Television Reference Transmitters

Transmitter	Channel 3 Region	Transmitter	Channel 3 Region
Sandy Heath	Anglia	Rosneath	STV Central
Sudbury	Anglia	Torosay	STV Central
Tacolneston	Anglia	Angus	STV North
Caldbeck	Border	Bressay	STV North
Selkirk	Border	Durris	STV North
Brierley Hill	Central	Eitshal	STV North
Bromsgrove	Central	Keelylang Hill	STV North
Fenton	Central	Knockmore	STV North
Lark Stoke	Central	Rosemarkie	STV North
Malvern	Central	Rumster Forest	STV North
Nottingham	Central	Bilsdale	Tyne Tees
Ridge Hill	Central	Chatton	Tyne Tees
Sutton Coldfield	Central	Fenham	Tyne Tees
The Wrekin	Central	Pontop Pike	Tyne Tees
Waltham	Central	Aberdare	Wales
Lancaster	Granada	Blaenplwyf	Wales
Saddleworth	Granada	Carmel	Wales
Storeton	Granada	Kilvey Hill	Wales
Winter Hill	Granada	Llanddona	Wales
Crystal Palace	London	Moel y Parc	Wales
Guildford	London	Pontypool	Wales
Hemel Hempstead	London	Preseli	Wales
Reigate	London	Wenvoe	Wales
Bluebell Hill	Meridian	Beacon Hill	West & South West
Dover	Meridian	Bristol Ilchester Crescent	West & South West
Hannington	Meridian	Bristol Kings Weston	West & South West
Hastings	Meridian	Caradon Hill	West & South West
Heathfield	Meridian	Huntshaw Cross	West & South West
Midhurst	Meridian	Mendip	West & South West
Oxford	Meridian	Plympton	West & South West
Rowridge	Meridian	Redruth	West & South West
Salisbury	Meridian	Stockland Hill	West & South West
Tunbridge Wells	Meridian	Belmont	Yorkshire
Whitehawk Hill	Meridian	Chesterfield	Yorkshire
Brougher Mountain	Northern Ireland	Emley Moor	Yorkshire
Divis	Northern Ireland	Idle	Yorkshire
Limavady	Northern Ireland	Keighley	Yorkshire
Black Hill	STV Central	Olivers Mount	Yorkshire
Craigkelly	STV Central	Sheffield	Yorkshire
Darvel	STV Central	-	-