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**Timing characteristics of telecom boundary
clocks and telecom time slave clocks for use
with partial timing support from the network**

Recommendation ITU-T G.8273.4/Y.1368.4

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Recommendation ITU-T G.8273.4/Y.1368.4

Timing characteristics of telecom boundary clocks and telecom time slave clocks for use with partial timing support from the network

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T G.8273.4/Y.1368.4 specifies minimum requirements for time and phase synchronization equipment used in synchronization networks that operates in the assisted partial timing support (APTS) and partial timing support (PTS) architectures.

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Recommendation ITU-T G.8273.4/Y.1368.4

Timing characteristics of telecom boundary clocks and telecom time slave clocks for use with partial timing support from the network

1 Scope

This Recommendation specifies minimum requirements for time and phase synchronization equipment used in synchronization networks that operates in the assisted partial timing support (APTS) and partial timing support (PTS) architectures.

The APTS and PTS architectures are specified in [ITU-T G.8271], [ITU-T G.8271.2] and [ITU-T G.8275]. The applicable profile is established in [ITU-T G.8275.2], which specifies unicast PTS/APTS time or phase synchronization distribution for packet-based networks.

This Recommendation allows for proper network operation for phase/time synchronization distribution when a network equipment embedding an APTS or a PTS clock is timed from another telecom boundary clock (T-BC) or a telecom grandmaster (T-GM). This Recommendation specifies the minimum requirements for APTS and PTS clocks in network elements (NEs). These requirements apply under the normal environmental conditions specified for the equipment.

This Recommendation includes noise generation, noise tolerance, noise transfer, and transient response for APTS and PTS clocks.

Synchronous equipment clocks (per [ITU-T G.8262]) are optional in this Recommendation, and they are not used for APTS. For PTS, if a piece of equipment implements a synchronous equipment clock, as described in Appendix III and in Appendix IV, then the requirements in clause 8 still apply.

NOTE – For APTS, double failure (coincident failure of both global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and precision time protocol (PTP) input references) is not addressed in this Recommendation, except for short-term holdover scenarios (see clause 7.6.1) when the primary GNSS source is lost and a backup PTP source is temporarily unavailable. APTS double failure is for further study.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

- [ITU-T G.703] Recommendation ITU-T G.703 (2016), *Physical/electrical characteristics of hierarchical digital interfaces*.
- [ITU-T G.781] Recommendation ITU-T G.781 (2020), *Synchronization layer functions for frequency synchronization based on the physical layer*.
- [ITU-T G.810] Recommendation ITU-T G.810 (1996), *Definitions and terminology for synchronization networks*.
- [ITU-T G.811] Recommendation ITU-T G.811 (1997), *Timing characteristics of primary reference clocks*.
- [ITU-T G.813] Recommendation ITU-T G.813 (2003), *Timing characteristics of SDH equipment slave clocks (SEC)*.

- [ITU-T G.8260] Recommendation ITU-T G.8260 (2020), *Definitions and terminology for synchronization in packet networks*.
- [ITU-T G.8262] Recommendation ITU-T G.8262/Y.1362 (2018), *Timing characteristics of a synchronous equipment slave clock*.
- [ITU-T G.8264] Recommendation ITU-T G.8264/Y.1364 (2017), *Distribution of timing information through packet networks*.
- [ITU-T G.8271] Recommendation ITU-T G.8271/Y.1366 (2020), *Time and phase synchronization aspects of telecommunication networks*.
- [ITU-T G.8271.2] Recommendation ITU-T G.8271.2/Y.1366.2 (2017), *Network limits for time synchronization in packet networks with partial timing support from the network*.
- [ITU-T G.8272] Recommendation ITU-T G.8272/Y.1367 (2018), *Timing characteristics of primary reference time clocks*.
- [ITU-T G.8273.2] Recommendation ITU-T G.8273.2/Y.1368.2 (2019), *Timing characteristics of telecom boundary clocks and telecom time slave clocks*.
- [ITU-T G.8275] Recommendation ITU-T G.8275/Y.1369 (2017), *Architecture and requirements for packet-based time and phase distribution*.
- [ITU-T G.8275.2] Recommendation ITU-T G.8275.2/Y.1369.2 (2020), *Precision time protocol telecom profile for phase/time synchronization with partial timing support from the network*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

This Recommendation uses the following terms defined elsewhere:

Terms related to synchronization are defined in [ITU-T G.810] and [ITU-T G.8260].

3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

None.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

APTS	Assisted Partial Timing Support
BMCA	Best Master Clock Algorithm
cTE	constant Time Error
dTE	dynamic Time Error
EEC	Ethernet Equipment Clock
eLORAN	enhanced Long-Range Navigation
ESMC	Ethernet Synchronization Messaging Channel
GbE	Gigabit Ethernet
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
I/O	Input/Output

IWF	Interworking Function
MTIE	Maximum Time Interval Error
NE	Network Element
PEC	Packet-based Equipment Clock
P-F	PTS to full timing support (FTS)
PPS	Pulse Per Second
PRC	Primary Reference Clock
PRS	Primary Reference Source
PRTC	Primary Reference Time Clock
PTP	Precision Time Protocol
PTS	Partial Timing Support
SDH	Synchronous Digital Hierarchy
SEC	Synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) Equipment slave Clock
SSM	Synchronization Status Message
STM-N	Synchronous Transport Module – level N
SyncE	Synchronous Ethernet
T-BC	Telecom Boundary Clock
T-BC-A	Telecom Boundary Clock for Assisted partial timing support
T-BC-P	Telecom Boundary Clock for Partial timing support
TE	Time Error
T-GM	Telecom Grandmaster
ToD	Time of Day
T-TSC-A	Telecom Time Slave Clock for Assisted partial timing support
T-TSC-P	Telecom Time Slave Clock for Partial timing support

5 Conventions

None.

6 Physical layer frequency performance requirements

Synchronous equipment clock interfaces and synchronous equipment clock are optional. When used on the telecom time slave clock for partial timing support (T-TSC-P) or telecom boundary clock for partial timing support (T-BC-P), the synchronous equipment clock shall meet the performance requirements specified in [ITU-T G.8262], and shall generate and process Ethernet synchronization messaging channel (ESMC) messages as specified in [ITU-T G.8264].

Synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) interfaces and SDH equipment slave clocks are optional. When used on the T-TSC-P or T-BC-P, the SDH equipment slave clocks shall meet the performance requirements specified in [ITU-T G.813], and shall generate and process synchronization status messages (SSMs) as specified in [ITU-T G.781].

7 Performance requirements for T-BC-A and T-TSC-A

7.1 Frequency accuracy

Under free-running conditions, the clock output frequency accuracy should not be greater than 4.6 ppm with respect to a reference traceable to a [ITU-T G.811] or [ITU-T G.8272] clock.

7.2 Time error noise generation

The time error (TE) noise generation of a telecom boundary clock for assisted partial timing support (T-BC-A) and telecom time slave clock for assisted partial timing support (T-TSC-A) represents the amount of noise (i.e., TE) produced at the output of the T-BC-A/T-TSC-A when locked to an ideal, wander-free time reference at the 1 pulse per second (1PPS) or PTP time input (see Figure A.1). This is equivalent to having an external local time reference at reference point A' as shown in Figure 1 of [ITU-T G.8271.2].

If an external local time reference is connected using a PTP timing signal instead of a 1PPS signal, the TE noise generation is for further study.

In the case of an integrated local time reference (e.g., a GNSS signal at the time input), there may not be an accessible 1PPS or PTP time input. In this case, the requirements of this clause are not applicable, except in the case of maximum TE noise generation, which is for further study.

The output of the T-BC-A is measured at both the 1PPS output and packet input/output (I/O) PTP master port; the output of the T-TSC-A is measured at the 1PPS output.

NOTE – The values in in this clause are valid for 1PPS interfaces and for 1 gigabit Ethernet (GbE), 10 GbE, 25 GbE, 40 GbE and 100 GbE interfaces. Values for other interfaces are for further study.

7.2.1 Maximum absolute time error ($\max|TE|$) noise generation

Under normal, locked operating conditions, the time output of the T-BC-A and the T-TSC-A should be accurate to within the maximum absolute TE ($\max|TE|$). This value includes all the noise components, i.e., the constant time error (cTE) and the dynamic time error (dTE).

The $\max|TE|$ limit is for further study.

In the case of an integrated local time reference, the $\max|TE|$ value is 100 ns greater than it would be for the case of an external local time reference. The total value is also for further study.

7.2.2 Constant time error generation

The permissible range of cTE noise generation is shown in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 – T-BC-A/T-TSC-A permissible range of constant time error

T-BC-A/T-TSC-A class	Permissible range of cTE (ns)
A	± 50
B	± 20

NOTE 1 – The cTE definition and its method of estimation are given in [ITU-T G.8260]. For the purpose of testing the limits in Table 7-1, an estimate of cTE should be obtained by averaging the TE sequence over at least 10 000 s.

NOTE 2 – The cTE is measured at constant temperature (within ± 1 K).

7.2.3 Dynamic time error low-pass filtered noise generation

The dynamic TE low-pass filtered noise generation (dTE_L) is a maximum of 50 ns peak-to-peak.

NOTE – This should be measured under constant temperature (within ± 1 K) and using a first-order low-pass measurement filter with a bandwidth of 0.1 Hz for a minimum of 10 000 s.

7.2.4 Dynamic time error high-pass filtered noise generation

The dynamic TE high-pass filtered noise generation (dTE_H) is for further study.

7.3 Noise tolerance

The noise tolerance of the equipment clock indicates the minimum TE level at the input of the clock that should be accommodated while not causing:

- any alarms;
- the clock to switch reference;
- the clock to go into holdover.

An equipment clock must be capable of tolerating the following levels of noise at its input:

- peak-to-peak pktSelected2wayTE according to [ITU-T G.8271.2] network limit, clause 7.3.1.1 at the PTP input;
- $\max|TE|$ according to [ITU-T G.8271.2] network limit, clause 7.1 at the time input.

NOTE 1 – This requirement is not applicable in the case of an integrated local time reference (e.g., a GNSS signal at the time input).

In addition, a T-TSC-A must maintain the $\max|TE_L|$ at its 1PPS output below the level indicated in clause 7.4.1 of [ITU-T G.8271.2].

NOTE 2 – To compute $\max|TE_L|$, a first-order low-pass measurement filter with bandwidth of 0.1 Hz is used, and it is applied to the TE samples measured at the 1PPS output prior to evaluating the $\max|TE|$.

7.4 Local time reference (1PPS) to PTP and local time reference (1PPS) to 1PPS noise transfer

The phase gain of the T-BC-A or T-TSC-A should be smaller than 0.1 dB (1.1%).

7.5 PTP output and 1PPS output transient response (short term) due to loss and restoration of local time reference (1PPS) input

The requirements in this clause reflect the performance of the clock if the local time reference input is ideal.

The response of the T-BC-A and T-TSC-A due to the loss and restoration of the local time reference may be generalized by the following sequence of events:

- the clock is locked to the local time reference;
- the local time reference is lost;
- the clock enters holdover;
- the clock maintains holdover state;
- the local time reference is restored;
- the clock selects the local time reference;
- the clock is locked to the local time reference.

The following requirements apply:

- 1) the transient response due to the loss of the local time reference shall be less than 22 ns maximum time interval error (MTIE);
- 2) the period of loss of the local time reference while in holdover shall comply with clause 7.6;
- 3) the transient response due to the restoration of the local time reference shall be less than 22 ns MTIE.

7.6 Holdover performance

7.6.1 Holdover based on oscillator

This requirement bounds the maximum excursions in the output timing signal.

It specifies the phase/time performance of the T-BC-A or T-TSC-A clock if an ideal local time reference input is disconnected, and the backup PTP time source from the network cannot be used (e.g., during a switching process or very short unavailability of the PTP source). This offers temporary assistance (up to the limit indicated in Figure 7-1) to maintain phase/time previously set by the primary master. Other failure scenarios are for further study, including that in which the primary GNSS source is the first to be lost and the PTP is used as backup source for some time before finally failing.

When a T-BC-A or T-TSC-A clock loses all its references, it enters the holdover state. The phase error, ΔT , at the output of T-BC-A/T-TSC-A relative to the input at the moment of loss of reference should meet the following:

$$|\Delta T(t)| \leq [(a_1 + a_2)t + 0.5bt^2 + c] \quad (\text{ns})$$

where:

- $a_1 = 1 \text{ ns/s}$ (see Note 1);
- $a_2 =$ for further study (see Note 2);
- $b = 1.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ ns/s}^2$ (see Note 3);
- $c = 22 \text{ ns}$ (see Note 4).

NOTE 1 – The frequency offset a_1 represents an initial frequency offset corresponding to 1 ns/s.

NOTE 2 – The frequency offset a_2 accounts for temperature variations after the clock goes into holdover and requires further study. If there are no temperature variations, the term a_2 should not contribute to the phase error; thus for constant temperature, $a_2 = 0 \text{ ns/s}$.

NOTE 3 – The drift b is caused by ageing: $1.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ ns/s}^2$ corresponds to a frequency drift of $1 \times 10^{-9}/\text{day}$ (1 ppb/day).

NOTE 4 – The phase offset c takes accounts for any additional phase shift that may arise during the transition at the entry into and exit from the holdover state.

Under constant temperature conditions (within $\pm 1 \text{ K}$) the maximum observation interval is 1 000 s. The resultant overall requirement for constant temperature (i.e., when the temperature effect is negligible) is summarized in Figure 7-1.

$$|\Delta T(t)| \leq (a_1t + 0.5bt^2 + c) \quad (\text{ns})$$

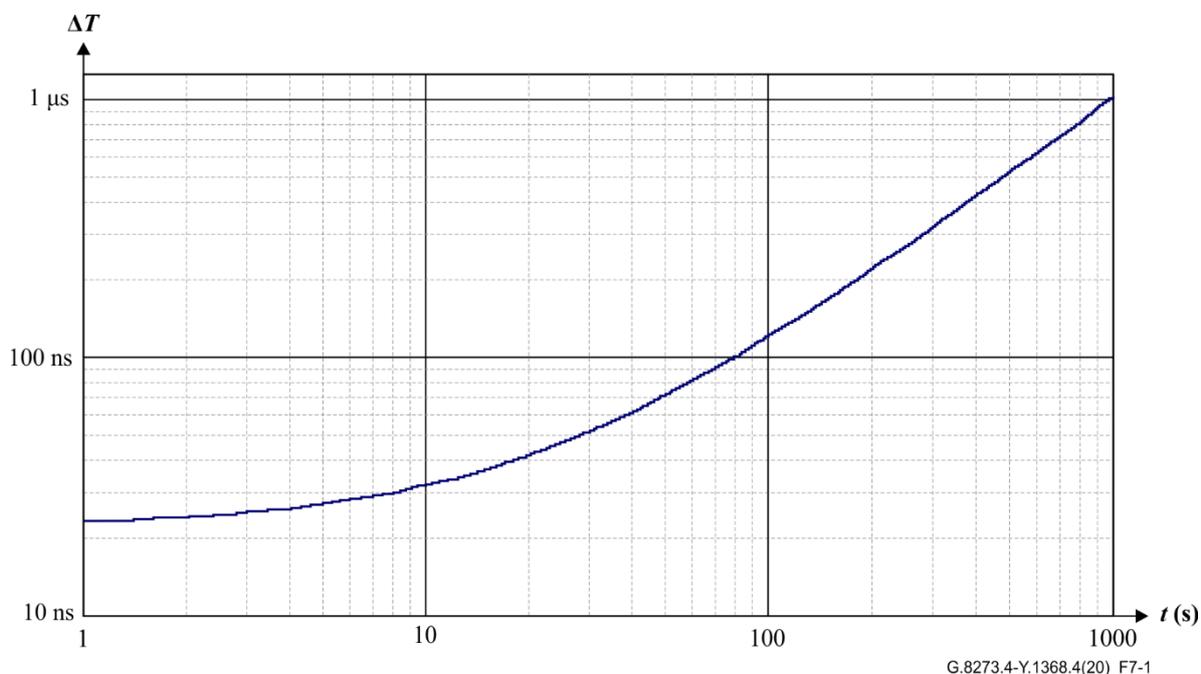


Figure 7-1 – Permissible phase error under holdover operation at constant temperature

7.6.2 Holdover based on PTP

The phase/time performance during loss of the local time reference based on a PTP input applicable to a T-BC-A or T-TSC-A under constant temperature conditions is shown in Table 7-2.

This requirement reflects the performance of the clock if the local time reference input is ideal followed by disconnection of the local time reference input. The PTP input is ideal.

Under constant temperature conditions (within ± 1 K) the maximum observation interval is 1 000 s.

Table 7-2 – Performance allowance during loss of local time reference input (MTIE) for T-BC-A or T-TSC-A with constant temperature

MTIE limit (ns)	Observation interval τ (s)
$200 + c$	$1 \leq \tau \leq 1\ 000$
Here $c = 22$ ns (see Note 1).	
NOTE 1 – The phase offset c is associated with the phase transient response from clause 7.5.	
NOTE 2 – The main contributor to the holdover performance is the noise generation of the equipment clock when locked to a PTP input. The value of 200 ns is consistent with the noise generation in clause 8.2.3.	

8 Performance requirements for T-BC-P and T-TSC-P

8.1 Frequency accuracy

Under free-running conditions, the clock output frequency accuracy should not be greater than 4.6 ppm with respect to a reference traceable to a [ITU-T G.811] or [ITU-T G.8272] clock.

8.2 Time error noise generation

The TE noise generation of a T-BC-P or T-TSC-P represents the amount of noise (i.e., TE) produced at the output of the T-BC-P or T-TSC-P when locked to an ideal, wander-free PTP time reference at the packet I/O PTP slave port (see Figure B.1).

The output of the T-BC-P is measured at both the 1PPS output and packet I/O PTP master port; the output of the T-TSC-P is measured at the 1PPS output.

NOTE – The values in this clause are valid for 1PPS interfaces and for 1 GbE, 10 GbE, 25 GbE, 40 GbE and 100 GbE interfaces. Values for other interfaces are for further study.

8.2.1 Maximum absolute time error noise generation ($\max|\text{TE}|$)

Under normal, locked operating conditions, the time output of the T-BC-P and the T-TSC-P should be accurate to within the $\max|\text{TE}|$ limit. This value includes all the noise components, i.e., the cTE and the dTE.

The $\max|\text{TE}|$ noise generation limit is for further study.

8.2.2 Constant time error noise generation

The permissible range of cTE noise generation is shown in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1 – T-BC-P/T-TSC-P permissible range of constant time error

T-BC-P/T-TSC-P class	Permissible range of cTE (ns)
A	± 50
B	± 20

NOTE 1 – The definition of cTE and its method of estimation are found in clause 3.1.20 of [ITU-T G.8260]. For the purpose of testing the limits in Table 8-1, an estimate of cTE should be obtained by averaging the TE sequence over at least 10 000 s.

NOTE 2 – The cTE is measured at constant temperature (within ± 1 K).

8.2.3 Dynamic time error low-pass filtered noise generation

The $d\text{TE}_L$ is a maximum of 200 ns peak-to-peak.

NOTE – This should be measured under constant temperature (within ± 1 K) and using a first-order low-pass measurement filter with a bandwidth of 0.1 z for a minimum of 10 000 s.

8.2.4 Dynamic time error high-pass filtered noise generation

The $d\text{TE}_H$ is for further study.

8.3 Noise tolerance

The noise tolerance of the equipment clock indicates the minimum TE level at the input of the clock that should be accommodated while not causing:

- any alarms;
- the clock to switch reference;
- the clock to go into holdover.

An equipment clock must be capable of tolerating the following levels of noise at its input:

- $\max|\text{pktSelected2wayTE}|$ according to the network limit given in clause 7.3.2.1 of [ITU-T G.8271.2] at the PTP input;
- wander tolerance according to clause 9.1 of [ITU-T G.8262] at the synchronous equipment clock input;

In addition, a T-TSC-P must maintain the $\max|\text{TE}_L|$ at its 1PPS output below the level indicated in clause 7.4.2 of [ITU-T G.8271.2].

NOTE – To compute $\max|\text{TE}_L|$, a first-order low-pass measurement filter with bandwidth of 0.1 Hz is used, applied to the TE samples measured at the 1PPS output prior to evaluating the $\max|\text{TE}|$.

8.4 Noise transfer

8.4.1 PTP to PTP and PTP to 1PPS noise transfer

The phase gain of the T-BC-P or T-TSC-P should be smaller than 0.1 dB (1.1%).

8.4.2 Physical layer frequency assistance to PTP and physical layer frequency assistance to 1PPS noise transfer

The noise transfer specification in the case of physical layer frequency assistance is for further study. For more information on the use of synchronous Ethernet (SyncE) to assist a partially aware clock, refer to Appendix IV.

8.5 Transient response (short-term)

8.5.1 PTP output and 1PPS output transient response due to loss and restoration or switching of PTP input

The requirements in this clause reflect the performance of the clock if the PTP input is ideal.

The response of the T-BC-P and T-TSC-P due to the loss and restoration of PTP may be generalized by the following sequence events:

- the clock is locked to a PTP reference;
- the PTP reference is lost;
- the clock enters holdover;
- the clock maintains holdover state;
- a PTP reference is available;
- the clock selects the PTP reference;
- the clock is locked to the PTP reference.

The following requirements apply:

- 1) the transient response due to the loss of the PTP reference shall be less than 22 ns MTIE;
- 2) the period of loss of PTP while in holdover shall comply with clause 8.6;
- 3) the transient response due to the restoration of the PTP shall be less than 22 ns MTIE.

8.5.2 PTP output and 1PPS output transient response due to switching physical layer input while maintaining PTP input

PTP output and 1PPS output transient response due to switching physical layer input while maintaining PTP input are for further study.

8.5.3 PTP output and 1PPS output transient response due to switching simultaneously the physical layer input and the PTP input

PTP output and 1PPS output transient response due to switching physical layer input while maintaining PTP input are for further study.

8.6 Holdover performance

8.6.1 Holdover based on oscillator

The phase/time performance during loss of the PTP input based on a local oscillator applicable to a T-BC-P or T-TSC-P is as follows.

This requirement bounds the maximum excursions in the output timing signal.

This requirement reflects the performance of the clock if the PTP input is ideal, followed by disconnection of the PTP input.

When a T-BC-P or T-TSC-P clock loses all its references, it enters the holdover state. The phase error, ΔT , at the output of the T-BC-P/T-TSC-P relative to the input at the moment of loss of reference should meet the following condition:

$$|\Delta T(t)| \leq [(a_1 + a_2)t + 0.5bt^2 + c] \quad (\text{ns})$$

where:

- $a_1 = 1 \text{ ns/s}$ (see Note 1);
- $a_2 =$ for further study (see Note 2);
- $b = 1.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ ns/s}^2$ (see Note 3);
- $c = 22 \text{ ns}$ (see Note 4).

NOTE 1 – The frequency offset a_1 represents an initial frequency offset corresponding to 1 ns/s.

NOTE 2 – The frequency offset a_2 accounts for temperature variations after the clock went into holdover and requires further study. If there are no temperature variations, the term a_2 should not contribute to the phase error; thus for constant temperature, $a_2 = 0 \text{ ns/s}$.

NOTE 3 – The drift b is caused by ageing: $1.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ ns/s}^2$ corresponds to a frequency drift of $1 \times 10^{-9}/\text{day}$ (1 ppb/day).

NOTE 4 – The phase offset c accounts for any additional phase shift that may arise during the transition at the entry into and exit from the holdover state.

Under constant temperature conditions (within $\pm 1 \text{ K}$), the maximum observation interval is 1 000 seconds. The resultant overall requirement for constant temperature (i.e., when the temperature effect is negligible) is summarized in Figure 8-1.

$$|\Delta T(t)| \leq (a_1t + 0.5bt^2 + c) \quad (\text{ns})$$

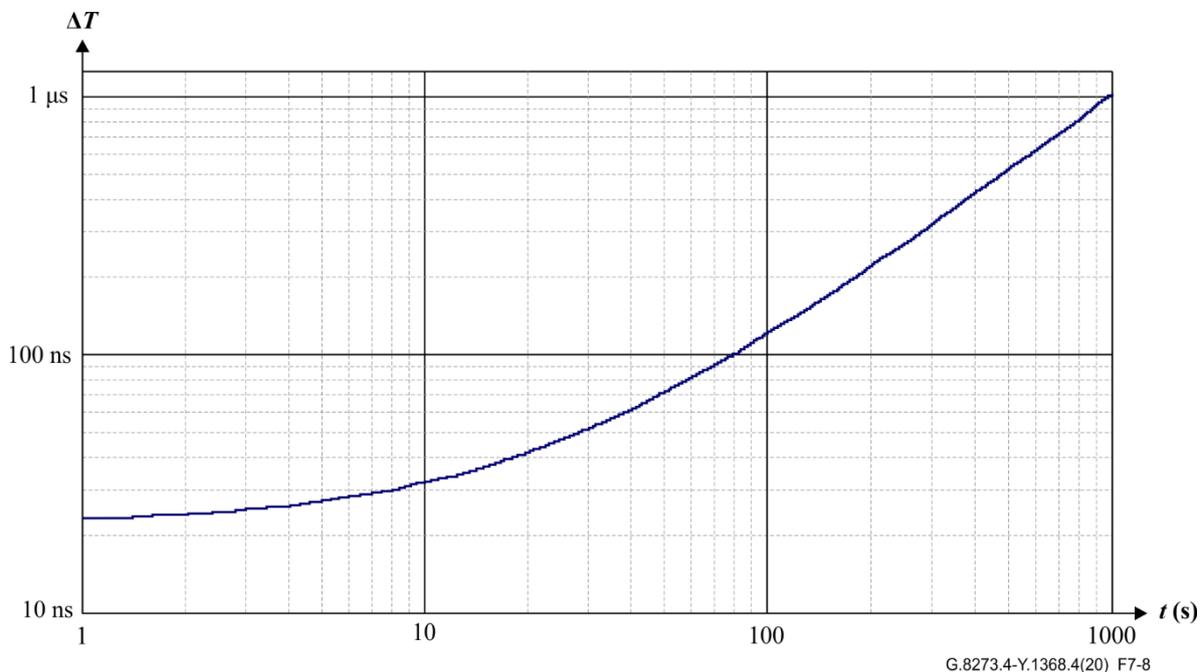


Figure 8-1 – Permissible phase error under holdover operation at constant temperature

8.6.2 Holdover based on physical layer frequency assistance

When a T-BC-P or T-TSC-P loses all of its input phase and time references, it enters the phase/time holdover state. Under these circumstances, the T-BC-P or T-TSC-P may rely on a physical layer frequency assistance reference traceable to a primary reference clock (PRC).

This requirement reflects the performance of the clock if an ideal PTP input is disconnected. The physical layer frequency input is also ideal.

The requirements on phase/time performance during loss of the PTP input reference are defined in clause 7.4.2.2 of [ITU-T G.8273.2].

9 Interfaces

The requirements in this Recommendation are related to reference points that may be internal to the equipment or NE in which the T-BC-A, T-BC-P, T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P is embedded and are therefore not necessarily available for measurement or analysis by the user. Consequently, the performance of the T-BC-A, T-BC-P, T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P is not specified at these internal reference points, but rather at the external interfaces of the equipment.

Note that not all interfaces mentioned in this clause need to be implemented on all equipment.

Table 9-1 summarizes the differences with respect to interfaces between different clock types and the applicability of clauses of this Recommendation to the T-TSC-A, T-TSC-P, T-BC-A and T-BC-P equipment clocks. The following terms are used:

- "applicable" means requirements apply to the clock;
- "optional" means requirements apply to the clock if the optional local time reference input is supported;
- "not Applicable" means that the PTP output is not available on the equipment clock.

Table 9-1 – Differences with respect to interfaces between different clock types

Equipment clock	Local time reference input	PTP output
T-TSC-A	Applicable	Not applicable
T-TSC-P	Not applicable	Not applicable
T-BC-A	Applicable	Applicable
T-BC-P	Not applicable	Applicable

9.1 Phase and time interfaces

The phase and time interfaces specified for the equipment in which the T-BC-A, T-BC-P, T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P may be contained are:

- Ethernet interface carrying PTP messages;
NOTE – Ethernet interfaces can combine SyncE for frequency and PTP messages.
- b-ITU-T V.11-based time/phase distribution interface, as specified in [ITU-T G.703] and [ITU-T G.8271];
- 1PPS 50 Ω phase-synchronization measurement interface, as specified in [ITU-T G.703] and [ITU-T G.8271];
- other interfaces are for further study.

9.2 Frequency interfaces

The frequency interfaces specified for the equipment in which the T-BC-P, or T-TSC-P may be contained are:

- 2 048 kHz interfaces according to [ITU-T G.703] with additional wander requirements as specified herein;
 - 1 544 kbit/s interfaces according to [ITU-T G.703] with additional wander requirements as specified herein;
 - 2 048 kbit/s interfaces according to [ITU-T G.703] with additional wander requirements as specified therein;
 - synchronous transport module – level N (STM-N) traffic interfaces;
 - SyncE interfaces;
- NOTE – Ethernet interfaces can combine PTP and SyncE.
- other interfaces are for further study.

Annex A

T-TSC-A and T-BC-A functional model

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

Figure A.1 illustrates the T-TSC-A and T-BC-A functional model.

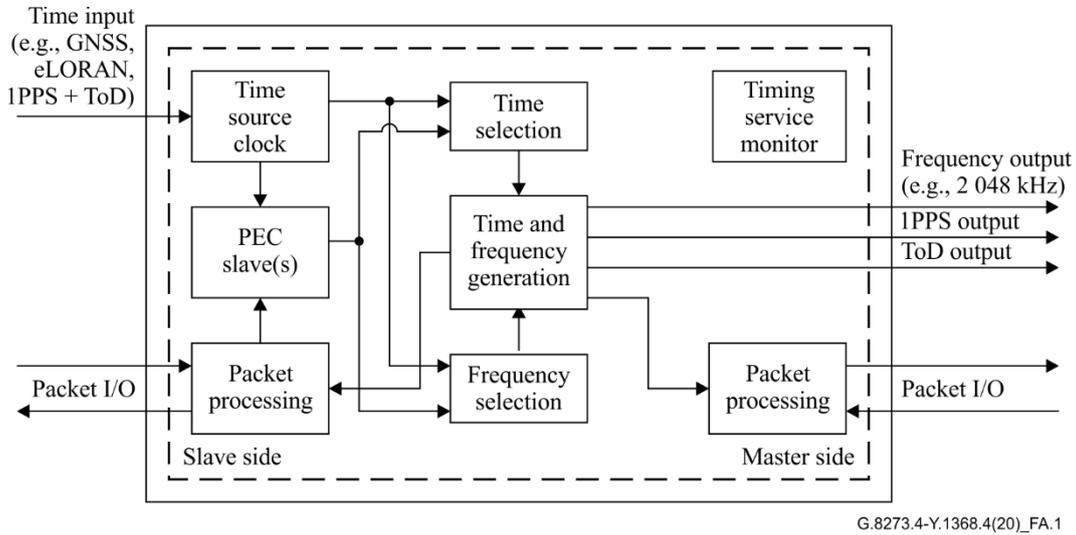


Figure A.1 – The T-TSC-A and T-BC-A functional model

NOTE 1 – Figure A.1 is a functional model. It is not intended to specify any specific implementation. Any implementation specific detail lies outside the scope of this Recommendation.

NOTE 2 – Not all interfaces are required to be present in an implementation.

NOTE 3 – Not all functional blocks are required to be present in an implementation.

NOTE 4 – The functional model shows interfaces that lie within the scope of this Recommendation; additional functions and interfaces can be integrated in a specific implementation, but are not shown in the functional model.

Table A.1 describes the functionality of the blocks depicted in Figure A.1.

Table A.1 – T-TSC-A and T-BC-A clock model functional blocks

Functional block label	Functionality
Time and frequency generation	Generates the local time scale of the clock (local PTP clock) using the time source information supplied by the time selection block and frequency source information supplied by the frequency selection block.
Time selection	Selects the local time source to be used by the clock from among various possible available time inputs, including the time source clock and packet-based equipment clock (PEC) slave. This block may support combining more than one time source.
Frequency selection	Selects the local frequency source to be used by the clock from among various possible available frequency inputs, including the time source clock and the PEC slave.

Table A.1 – T-TSC-A and T-BC-A clock model functional blocks

Functional block label	Functionality
Packet processing	<p>On the slave side, processes ingress PTP packets according to the PTP profile and passes the timestamps from these PTP packets to the PEC slave. Generates egress PTP packets according to the PTP profile and passes the timestamps from these PTP packets to the PEC slave.</p> <p>In the case of the T-BC-A, on the master side, processes ingress PTP packets and generates egress PTP packets according to the PTP profile. Time-stamping is based on the local time scale (local PTP clock) provided by the time and frequency generation block.</p>
Timing service monitor	Provides monitoring of the timing service received by the clock according to key performance indicators. As an example, it may monitor the PTP timing service by analysing the PTP timestamps from the packet processing block (slave side) when the local time scale is following a stable time reference source from the time source clock.
Time source clock	Synchronizes to a time references (e.g., GNSS, enhanced long-range navigation (eLORAN), 1PPS and time of day (ToD)) and provides this as a time reference to the time selection block, as well as a frequency reference to the frequency selection block. Provides time reference to the PEC slave(s) for asymmetry compensation.
PEC slave(s)	Synchronizes to a PTP master, using PTP timestamps from the packet processing (slave side) block, and provides this as a time reference to the time selection block or as a frequency reference to the frequency selection block. Receives time reference from the time source clock for asymmetry compensation.

Table A.2 describes the functionality of the interfaces depicted in Figure A.1.

Table A.2 – T-TSC-A and T-BC-A clock model external interfaces

External interfaces label	Functionality
Packet I/O	Interfaces to transmit and receive PTP packets from the packet processing block. On the slave side, it will act as a PTP port in the slave state to interact with external PTP master devices, and on the master side it will act as a PTP port in the master state to interact with external PTP slave devices.
Time input (e.g., GNSS, eLORAN, 1PPS + ToD)	Time interface to receive from applicable interfaces available on the clock (e.g., GNSS, eLORAN, 1PPS phase input and ToD serial time information). Provides timing information to the time source clock block. The time input can also be PTP.
1PPS output	1PPS phase output ([ITU-T G.703]) generated by the time and frequency generation block.
ToD output	ToD serial time information output generated by the time and frequency generation block.
Frequency output (e.g., 2 048 kHz)	Frequency output (e.g., [ITU-T G.703] 2 048 kHz) provides frequency information. Generated by the time and frequency generation block.

Annex B

T-TSC-P and T-BC-P functional model

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

Figure B.1 illustrates the T-TSC-P and T-BC-P functional model.

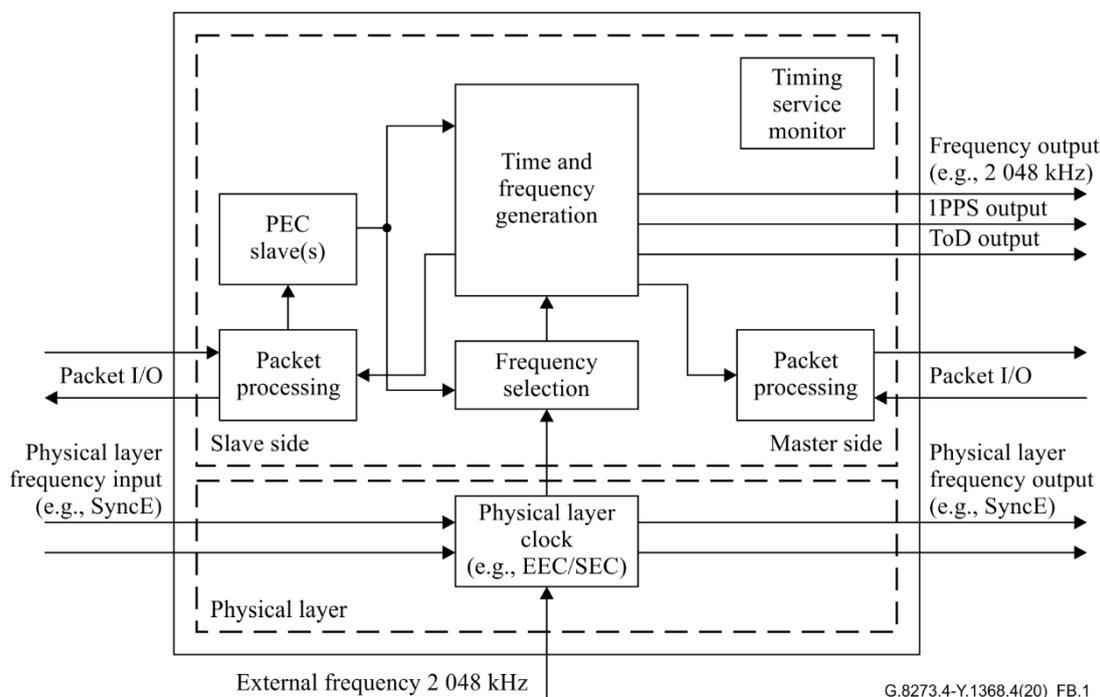


Figure B.1 – T-TSC-P and T-BC-P functional model

NOTE 1 – Figure B.1 is a functional model. It is not intended to specify any specific implementation. Any implementation specific detail lies outside the scope of this Recommendation.

NOTE 2 – Not all interfaces are required to be present in an implementation.

NOTE 3 – Not all functional blocks are required to be present in an implementation.

NOTE 4 – The functional model shows interfaces that lie within the scope of this Recommendation; additional functions and interfaces can be integrated in a specific implementation, but are not shown in the functional model.

Table B.1 describes the functionality of the blocks depicted in Figure B.1.

Table B.1 – T-TSC-P and T-BC-P clock model functional blocks

Functional block label	Functionality
Time and frequency generation	Generates the local time scale of the clock (local PTP clock) using the time source information supplied by the time selection block and frequency source information supplied by the frequency selection block.
Frequency selection	Selects the local frequency source to be used by the clock from among various possible available frequency inputs, including the time source clock, PEC slave and physical layer clock.

Table B.1 – T-TSC-P and T-BC-P clock model functional blocks

Functional block label	Functionality
Packet processing	<p>On the slave side, processes ingress PTP packets according to the PTP profile and passes the timestamps from these PTP packets to the PEC slave. Generates egress PTP packets according to the PTP profile and passes the timestamps from these PTP packets to the PEC slave.</p> <p>In the case of the T-BC-P, on the master side, processes ingress PTP packets and generates egress PTP packets according to the PTP profile.</p> <p>Time-stamping is based on the local time scale (local PTP clock) provided by the time and frequency generation block.</p>
Timing service monitor	<p>Provides monitoring of the timing service received by the clock according to key performance indicators. As an example, it may monitor the PTP timing service by analysing the PTP timestamps from the packet processing block (slave side) when the local time scale is following a stable time reference source from the time source clock.</p>
PEC slave	<p>Synchronizes to a PTP master, using PTP timestamps from the packet processing (slave side) block, and provides this as a time reference to the time selection block or as a frequency reference to the frequency selection block.</p>
Physical layer clock (e.g., Ethernet equipment clock/synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) equipment slave clock (EEC/SEC))	<p>Synchronizes to a physical layer frequency input or external frequency input and provides this as a frequency reference to the frequency selection block. Includes selection among various frequency inputs when more than one source is available. Would typically implement a synchronous EEC/SEC function specified in [ITU-T G.8262]/[ITU-T G.813].</p>

Table B.2 describes the functionality of the interfaces depicted in Figure B.1.

Table B.2 – T-TSC-P and T-BC-P clock model external interfaces

External interfaces label	Functionality
Packet I/O	<p>Interfaces to transmit and receive PTP packets from the packet processing block. On the slave side, it acts as a PTP port in the slave state to interact with external PTP master devices; on the master side, it acts as a PTP port in the master state to interact with external PTP slave devices.</p>
1PPS output	<p>1PPS phase output ([ITU-T G.703]) generated by the time and frequency generation block.</p>
ToD output	<p>ToD serial time information output generated by the time and frequency generation block.</p>
Frequency output (e.g., 2 048 kHz)	<p>Frequency output (e.g., [ITU-T G.703] 2 048 kHz) provides frequency information. Generated by the time and frequency generation block.</p>
Physical layer frequency input (e.g., SyncE)	<p>Physical layer frequency input from applicable interfaces available on the clock (e.g., SyncE). Provides frequency information to the physical layer clock block.</p>

Table B.2 – T-TSC-P and T-BC-P clock model external interfaces

External interfaces label	Functionality
Physical layer frequency output (e.g., SyncE)	Physical layer frequency output provides frequency information on applicable interfaces available on the clock (e.g., SyncE). Generated from the physical layer clock block.
External frequency input (e.g., 2 048 kHz)	External frequency input from applicable interfaces available on the clock (e.g., [ITU-T G.703] 2 048 kHz or 2 048 kbit/s). Provides frequency information to the physical layer clock block.

Appendix I

Consideration of slave clocks embedded in end applications

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

A [ITU-T G.8271.2] time synchronization deployment is comprised of many network clocks, such as a primary reference time clock (PRTC), T-GM, T-BC-P, other modules without timing support, T-TSC-A and TSC-P, and end application time clocks. Multiple time synchronization deployment cases are shown in Appendix I of [ITU-T G.8271.2]. In those deployment cases, there is an "end application time clock" that is shown as providing the output clock at interface E. The requirements of these end application time clocks and the performance at interface E lie outside the scope of this Recommendation.

When the T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P is embedded inside the end application, as shown in Appendix I of [ITU-T G.8271.2], the combination of the T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P and the end application time clock is implementation specific, where the combined performance may not behave as the stand-alone T-TSC-A or T-TSC-P described in this Recommendation. The T-TSC-A and T-TSC-P output interface D may not be available external to the equipment for measurement.

In many end applications, there is a need to have coherent frequency and time synchronization or to generate coherent frequency and time outputs. In such cases, it is important to properly design the end application time clock to implement the coherency.

Appendix II

Consideration of variable temperature testing

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

For information related to variable temperature testing methodology, refer to Appendix I of [b-ITU-T G.8273].

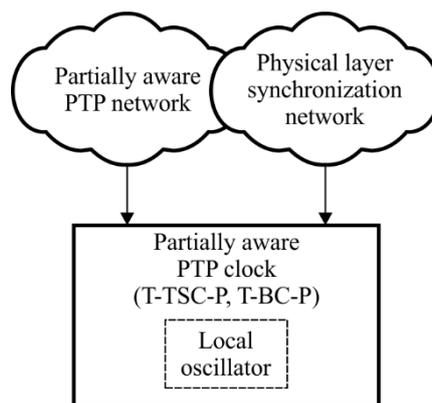
For information related to variable temperature holdover testing methodology, refer to Appendix II of [b-ITU-T G.8273].

Appendix III

Consideration of the use of a synchronous equipment clock to maintain time holdover for partial timing support networks

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

A partially aware equipment clock may have multiple sources of time synchronization available for selection, such as GNSS and PTP. In addition to the time synchronization sources, there may be frequency synchronization sources available to the equipment, as shown in Figure III.1. When the time synchronization source(s) are no longer available (such as signal fail), or degraded (such as poor clockClass), the equipment may enter holdover depending on the best master clock algorithm (BMCA) and operator configuration. During holdover, the equipment may benefit from using an external, traceable physical layer frequency reference, instead of its internal oscillator in order to achieve improved performance. This would be most applicable when the traceability information of the physical layer frequency reference indicates quality level PRC, primary reference source (PRS), PRTC or similar and the synchronous equipment clock stability available to the equipment is better than the local oscillator. A network traceable from a chain of enhanced synchronous equipment clocks (see [ITU-T G.8262.1]) is preferred over a network traceable reference from a chain of synchronous equipment clocks.



G.8273.4-Y.1368.4(20)_FIII.1

Figure III.1 – Partially aware clock with diverse synchronization sources

Note that in Figure III.1 the PTP time synchronization source and the physical layer frequency source are shown separately. This is simply for illustrative purposes; they may be received on the same Ethernet interface of the equipment.

NOTE – The following can degrade the stability of a chain of synchronous equipment clocks (see [ITU-T G.8262]) or enhanced synchronous equipment clocks (see [ITU-T G.8262.1]):

- temperature changes that affect the Ethernet cable delay and introduce wander on the synchronous equipment clock input;
- phase transients caused by physical layer synchronization network rearrangements.

Appendix IV

Use of a synchronous equipment clock to assist a PTP time lock

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

A partially aware equipment clock typically includes a stable local oscillator as a frequency reference to use to assist in synchronizing to incoming PTP packets. In addition to the PTP synchronization source, there may be frequency synchronization sources available to the equipment, as shown in Figure III.1.

When the situation arises that:

- a physical layer frequency reference is available at the input of the equipment clock; and
- the partially aware equipment clock supports the use of such an input; and
- the equipment is configured by the operator to use the physical layer reference,

then it may be advantageous to use the externally available physical layer frequency input to assist in the stabilization of the slave clock within the equipment, rather than relying solely on the local oscillator, while locking to the PTP network reference source. This would be most applicable when the traceability information of the physical layer frequency reference indicates quality level PRC, PRS, PRTC or similar. It is assumed that an enhanced synchronous equipment clock (see [ITU-T G.8262.1]) would be used in order for the clock to meet wander generation specifications.

Appendix V

Synchronization interworking function P-F node limits

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

[ITU-T G.8275] specifies the concept of a synchronization interworking function (IWF), where a node is used to translate between different segments of a network that are running different PTP profiles.

For a synchronization IWF from PTS to full timing support (FTS) (P-F) node, distributing PTP timing from a PTS profile to a FTS profile, the clock performance limits mainly consider the PTS type of network used on the slave port, regardless of the FTS used on the master port.

Therefore, all limits applied to the PTS clocks within the scope of this Recommendation may also apply to such a synchronization IWF P-F node, even if it is not strictly a PTS one.

Bibliography

- [b-ITU-T G.8262.1] Recommendation ITU-T G.8262.1/Y.1362.1 (2019), *Timing characteristics of an enhanced synchronous equipment slave clock*.
- [b-ITU-T G.8273] Recommendation ITU-T G.8273/Y.1368 (2018), *Framework of phase and time clocks*.
- [b-ITU-T V.11] Recommendation ITU-T V.11/X.27 (1996), *Electrical characteristics for balanced double-current interchange circuits operating at data signalling rates up to 10 Mbit/s*.

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