



FINAL RESOLUTION

SMPTE DCP Deadline

WHEREAS “SMPTE” is the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, an organization that sets technical standards for the cinema and television industries, and “DCP” stands for Digital Cinema Package, and

WHEREAS the SMPTE DCP is a specification published as a formal standard by SMPTE regarding the packaging and delivery of digital cinema content files, and

WHEREAS for many years since the transition from film to digital, and the publication of relevant standards by SMPTE, digital cinema distributions have taken place in the form of “Interop DCPs”, a non-standards-based packaging format that was agreed to between some of the early manufacturers of digital cinema equipment to promote interoperability between their systems, and

WHEREAS the SMPTE DCP standard was developed by committees of experts in an open and rules-based process, and

WHEREAS the SMPTE DCP standard includes some very useful features that are not supported in the Interop DCP, and

WHEREAS those benefits include: the ability to carry soft 3D subtitles, and encrypted subtitles; the ability to support “auxiliary data” other than the picture, the sound and subtitles, which can enhance such features as immersive audio, moving seats, lighting effects and other innovations not yet developed; the ability to use automation cues to reduce operational effort and minimize human error; the ability to carry more “metadata” which will make it easier to identify information such as the name of the distributor, the audio format, the aspect ratio, the light level at which the content was mastered, etc.; and

WHEREAS almost all digital cinema equipment is capable of playing back SMPTE DCPs as long as current software versions are installed, and

WHEREAS fewer than 350 cinema locations in the U.S. and Canada have yet to prepare their systems for SMPTE DCP delivery, and

WHEREAS every effort has been, and is being made to communicate with those cinema operators and encourage them to prepare, and

WHEREAS the designation of a voluntary deadline for the full transition to delivery of content solely in the SMPTE DCP format may finally be necessary to encourage complete transition, and

WHEREAS that complete transition will further innovation, cost savings and presentation quality, and

WHEREAS the adoption of this resolution was recommended by the NATO Technology Committee members in their meeting on Monday, 8 October 2018,

BE IT RESOLVED that motion picture exhibitors operating in the “domestic” market of the United States and Canada will fully transition to SMPTE DCP by 9 April 2019.

The Executive Board
National Association of Theatre Owners
Beverly Hills, CA
9 October 2018