

EBU Technical Standard N9-1998

Digital audio interface for broadcast production equipment

<i>EBU Committee</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Re-issued</i>
PMC	1985	1991	1998

Keywords: Audio, Interface - Audio

1. Introduction

Broadcasters need to connect together digital audio equipment from different manufacturers. For this to be possible it is necessary to standardise the characteristics of the interface to be used for the input and output of the digital audio signals. The EBU studied this question in co-operation with other interested international bodies in the field and an EBU technical document (Tech 3250, 1st edition) was published in 1985 giving the specification of the interface. This document gives details of the digital data and the significance of the various bits. It also specifies the electrical characteristics of the interface and the connectors to be used.

The EBU, in co-operation with the same international bodies, has recently studied this subject again and as a result has decided to issue a second revised and enlarged version of the specification. The second edition of the specification follows the same basic principles of the original specification but in addition, it:

- defines more aspects of the channel status bits to enable more auxiliary information to be carried;
- defines a method to carry voice co-ordination channels;
- gives an improved specification of the electrical characteristics;
- specifies which aspects of the interface which should be implemented in standard equipment supplied to broadcasters.

2. EBU Technical Standard for a digital audio interface

An interface conforming to this EBU Technical Standard shall meet the specification given the second edition of EBU document Tech 3250 [1]. For broadcast use, the EBU recommends that equipment is implemented at least to the level of the “standard” implementation defined in the document. If any extra features are implemented above the standard implementation, the manufacturer shall provide full documentation on the features and on how other equipment is intended to respond.

Bibliography

- [1] EBU Document Tech. 3250 (2nd edition 1992): **Specification of the digital audio interface (The AES/EBU interface)**
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