

EBU Technical Recommendation R88-1997 Preservation of endangered images on film

<i>EBU Committee</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Re-issued</i>
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Note: This EBU Recommendation replaces EBU Recommendations R77 and R63, which are withdrawn.

The EBU.

considering that:

- Broadcasters possess programme material on film that is endangered by the fading of the film image and/or by chemical or physical deterioration of the film support,
- Endangered programme material on film is traditionally safeguarded by restoration on film to ensure future replay and compatibility with any television system,
- The film may have deteriorated to a point where it is difficult to recover the original images,
- A wide range of electronic image correction is now possible,
- For broadcasters, preservation of images on film as video may be convenient and cost effective,

Recommends that:

- Broadcasters should store film material under proper conditions to prevent deterioration of the film emulsion and base [1][2],
- Broadcasters should, first of all, consider preserving endangered programme material on film by copying to another film support,
- Broadcasters may consider preserving endangered programme material on film on a video carrier or data carrier, preferably without lossy compression,
- Endangered film images transferred for preservation should be electronically corrected, if necessary, to achieve to match the original images as closely as possible,
- The area of the film images captured for preservation should be as close as possible in content and aspect ratio to that originally intended. *
- Endangered film material should not be destroyed after transfer to video but properly stored against a possible future transfer at a higher quality or a different aspect ratio.[1]

* The maximum safe areas to be scanned from 16mm and 35mm film are listed in EBU R86 [3]

Bibliography

[1] EBU document Tech. 3202: **Storage of magnetic tapes and cinefilm**

[2] EBU Recommendation R74-1993: **The vinegar syndrome and the storage of cinefilm**

[3] EBU Recommendation R86-1997: **Scanned image area dimensions from films for television**
