

Delivering to NETA: what your file has to meet

A plain-English summary of NETA's 2025 File Submission Requirements for programmes delivered as files. It is not NETA's document and it is not official — always check the current requirements NETA sends you before you deliver.

VIDEO

- ☐ **Format:** XDCAM HD422 in an MXF OP1a wrapper (NETA's preference), or DNxHD 145, 220 or 220x. Apple ProRes 422 and 422 HQ are accepted, not preferred.
- ☐ **Picture:** 1920 × 1080, 4:2:2, at 29.97 or 59.94 fps. XDCAM is MPEG-2 long-GOP at 50 Mb/s.
- ☐ **Field order:** upper field first (TFF).
- ☐ **Levels:** between 0 and 100 IRE — NETA's uplink flags anything above 100 or below 0. NETA's own tip: a video limiter at 100 IRE with a little headroom, and switch off "Clamp Signal" on the scope, or it will hide the problem.

TIMECODE AND STRUCTURE

- ☐ **Drop-frame** timecode, starting at **01:00:00;00** or **00:00:00;00**.
- ☐ **One frame of black** at the start and one at the end.

AUDIO

- ☐ **PCM, uncompressed:** 48 kHz, 24-bit (1,152 kb/s per channel).
- ☐ **Stereo:** 2 channels — 1 Left, 2 Right. With DVI or SAP, 8 channels: 1 Left, 2 Right, 3–6 silent, 7 DVI, 8 SAP (silent if there is none).
- ☐ **5.1:** 6 channels — L, R, C, LFE, Ls, Rs — or 8, with DVI on 7 and SAP on 8.
- ☐ **Loudness:** -24 LKFS ±2, measured with ITU-R BS.1770-3 over the whole programme.
- ☐ **Peaks:** programme peaks between -12 and -8 dBFS (nominal -10), average around -20 dBFS. Music or effects may touch -2 dBFS true peak in moments of dramatic impact, as long as the average dialogue stays at level.
- ☐ **Clean audio:** no clipping and no distortion.
- ☐ **Lip sync:** audio never more than half a frame ahead of or behind the picture.
- ☐ **No stereo synthesis** anywhere in the programme. An up-mix to 5.1 must fold back to stereo and mono without an audible change, with the centre image kept in the centre.

CLOSED CAPTIONS

- ☐ **Embedded (preferred):** 708 captions carrying 608 compatibility bytes, in a SMPTE 436M ancillary data track (or in the VANC). A file with 708 captions only is not accepted.
- ☐ **Or a sidecar:** a .scc file — NETA cannot process any other caption format. Tell NETA whether you are delivering embedded or sidecar.
- ☐ **The .scc name matches the video name exactly:** show.mxf → show.scc. Spanish captions: show_SP.scc — and when there are English and Spanish captions, both go as sidecars, with nothing embedded.
- ☐ **The .scc starts on the same timecode as the video.** If it does not, every caption lands out of sync with the audio.
- ☐ **Timing:** captions within about ±1 second of the spoken word.
- ☐ **Layout:** 1 to 3 lines on screen at a time; 2 is best.
- ☐ **Placement:** never over name keys, on-screen text, faces or important action — move the caption to the top of the screen while a lower third is up.

ALSO ASK NETA FOR

The instructions for your programme may add a maximum running time, a NETA tag at the end, a rating icon and the Producers Media Technical Evaluation Form. Ask for them before the final export, while they are still cheap to meet.

Want your file checked against this list? The first Delivery QC Audit is free — one free audit per production company, one file up to 60 minutes — with a written report in two business days, every item measured or checked on the picture. clearedforair@gmail.com