

# Welcome to Tech Specs Version Six

*Discovery is releasing Version Six of the Global Technical Specification to our worldwide community of producers and distributors. Version Six is the first consolidated technical specification we've released since Discovery's purchase of Scripps Networks Interactive, and it takes the best from both company's previous specifications. There are new and modified requirements throughout the document. This one-sheet summarizes for our production community the most impactful changes found in the new version.*

## Changes to the accepted file formats and video standards

Discovery has changed the list of accepted file types and video standards. All changes to file standards and requirements are found in Section 5 of the specification.

- We've stopped accepting DNx HD MOV files. We will continue to accept DNx HD MXF (Op1A). We've had many problems with file structure with the MOV variant of DNx HD and are requiring the production community to shift to the MXF variant
- We're now accepting masters in 1080p 59.94 and 1080p 50 as part of our move towards a completely progressive supply chain. Suppliers delivering in those newly accepted formats will use the XAVC HD MXF file class
- We've added the ProRes HD MOV as a file format choice for some programs delivering on acquisition deals. While Discovery generally does not accept the ProRes codec, we acknowledge that it's a common exchange format for program distributors

## Version (case)-based delivery

Many of you have noticed the recent changes in the Producer's Portal that lay out your deliverables across multiple "cases" (Discovery's inventory term for a unique editorial version of an episode). All new deals after March 17, 2020 are using this layout, and we're working to convert older deals as well. The new specs provide details on cases and some new deliverable types that came in with this change. You can find information about cases and the new deliverables in Section 6.

## UHD High Dynamic Range (HDR) Masters

We've added requirements for UHD HDR masters to the new specs. Discovery's programming really comes to life in HDR, and we're excited to add this format and master deliverable to the specs. There are still many different consumer standards for HDR, so our master deliverable is in an intermediate format. The details about the UHD HDR Grading Master are in Section 2.3.4.

## Revised and expanded Program Text Protection Area (PTPA)

We've revised and expanded the Program Text Protection Area, the screen real estate we reserve for text in each program. We've greatly expanded the available text area in the middle of the screen, making it easier for shows that use disclaimers and full-width banners. You can find the new PTPA in Section 2.1.4.

## New standards for some nonlinear masters

Discovery has added a set of new requirements for nonlinear masters. These new requirements allow for more flexibility in codec, audio configuration, and aspect ratio. We've added support for H.264 HD MP4 and DNx HR MXF files as well as support for content with a 1:1 or 9:16 aspect ratio. We're targeting these new requirements at nonlinear content produced for our websites and our social media feeds. Suppliers need to look at their contract or the Producer's Portal to see whether their content can use the "nonlinear" requirements or the standard requirements. Deliverables with "nonlinear" or "NL" in their name can follow the nonlinear requirements. Section 2.4 introduces the nonlinear masters, and their file specs are spelled out in Section 5.3.3

## Removal of LTO delivery for program and graphics masters

Discovery will no longer accept delivery of program or graphics masters on LTO data cartridges. Most suppliers have moved to delivering through the Producer's Portal over the past few years, but the transition to Tech Specs Six marks the official end of LTO delivery for programs and graphics. We're continuing to accept footage delivery on LTOs but hope to announce a new policy for footage delivery soon. We're in the beta testing phase of a new footage policy and system.

