

Guidance note three: File formats

These guidelines are correct as of 13 January 2012 but may change as the development of The Space platform progresses. Any substantial changes will be communicated to all shortlisted applicants, and any further technical requirements will be discussed with applicants as part of the process of drawing up the final commissioning agreement.

Video file formats

There are three types of video delivery standard:

- HD (High Definition)
- SD (Standard Definition)
- web only (this should only apply to user-generated content that accompanies or is part of the main work)

Where possible all videos should be shot using an HD camera - preferably file based. However, material shot on traditional SD tape cameras will be accepted. The UK broadcast definition of approved HD will be relaxed to allow flexibility for exploring the creative options of smaller cameras especially when self shooting.

We recommend that all shooting and delivery be carried out in 'p' progressive mode (film motion) rather than 'i' interlaced (smooth motion). This is because the majority of video provided to The Space will be viewed on smartphones, tablets, computers and smart TVs, all of which use 'p' for video playback.

If in any doubt, get in contact with us.

Delivery of videos can be in file or tape format (though file format is our preference).

Once a video has been delivered it will be transcoded for the various online platforms on which it will be viewed. Videos delivered for linear TV transmission will only transmit in Standard Definition.

Each video file delivered, regardless of format, **must** be accompanied by a depiction (or 'poster' image) delivered according the image delivery specifications detailed below.

Delivery specifications for High Definition videos

Digital Files:

Container	Quicktime
Codec	Pro Res 422 or 8/10bit uncompressed
Resolution	1920x1080
Audio	Stereo final mix on tracks 1&2, 48Khz 16bit
Frame rate	25
Mode	Progressive

Tape Formats	HD Cam SR, HD Cam
Resolution	1920x1080
Frame rate	25
Mode	Progressive
Aspect ratio	16:9 (14:9 Caption safe)
Audio	Stereo final mix on tracks 1&2
Music & Effects	Tracks 3&4

- 90" Lineup bars and 1KHz tone at -18dBFS
- timecode of start of programme 10:00:00:00
- circular countdown clock of at least 20" with the following details: ID number, title, subtitle if needed, episode or part number
- contact numbers for post production facility and production company
- fade to silence at end point, end slate held in vision for further 10" after end of programme

Delivery specifications for Standard Definition videos

Tape Formats	Digi-Beta/DV Cam/Mini-DV
Resolution	625-line colour
Frame rate	25
Mode	Progressive

Aspect ratio	16:9 FHA (14:9 Caption safe)
Audio	Stereo final mix on tracks 1&2, 48Khz 16bit
Music & Effects	Tracks 3&4

Digital Files:

Container	Quicktime
Codec	DV Pal Pro Res 422 or 8/10bit uncompressed
Resolution	720x576 FHA (Full Height Anamorphic)
Audio	Stereo final mix on tracks 1&2, 48Khz 16bit
Frame rate	25
Mode	If shot interlaced then deliver interlaced

- 90" Lineup bars and 1KHz tone at -18dBFS
- timecode of start of programme 10:00:00:00
- circular countdown clock of at least 20" with the following details: ID number, title, subtitle if needed, episode or part number
- contact numbers for post production facility and production company
- fade to silence at end point, end slate held in vision for further 10" after end of programme

Delivery specifications for web only video (user-generated content)

In essence, 'web only video' is defined as video that does not meet the HD or SD standards described above. This includes material filmed on consumer devices such as phones, still cameras with video modes, camcorders and digital SLRs.

You should encourage contributors to provide their user-generated content in the best reasonable quality available, and highlight that this video may be viewed on screen sizes ranging from smartphones through to large televisions.

Audio file formats

This guidance is based on the BBC specifications at:

<http://www.bbcradioresources.com/programme/>

Audio files should be submitted in the RIFF/WAV format with metadata either contained in a separate XML file or embedded in one of the header chunks. This will allow automation of file transfer.

The audio format for the file will be: Linear PCM, 44.1 KHz, 16bit (or greater, by prior agreement).

Distortion, noise, induced hum etc should not be audible. During the production process, audio should not be subjected to bit rate reduction (eg recording on Minidisc or encoding as MP3). Multiple transfers involving bit rate reduction should be avoided otherwise coding artefacts are likely to be audible.

The recording should contain, where appropriate, the full transmittable audio bandwidth (20Hz to 20kHz). Exceptions may be made; examples include archive material or material gathered necessarily under adverse conditions. Any such deviations from the normal standards or anything which could be interpreted as a fault or error should be discussed with The Space team.

Stereo programmes must always be supplied as a single uncompressed WAV file with the two channels — recorded as A and B (ie left and right) not as M and S (ie sum and difference).

Stereo programmes must be recorded to be compatible for listeners in mono. Avoid extremes of stereo imagery or 'out of phase' effects as these present problems with mono compatibility. Even if the programme content is entirely mono it should still be recorded as two identical channels (A and B) with zero phase difference between them.

Image file formats

Images should be provided at a resolution of **at least** 1920x1080 and with an aspect ratio of 16:9. The Space platform will automatically optimise and resize images to the sizes required for presentation on the various devices targeted by the platform. Images which do not conform to this aspect ratio will be cropped upon ingest. Images that are smaller than 1920x1080 will be rejected.

JPEG and GIF format images **must not** be provided, and will not be accepted. 24- or 32-bit PNG format is preferred, but TIFF files will also be accepted. Any transparency information will be stripped upon ingest, but we cannot guarantee the matte colour used if this occurs. To achieve consistent presentation, please ensure there are no transparent or semi-transparent areas of an image before upload (ie the alpha channel, if any, should be consistently 100% throughout the image).