

CEA Standards Update

2007 Technology & Standards Fall Forum October 15-19, 2007 in San Diego

Register now, *or else* ... you will be charged an on-site registration fee. Register for the T&S Forum at: www.CE.org, mouse over Events & Awards and click on Events Calendar, then CEA Technology & Standards Fall Forum. Then make your hotel reservations by calling the Hotel del Coronado at (800) 468-3533 and asking for the Consumer Electronics Association rate of \$229. The cut-off date for the hotel is **September 12, 2007**. For more details on the Forum hotel see the T&S Fall Forum information at the link above. If you have questions, contact Trina Akers at cakers@CE.org.

CEA-861/HDCP PlugFest9 Registration Now Open

CEA-861/HDCP PlugFest9 will take place October 28-November 2, 2007 at the Embassy Suites in Milpitas, CA. CEA-861/HDCP PlugFest is a technical event that lets companies test the interoperability of their CEA-861-based devices with those of other companies. This event is jointly sponsored by CEA and the Digital Content Protection, LLC (DCP LLC). CEA members and DCP members are invited to participate by sending engineers and other technical experts with their products. Opportunities to participate in PlugFest are limited, and are made available on a first come, first served basis. This event is not open to the press.

To participate in the PlugFest companies must have one or more prototype or production level products available for interoperability testing, and must agree to test their products with products from at least one other participant. **The registration deadline is September 28, 2007.** To register please visit:

http://www.ce.org/Events/event_info/default.asp?eventID=PLUG07

Recently Published CEA Standards

- ✚ ANSI/CEA-931-C, *Remote Control Command Pass-through Standard for Home Networking* (published August 2007)
- ✚ CEA-CEB19, *Recommended Loudspeaker Safety Practices* (published August 2007)
- ✚ ANSI/CEA-2013-A, *Digital STB Background Power Consumption* (published July 2007)

- ✚ ANSI/CEA-2017, *Common Interconnection for Portable Media Players* (published July 2007)
- ✚ ANSI/CEA-2022, *Digital STB Active Power Consumption Measurement* (published July 2007)
- ✚ CEA-909-A, *Antenna Control Interface* (published July 2007, ANSI public review closes 10/1/07)
- ✚ CEA-2014-A, *Web-Based Protocol and Framework for Remote User Interface on UPnP™ Networks and the Internet (Web4CE)* (published July 2007, errata under development)
- ✚ CEA-2017.1, *Serial Communication Protocol for Portable Electronic Devices* (published July 2007, ANSI public review closes 10/1/07)
- ✚ CEA-608-D, *Line 21 Data Service* (published May 2007, recirculation ballot closed 8/29/07, ANSI public review on published version closes 10/1/07, ANSI public review of revision resulting from recirculation ballot not yet begun)
- ✚ CEA-2020, *Other VBI Waveforms* (submitted for ANSI final approval 8/28/07)

Publications Nearing Completion

- ✚ 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 being addressed)
- ✚ 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-814-A (J-STD-042-A), *Emergency Alert Messaging for Cable* (approved 2/27/07, approved by SCTE August 2007, in final editorial review jointly with SCTE)
- ✚ CEA-2033, *OpenEPG™ - A Specification for Electronic Program Guide Data Interchange* (approved 6/29/07, in final editorial review)
- ✚ CEA-2027-B, *A User Interface Specification for Home Networks Using Web-based Protocols* (approved 6/29/07, in final editorial review)
- ✚ Revision to CEA-775-C, *DTV 1394 Interface Specification* (pre-vote comments due 9/6/07)

Ongoing Work

- ✚ Revision to CEA-708-C, *Digital Television (DTV) Closed Captioning*
- ✚ CEA-852.1, *Enhanced Tunneling Device Area Network Protocols Over Internet Protocol Channels*
- ✚ CEA-861-E, *A DTV Profile for Uncompressed High Speed Digital Interfaces*
- ✚ CEA-2006-B, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Mobile Audio Amplifiers*
- ✚ CEA 2018, *Task Model Representation*
- ✚ CEA-2019, *Testing and Measurement Methods for Audio Amplifiers*
- ✚ Revision to CEA-2030, *Multi-Room Audio Cabling Standard*
- ✚ CEA-2034, *Standard Method of Measurement for In-Home Loudspeakers*
- ✚ Revision to CEA-CEB11, *NTSC/ATSC Loudness Matching*
- ✚ Possible consumer guidelines for using indoor TV antennas

New Work

- ✚ Revision of ANSI/CEA-709.2-A, *Control Network Power Line (PL) Channel Specification* (Interested? [Join R7.1](#))
- ✚ CEA-2021, *Auto Discovery & Self-configuring Home Control Networks* (Interested? [Join R7.1](#))
- ✚ 5-year Review of CEA-775.2, *Service Selection Information for Digital Storage Media Interoperability* (Interested? [Join R4.8 WG1](#))
- ✚ 5-year Review of CEA-849-A, *Application Profiles for EIA-775A Compliant DTVs* (Interested? [Join R4.8 WG1](#))
- ✚ Revision to CEA-2014-A, *Web-based Protocol and Framework for Remote User Interface on UPnP™ Networks and the Internet (Web4CE)* (Interested? [Join R7 WG9](#))

Summary of Projects by CEA Product Division

Accessories

✚ “Smart” Antenna Interface

The Video Systems Committee approved CEA-909-A, *Antenna Control Interface*, on 6/6/07. It enables “smart” DTV antennas to be connected to smart antenna-capable DTV sets with a single coaxial cable. The previous version of the standard required another control cable in addition to the coaxial cable. The smart antenna interface can enable consumers to use indoor (or outdoor) antennas with their

TV sets and receive different local over-the-air signals without having to manually adjust the orientation of their antennas. This standard was published in July 2007 and ANSI public review closes 10/1/07.

✚ 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](#).

✚ Loudspeaker Safety

CEA-CEB19, *Recommended Loudspeaker Safety Practices*, includes guidelines that manufacturers may use, in conjunction with their own safety specifications, to ensure that loudspeakers are safe. It was approved by the Product Safety Committee on 5/23/07 and published in August, 2007.

Mobile Electronics

Standard Connector for Portable Devices

ANSI/CEA-2017, *Common Interconnection for Portable Media Players*, defines electrical and mechanical properties for a connector that will pass audio, video and associated metadata signals, control signals, and power between portable electronic devices and in-home and in-vehicle audio/video systems. It was published as an ANSI standard in July 2007.

Also, CEA-2017.1, *Serial Communication Protocol for Portable Electronic Devices*, was approved by the Mobile Electronics Committee on 6/7/07. This standard is meant to accompany CEA-2017, and describes a serial communication protocol that enables command and control communication between portable electronic devices and accessories attached to those devices. It was published in July 2007 and ANSI public review closes on 10/1/07.

Mobile Audio Amplifiers

The Mobile Systems Committee has begun to review and possibly revise CEA-2006-A, *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](#).

TechHome

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](#).

Open EPG

The Home Networks Committee recently approved CEA-2033, *OpenEPG™ - A Specification for Electronic Program Guide Data Interchange*. This standard enables home entertainment devices to access program guide information using messages that are based on standard Internet protocols. It was approved on 6/29/07 and is now in final editorial review.

Remote Control Commands over Home Networks

The Home Networks Committee has also developed ANSI/CEA-931-C, *Remote Control Command Pass-through Standard for Home Networking*. This standard defines methods for communicating basic remote control functions between devices on a home network. ANSI public review was completed on 8/20/07, and the standard was published in August 2007.

Remote User Interface for Home Networks

The Home Networks Committee recently approved CEA-2027-B, *A User Interface Specification for Home Networks Using Web-based Protocols*. This standard defines methods for A/V devices to use Web and Internet protocols to display status and control information on a PC, DTV, or other device used to control a home network. It was approved on 6/29/07 and is now in final editorial review.

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 is now under development. 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 ANSI/CEA-2014-A 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 is also working on CEA-2018, *Task Model Representation*, which will define how to describe tasks performed by consumer electronics products in XML. Interested? [Join R7 WG12](#).

✚ 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](#).

Video

✚ Digital STB Power Consumption (Sleep Mode)

The Video Systems Committee approved CEA-2013-A, *Digital STB Background Power Consumption*, which sets maximum “sleep” mode energy consumption at 15 watts for cable and satellite set-top boxes and 2 watts for set-top boxes used to receive terrestrial DTV signals. The standard also defines how to measure set-top box energy consumption. It was published as an ANSI standard in July 2007.

✚ Digital STB Power Consumption (On Mode)

The Video Systems Committee has also approved CEA-2022, *Digital STB Active Power Consumption Measurement*, which specifies how to measure the power consumption of a digital set-top box when it is on (*i.e.*, delivering video to a TV set or other device). It does not set limits on power consumption. It was published as an ANSI standard in July 2007.

✚ Nielsen and Gemstar/TV Guide Waveforms

CEA-2020, *Other VBI Waveforms*, was approved by the Television Data Systems Subcommittee. It defines four vertical blanking interval waveforms carried on analog TV signals – two used by Nielsen Media Research, and two used by Gemstar/*TV Guide*. The electrical characteristics of the waveforms are defined, but the meaning of the data that is transported via the waveforms is not. This standard was published in August 2006, and is now awaiting final ANSI approval before publication as an ANSI standard.

✚ Cable TV Emergency Alert Messaging

The Cable Compatibility Committee approved CEA-814-A, *Emergency Alert Messaging for Cable* on 2/27/07. This standard describes how cable companies can transmit emergency messages to cable-ready digital equipment sold at retail. It enables cable operators to select a warning method with a level of viewing disruption that is appropriate for the type and scope of the emergency. CEA-814-A was developed jointly by CEA and the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers. The standard will be published under its joint CEA/SCTE designation J-STD-042-A.

✚ 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 and public review comments are being resolved.

✚ 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 is currently undergoing ANSI public review. A correction and a clarification were approved by recirculation ballot on 8/29/07. A second ANSI public review will be conducted for these changes and, if approved, the modified standard will be published as ANSI/CEA-608-E.

DTV 1394 Interface

The DTV Interface Subcommittee is working on a revision to CEA-775-B, *DTV 1394 Interface Specification*, which 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. This group works to keep CEA-775 up to date with the latest standards developed by the 1394 Trade Association. Pre-vote comments on CEA-775-C are due on 9/6/07. The working group has also begun 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 is working on a revision to CEA-861-D, *A DTV Profile for Uncompressed High Speed Digital Interfaces*, which applies to a variety of DTV-related high-speed interfaces such as the Digital Visual Interface (DVI) and the High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI). Interested? [Join R4.8 WG7](#).