

CEA Standards Update

CEA DTV PlugFest April 13-18 in Milpitas, Calif.

CEA conducts innovative PlugFests each year focusing on product connectivity and interoperability. These events allow manufacturers to come together and test interfaces in a semiprivate, round robin fashion. Designers can sort out connectivity issues between manufacturers before products get into consumers' hands. CEA's 10th PlugFest will focus on products with CEA-861 (HDMI/HDCP) interfaces. PlugFest10 will also provide DCP LLC HDCP and CEC Compliant Testing. **Registration closes March 21.**

IEC Announces Maintenance Team for STB Energy Consumption

The IEC announced a maintenance team (MT) to revise the Set Top Box (STB) energy consumption measurement procedures in IEC-62087. The MT will meet in Bangkok, Thailand on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. This work will be handled under Technical Committee (TC) 100. If you are interested in participating in this work, please contact Megan Hayes (mhayes@CE.org). Globally harmonized energy measurement standards are being sought by CEA members as governments across the world investigate the power requirements of consumer electronics equipment and explore regulations to curb energy use.

CEA to Meet with Counterparts in Europe and Japan on Standardization Issues

CEA participates in the Global Industry Standards Associations (GISA) meetings to collaborate on international standardization issues and to interface on global technical issues facing the industry. Such issues include energy efficiency measurement standards, worldwide DTV transition, Self Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) and accessibility for people with disabilities. The next GISA meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2008 in Brussels, Belgium. For more information or to get involved, please contact Megan Hayes (mhayes@CE.org).

IEC Approves New Work Item on Audiobooks

IEC Technical Committee (TC) 100 approved a new work item on audiobooks that will make the content of ANSI/CEA-2003-C, Digital Audiobook File Format and

Player Requirements into an international standard. This standard defines requirements and provides recommendations to publishers, software developers, content providers, and hardware manufacturers for the data structure, usability requirements, playback systems and delivery systems for audiobooks in digital file format. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Megan Hayes (mhayes@CE.org).

New Projects

- ✚ CEA-516, *Joint EIA/CVCC Recommended Practice for Teletext: North American Basic Teletext Specification (NABTS)*, 5-year review
- ✚ CEA-542-B, *Cable Television Channel Identification Plan*, 5-year review
- ✚ CEA-762-B, *DTV Remodulator Specification*
- ✚ CEA-775.2-A, *Service Selection Information for Digital Storage Media Interoperability*
- ✚ CEA-819-A, *Cable Compatibility Requirements for Two-Way Digital Cable TV Systems*, 5-year review
- ✚ CEA-CEB12-A, *PSIP Recommended Practice*, 5-year review

Recently Published CEA Standards

- ✚ CEA-608-D, *Line 21 Data Service* (published May 2007, recirculation ballot approved 8/29/07, ANSI public review of May 2007 published version closed 10/1/07, ANSI public review of revisions approved by recirculation ballot closed 1/13/08, revised document will be "E" version)
- ✚ CEA-770.3-D, *High Definition TV Analog Component Video Interface* (published February 2008)
- ✚ CEA-775-C, *DTV 1394 Interface Specification* (published February 2008)
- ✚ CEA-2014-A, *Web-Based Protocol and Framework for Remote User Interface on UPnP™ Networks and the Internet (Web4CE)* (published July 2007, 14-day draft of errata circulated 2/22/08, vote scheduled for 3/13/08)

Publications Nearing Completion

- ✚ CEA-709.1-C, *Control Network Protocol Specification* (pre-vote comment period closed 2/19/08, comments being addressed)

- ✚ ANSI/CEA-709.3, *Free Topology Twisted Pair Channel Specification*, 5-year review (reaffirmed 2/22/08)
- ✚ ANSI/CEA-709.4, *Fiber-Optic Channel Specification*, 5-year review (reaffirmed 2/22/08)
- ✚ CEA-766-B, *U.S. and Canadian Rating Region Tables (RRT) and Content Advisory Descriptors for Transport of Content Advisory Information Using ATSC Program and System Information Protocol (PSIP)* (published July 2006, ANSI public review completed 2/5/07, public review comments addressed, revised document approved 9/13/07, ANSI public review of changes closed 2/4/08)
- ✚ CEA-775-C, *DTV 1394 Interface Specification* (published February 2008)
- ✚ CEA-775.2-A, *Service Selection Information for Digital Storage Media Interoperability* (14-day draft issued 2/25/08, vote scheduled for 3/12/08)
- ✚ CEA-827, *Sound Level Measurement – Vehicle Security System Sounding Devices* (Mobile Electronics Committee approved withdrawal of this standard on 2/13/08)
- ✚ CEA-849-B, *Application Profiles for CEA-775 Compliant DTVs* (14-day draft issued 2/25/08, vote scheduled for 3/12/08)
- ✚ CEA-851.1, *IP-Based Digital Telephony for the Versatile Home Network* (proposed for reaffirmation, pre-vote comment period closed 2/26/08)
- ✚ CEA-851.2, *Security Services for the Versatile Home Network* (proposed for reaffirmation, 14-day draft issued 2/27/08, vote planned for 3/13/08)
- ✚ CEA-852-B, *Tunneling Component Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channels* (approved 12/7/06, in final editorial review, awaiting completion of CEA-852.1, *Enhanced Tunneling Device Area Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channel*)
- ✚ CEA-860-A, *Device Plug-In Interface to EIA/CEA-709.1 Network Tools*, 5-year review (reaffirmed 2/22/08)
- ✚ CEA-861-E, *A DTV Profile for Uncompressed High Speed Digital Interfaces* (approved 1/21/08, in final editorial review)
- ✚ CEA-2002, *Test Procedure for Powerline Carrier Technology* (proposed for reaffirmation, pre-vote comment period closed 2/26/08)
- ✚ CEA-2004, *Audiobook Media and Player Compatibility* (Mobile Electronics Committee approved withdrawal of this standard on 2/13/08)
- ✚ ANSI/CEA-2018, *Task Model Representation* (ANSI approved February 2008, will be published soon)
- ✚ ANSI/CEA-2033, *OpenEPG™ - A Specification for Electronic Program Guide Data Interchange* (ANSI approved February 2008, will be published soon)

Ongoing Work

- ✚ Revision of CEA-708-C, *Digital Television (DTV) Closed Captioning*
- ✚ Revision of CEA-709.2-A, *Control Network Power Line (PL) Channel Specification*
- ✚ CEA-805-D, *Data Services on the Component Video Interfaces*
- ✚ 5-year Review of CEA-849-A, *Application Profiles for EIA-775A Compliant DTVs*
- ✚ CEA-852.1, *Enhanced Tunneling Device Area Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channels*
- ✚ CEA-2006-B, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Mobile Audio Amplifiers*
- ✚ Revision to CEA-2014-A, *Web-based Protocol and Framework for Remote User Interface on UPnP™ Networks and the Internet (Web4CE)*
- ✚ Revision to CEA-2017, *Common Interconnection for Portable Media Players*
- ✚ CEA-2019, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Audio Amplifiers*
- ✚ CEA-2021, *Auto Discovery & Self-configuring Home Control Networks*
- ✚ Revision of CEA-2030, *Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard*
- ✚ CEA-2034, *Standard Method of Measurement for In-Home Loudspeakers*
- ✚ Revision of CEA-CEB11, *NTSC/ATSC Loudness Matching*
- ✚ Possible consumer guidelines for using indoor TV antennas

Summary of Projects by CEA Product Division

Accessories

✚ Indoor Antenna Guidelines for Consumers

The Antennas Committee is considering the development of guidelines or recommendations for consumers who are using indoor TV antennas. The computer prediction models that it developed for www.AntennaWeb.org only apply to outdoor antennas. Interested? [Join R5](#).

Audio

✚ Distributed Audio

The Audio Systems Committee is working on an addition to CEA-2030, *Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard*, which defines how to configure cabling and connectors in order to distribute analog and digital audio throughout a home. The

new addition will explain how to document distributed audio systems installed in homes. Interested? [Join R3 WG7](#).

Loudspeaker Performance

An Audio Systems Committee working group is currently developing CEA-2034, *Standard Method of Measurement for In-Home Loudspeakers*, which it hopes will describe a method for measuring and reporting frequency response and perhaps other loudspeaker characteristics in a manner that will be easy for non-technical consumers to understand. Interested? [Join R3 WG1](#).

Amplifier Performance

Another Audio Systems Committee working group is attempting to write an amplifier measurement standard aimed mainly at home theater in-a-box systems, but which would include some other audio amplifiers as well. There is hope that this standard, and perhaps an accompanying CEA logo program, may help ensure consumers' ability to make apples-to-apples comparisons among these types of products. The new standard would be called CEA-2019, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Audio Amplifiers*. Interested? [Join R3 WG8](#).

Mobile Electronics

On 2/13/08 the Mobile Electronics Committee approved the withdrawal of CEA-827, *Sound Level Measurement – Vehicle Security System Sounding Devices*. This standard defines how to measure the noise level from car alarms. It does not define noise limits, it only defines a measurement method. The 14-day draft was issued on 1/21/08 and a vote to withdraw is scheduled for 2/13/08. Interested? [Join R6](#).

Mobile Audio Amplifiers

The Mobile Systems Committee is working on CEA-2006-B, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Mobile Audio Amplifiers*. This standard describes a method for testing the performance of mobile audio amplifiers and reporting the results. Interested? [Join R6 WG10](#).

PDMI Connector

The Mobile Electronics Committee is studying the possibility of sending high definition multimedia interface (HDMI) signals over portable digital media interface (PDMI) connectors. PDMI connectors comply with CEA-2017, *Common Interconnection for Portable Media Players*, which was approved as an American National Standard earlier this year. It is hoped that this connector will eventually become a standard feature on vehicle dashboards, making it easy for consumers to plug their

portable media devices into their vehicle power supplies and audio/video systems. Anyone interested in joining this effort should visit <http://www.CE.org/Standards/1447.asp> and sign up for R6 WG15.

Audiobooks

On 2/13/08 the Mobile Electronics Committee approved the withdrawal of CEA-2004, *Audiobook Media and Player Compatibility*. This standard defines audiobook characteristics considered essential for consumers to have a good listening experience, independent of the audiobook format.

TechHome

LonTalk®-based Control Network Protocol

The Home Systems Control Subcommittee is considering revisions to CEA-709.1-C, *Control Network Protocol Specification*. This standard describes a control network protocol that can be used over different physical links. This protocol is suitable for implementing both peer-to-peer and master-slave system strategies. Pre-vote comments were due 2/19/08 and comments are now being addressed.

Free Topology Twisted Pair Channel

The Home Systems Control Subcommittee has begun its five year review of ANSI/CEA-709.3, *Free Topology Twisted Pair Channel Specification*. This standard defines a free-topology twisted-pair channel that supports up to 128 nodes on a single network segment with an optional link power source that supplies DC power to the nodes on the network. The channel is specified to support free-topology wiring, and will accommodate bus, star, loop, or any combination of these topologies. The channel uses CAT5 wiring. This standard was reaffirmed on 2/22/08.

Fiber Optic Channel Specification

The Home Systems Control Subcommittee has begun its five year review of ANSI/CEA-709.4, *Fiber-Optic Channel Specification*. This standard defines a single-fiber (half-duplex) fiber-optic channel that supports communication at 1250 kbps between multiple nodes, each of which consists of a fiber-optic transceiver, a protocol processor, an application processor, a power supply, and application electronics. This single-fiber channel allows two nodes to communicate bidirectionally across a single piece of fiber, thus minimizing complexity of the fiber interconnect. This standard was reaffirmed on 2/22/08.

VOIP for Versatile Home Network

The Home Networks Committee has begun its five year review of CEA-851.1, *IP-Based Digital Telephony for the Versatile Home Network*. This standard defines IP-based telephony for the Versatile Home Network. It has been proposed for reaffirmation and pre-vote comments were due by 2/26/08.

Security Services for Versatile Home Network

The Home Networks Committee has begun its five year review of CEA-851.2, *Security Services for the Versatile Home Network*. This standard defines security services for the home network defined in ANSI/CEA-851-A, *Versatile Home Network*. It assumes a VHN that is digital and IP-based, and that uses web tools like HTTP for device control. It has been proposed for reaffirmation. The 14-day draft was issued on 2/27/08 and a vote is scheduled for 3/13/08. Interested? [Join R7](#).

IP Tunneling

The Home Systems Control Subcommittee approved CEA-852-B, *Tunneling Component Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channels* on 12/7/06. This standard specifies a communications method that allows networked data acquisition and control devices to communicate with each other over the Internet. It is currently under final editorial review and will be published after CEA-852.1, which it references, is completed.

The subcommittee is also working on CEA-852.1, *Enhanced Tunneling Device Area Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channels*. This standard will address limitations in the CEA-852-B protocol and provide improvements in performance, scalability, and robustness. Some of the provisions in CEA-852.1 might not be backward compatible with earlier versions of CEA-852. Interested? [Join R7.1 WG2](#).

Plug-In Interface to CEA-709.1

The Home Systems Control Subcommittee has begun its five year review of CEA-860-A, *Device Plug-In Interface to ANSI/CEA-709.1 Network Tools*. This standard defines software interfaces between ANSI/CEA-709.1-B-2002 network management tools and device-specific software used to install, configure and commission networked devices. It was reaffirmed on 2/22/08.

Powerline Carrier Test Procedure

The Home Networks Committee is considering reaffirmation of CEA-2002, *Test Procedure for Powerline*

Carrier Technology. This standard defines a test procedure that can be used to validate key aspects of powerline carrier systems. Pre-vote comments were due by 2/26/08.

Remote User Interface for UPnP™ Devices

The Home Networks Committee published CEA-2014-A, *Web-Based Protocol and Framework for Remote User Interface on UPnP™ Networks and the Internet (Web4CE)*, in July 2007. Shortly thereafter, several errors were discovered, and an errata has been developed. The 14-day draft of the errata was circulated on 2/22/08, and a vote is scheduled for 3/13/08. Comments are now being addressed. This standard defines how to produce remote user interfaces for UPnP™ devices. Revisions from the previous version clarify several points that some readers thought were unclear. The Home Networks Committee has now begun a second phase of its efforts to revise ANSI/CEA-2014. This next revision is expected to extend the functionality of the standard while preserving existing functionality and maintaining backward compatibility. It is expected to add new functionality in the following general areas: remote user interface access to the underlying platform resources, the level of security available within the remote user interface and protocol framework, and the remote user interface experience. A call for participants and request for use cases was issued on 6/26/07. Interested? [Join R7 WG9](#).

Task-Based User Interfaces

The Home Networks Committee obtained ANSI approval for ANSI/CEA-2018, *Task Model Representation*, in February 2008. The ANSI version of this standard will be published soon. This standard defines how to describe tasks performed by consumer electronics products in XML.

Power Line Carrier

The Home Control Systems 1 Subcommittee is working on a revision to ANSI/CEA-709.2-A, *Control Network Power Line (PL) Channel Specification*. This standard describes the physical characteristics of a communications network that uses power lines to collect and distribute information. Interested? [Join R7.1](#).

The Home Control Systems 1 Subcommittee has also begun work on CEA-2021, *Auto Discovery & Self-configuring Home Control Networks*. This standard is expected to define a method for devices on a home control network to automatically discover each other and exchange data. It will facilitate the development of future home automation devices that may be installed by CE installers, electricians, or do-it-yourself homeowners. It will provide a set of standard application-layer services for the

ANSI/CEA-709.1 protocol, thus enabling devices and appliances from different manufacturers to work together in a home network. Interested? [Join R7.1](#).

Open EPG

The Home Networks Committee obtained ANSI approval of ANSI/CEA-2033, *OpenEPG™ - A Specification for Electronic Program Guide Data Interchange* in February 2008. The ANSI version of this standard will be published soon. This standard enables home entertainment devices to access program guide information using messages that are based on standard Internet protocols.

Video

North American Teletext

The Television Data Systems Subcommittee has begun its five-year review of CEA-516, *Joint EIA/CVCC Recommended Practice for Teletext: North American Basic Teletext Specification (NABTS)*. This standard describes the transmission technique, coding language, and user interface for one-way broadcast teletext service applications in North America using NTSC television signals. Interested? [Join R4.3](#).

DTV Remodulator Specification

The DTV Interface Subcommittee has begun to update CEA-762-A, *DTV Remodulator Specification*. This standard defines minimum specifications for a one-way data path utilizing an 8-VSB trellis remodulator that complies with ATSC Standard A/53B, Annex D. This standard applies to any device used to connect to an ATSC compliant digital television (DTV) receiver. Devices meeting this standard should interoperate with any ATSC compliant receiver that also supports “monitor mode.” Interested? [Join R4.8](#) WG6.

IEEE 1394 Service Selection Information

The DTV Interface Subcommittee is updating CEA-775.2, *Service Selection Information for Digital Storage Media Interoperability*. This standard defines how to store Service Selection Information when recording a program over the IEEE 1394 high performance serial bus described in CEA-775-B. Service Selection Information includes information such as the title of the program, the program duration, descriptors related to the program such as content advisories, the name of the source channel from which the program was recorded, etc. The 14-day draft was issued on 2/25/08, and a vote is scheduled for 3/12/08. Interested? [Join R4.8](#) WG1.

IEEE 1394 Application Profiles

The DTV Interface Subcommittee is updating CEA-849-A, *Application Profiles for CEA-775 Compliant DTVs*. This standard defines profiles for various applications of the IEEE 1394 high performance serial bus described in CEA-775-B. The applications covered include ATSC digital television streams, direct broadcast satellite digital streams, US cable digital streams and standard definition digital video camcorder digital streams. The 14-day draft was issued on 2/25/08, and a vote is scheduled for 3/12/08. Interested? [Join R4.8](#) WG1.

Data Over Component Video Interface

The DTV Interface Subcommittee is working on CEA-805-D, *Data Services on the Component Video Interfaces*. This standard describes how to transmit data over the analog component video interfaces (CVI) described in CEA-770.2-C and CEA-770.3-D, and it covers all CE devices carrying data on the CVI vertical blanking interval (VBI).

HD Analog Component Video Interface

The DTV Interface Subcommittee published CEA-770.3-D, *High Definition TV Analog Component Video Interface* in February, 2008. This standard defines two raster-scanning systems for high definition analog component video. The first system uses 1280 x 720 samples (pixels) inside a total raster of 750 lines, and the second uses 1920 x 1080 samples (pixels) inside a total raster of 1125 lines. Both image formats have an aspect ratio of 16:9. This standard will be sent to ANSI for public review.

Two-Way Cable Systems

The Cable Compatibility Committee is beginning its five year review of CEA-819-A, *Cable Compatibility Requirements for Two-Way Digital Cable TV Systems*. This standard defines minimum requirements for two-way digital cable TV systems and two-way digital TV receivers whose RF inputs and outputs connect directly to these cable systems. These systems permit the viewing of analog and digital TV programs, as well as additional features such as impulse pay-per-view purchases, interactive shopping and audience opinion polling. Interested? [Join R8](#).

Cable Channel Numbering

The Cable Compatibility Committee has begun its five year review of CEA-542-B, *Cable Television Channel Identification Plan*. This standard defines 6 MHz channel allocations for 158 channels up to 1002 MHz, and includes a method for specifying higher channels. It does not

preclude channel mapping in cable systems. It applies to channels carrying analog or digital signals, though it does not specify a numbering plan for the tuning of digitally multiplexed services within one or more RF channels. Interested? [Join R8](#).

Parental Guidance

Another standard approved by the Television Data Systems Subcommittee is CEA-766-B, *U.S. and Canadian Rating Region Tables (RRT) and Content Advisory Descriptors for Transport of Content Advisory Information Using ATSC Program and System Information Protocol (PSIP)*. This standard is one of several that, together, define how TV systems can enable parents to control their children's access to TV programming. CEA-766-B defines the format of the codes that transmit this data. The ANSI public review period closed on 2/5/07. Comments were received and addressed, and a revised document was approved via letter ballot on 9/13/07. The ANSI public review period for these revisions closes on 2/4/08.

Loudness Matching Between Analog/Digital TV

The Video Systems Committee is reviewing CEA-CEB11, *NTSC/ATSC Loudness Matching*. This bulletin provides guidance to TV set makers on how to maintain uniform audio loudness between analog NTSC programs and digital ATSC programs. It assumes that NTSC broadcasters follow accepted North American broadcast practices for audio levels, and that ATSC broadcasters have encoded their signals with the correct "dialnorm" value, a number that corresponds to the actual dialog level of the program material. Interested? [Join R4 WG10](#).

DTV Closed Captioning

The Television Data Systems Subcommittee is working on a revision to CEA-708-C, *Digital Television (DTV) Closed Captioning*, which will coordinate the standard with related Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) and Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) standards. Interested? [Join R4.3 WG1](#).

Analog Closed Captioning

On 11/9/06 the Television Data Systems Subcommittee approved CEA-608-D, *Line 21 Data Service*. This updated standard explains how to provide or use closed captioning and other data services embedded in line 21 of the vertical blanking interval of an NTSC video signal. It was published in May 2007, and ANSI public review of this published version was completed on 10/1/07. A correction and a clarification were approved by recirculation ballot to the Television Data Systems Subcommittee on 8/29/07,

and ANSI public review of these changes closes 1/13/08. If approved by ANSI the modified standard will be published as ANSI/CEA-608-E.

DTV 1394 Interface

The DTV Interface Subcommittee published CEA-775-C, *DTV 1394 Interface Specification*, in February, 2008. This standard defines a method by which set-top boxes, DVRs and other similar devices may send MPEG video to a DTV set for decoding using a 1394 interface. The DTV Interface Subcommittee works to keep CEA-775 up to date with the latest standards developed by the 1394 Trade Association. It is also working on five year reviews of CEA-775.2, *Service Selection Information for Digital Storage Media Interoperability* and CEA-849-A, *Application Profiles for EIA-775A Compliant DTVs*. Interested? [Join R4.8 WG1](#).

HDMI and DVI Interfaces

The DTV Interface Subcommittee approved CEA-861-E, *A DTV Profile for Uncompressed High Speed Digital Interfaces*, on 1/21/08. This standard applies to a variety of DTV-related high-speed interfaces such as the Digital Visual Interface (DVI) and the High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI). It is now undergoing final editorial review.

PSIP Recommended Practice

The Television Data Systems Subcommittee has begun its five year review of CEA-CEB12-A, *PSIP Recommended Practice*. This bulletin provides guidance for designing DTV receivers, cable TV receivers, video recorders and other consumer products that make use of the Advanced Television Systems Committee's (ATSC) Program and System Information Protocol (PSIP). It provides recommendations and suggestions for device functionality. Interested? [Join R4.3](#).