

File format for professional transfer and exchange of
digital audio data

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

See Eesti standard EVS-EN IEC 62942:2020 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN IEC 62942:2020 ingliskeelset teksti.	This Estonian standard EVS-EN IEC 62942:2020 consists of the English text of the European standard EN IEC 62942:2020.
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ICS 33.160.30

English Version

File format for professional transfer and exchange of digital
audio data
(IEC 62942:2019)

Format de fichier pour le transfert et l'échange
professionnels de données audionumériques
(IEC 62942:2019)

Dateiformat für die professionelle Übertragung und den
Austausch digitaler Audiodaten
(IEC 62942:2019)

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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European foreword

The text of document 100/3143/CDV, future edition 1 of IEC 62942, prepared by IEC/TC 100 "Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment", was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 62942:2020.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2020-10-16
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2023-01-16

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The text of the International Standard IEC 62942:2019 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following note has to be added for the standard indicated:

ISO 3166-1	NOTE	Harmonized as EN ISO 3166-1
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Annex ZA

(normative)

Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE 1 Where an International Publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

NOTE 2 Up-to-date information on the latest versions of the European Standards listed in this annex is available here: www.cenelec.eu.

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>EN/HD</u>	<u>Year</u>
ISO 8601	-	Data elements and interchange formats - Information interchange - Representation of dates and times	-	-
ISO/IEC 10646	2017	Information technology - Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)	-	-
SMPTE ST 330	2011	SMPTE standard for television - Unique Material Identifier (UMID)	-	-
RFC 3629	-	UTF-8, User Datagram Protocol	-	-

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**FILE FORMAT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRANSFER AND
EXCHANGE OF DIGITAL AUDIO DATA**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62942 has been prepared by technical area 6: Storage media, storage data structures, storage systems and equipment, of IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
100/3143/CDV	100/3226/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

The Broadcast Wave format file (BWFF) is based on the Microsoft WAVE¹ audio file format, which is a type of file specified in the Microsoft resource interchange file format (RIFF) [1]² WAVE files specifically contain audio data. The basic building block of a RIFF file is a chunk which contains specific information, an identification field, and a size field. A RIFF file contains a number of chunks.

The BWFF specifically includes a <Broadcast Audio Extension> chunk to carry certain metadata important for broadcast and professional use. For reliable interchange, some restrictions apply to the format of the audio data.

The Broadcast Wave Format was first developed using ASCII text for all fields. Later, as the format was further developed, it was proposed to use multi-byte characters to internationalize the format. It was understood that to use multi-byte character sets within the existing format would cause compatibility issues when multi-byte metadata was parsed by applications expecting ASCII text. The separate nature of human-readable and machine-readable metadata was established, and a new "universal" chunk was established to carry internationalized human-readable metadata using multi-byte character sets without interoperability issues. This is described in Annex K.

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² Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.