

## RECOMMENDATION ITU-R BR.1733

**Broadcasters' use of digital television recording formats designed for semi-professional or consumer applications**

(Question ITU-R 77/6)

(2005)

**Scope**

This draft new Recommendation outlines broadcasters' use of digital television recording formats designed for semi-professional or consumer applications.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

- a) that some digital camcorders (camera-and-recorder) designed for semi-professional or consumer applications (such as, for instance, DVCAM, DV-based, HD-DV and other file format or DV consumer equipment) are currently on the market, which offer, upon subjective inspection pleasant picture and sound quality on first generation recordings, in a compact, lightweight and handy package at an attractive price;
- b) that some broadcasters are using such semi-professional or consumer camcorders for some applications such as hard news coverage in a hostile environment;
- c) that some independent television programme producers and freelancers are using such semi-professional or consumer camcorders to also produce, as examples, documentaries and even episodic programmes and dramas;
- d) that such semi-professional or consumer camcorders generally employ image prefilters and subsampling and a rather high degree of bit-rate reduction, with the consequence that, depending on the camcorder make and model, the resulting picture and sound quality may fail to withstand the complex post-production manipulations that may be required for programmes other than hard news,

*recommends*

- 1 that the use of semi-professional or consumer digital camcorders in broadcasters' operations should preferably be limited to those instances where considerations of size, weight and disposability prevail over considerations of picture and sound post-processability, such as is the case of an electronic news gathering (ENG) operation;
- 2 that complex post-production manipulations should be avoided on television programme material acquired with semi-professional or consumer digital camcorders;
- 3 that, when television programme material acquired by use of such camcorders must necessarily be subjected to complex post-production operations, it should be transferred onto a professional recording format or a suitable file format prior to post-production, and in any case a test should preferably be performed to confirm that the desired picture and sound quality of the target production can in fact be obtained at the output of the intended post-production chain;
- 4 that when consumer equipment is used in the acquisition of programme material, the digital audio should be sampled at 48 kHz and that additionally the material should be acquired using professional microphones;

**5** that if the semi-professional camera is used by a broadcaster for acquisition and has software-adjustable video processing parameters, then the semi-professional camera should be preset to match the subjective video quality to the professional camera type(s) used in the target production,

**6** that broadcasters should determine the applicability of this Recommendation when they produce their own TV programmes and in the acquisition of programmes from external programme producers.

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