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Reaffirmed 2009 REAFFIRMED 2003

# SMPTE STANDARD

ANSI/SMPTE 184M-1998
Revision of
ANSI/SMPTE 184M-1993

## for Motion-Picture Film — Raw Stock Identification and Labeling



## 1 Scope

This standard specifies the information to be included by the manufacturer covering the physical specifications and certain packaging characteristics of motion-picture raw stock. The suggested location of this information on the manufacturer's label is also specified.

## 2 Normative reference

The following standard contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard indicated below.

ANSI/SMPTE 75M-1994, Motion-Picture Film — Raw Stock — Designation of A and B Windings

## 3 Film identification

**3.1** The physical specifications of the raw stock shall be contained in one sequential listing, preferably in one line but allowing a continuance on a second line if there are space restrictions.

**3.2** The method of identifying the cutting and perforating physical specifications and the sequence in which the information should appear when included shall be as follows:

**3.2.1** The film shall be specified in its nominal millimeter equivalent. For example, the common, currently available film widths are 8, 16, 32, 35, 65, and 70, and designated as shown.

**3.2.2** If the end-use width is narrower than the parent width, or if the frame is an intermediate or negative film whose subsequent print has an end-use width narrower than the parent width, the end-use width shall follow the parent width after a solidus; for example, 35/16, 35/8, and 16/8. Use of the millimeter abbreviation, mm, following the width designation is not preferred but is optional.

**3.2.3** The number of rows of perforations in the parent width film shall be listed in the Arabic numeral followed by the letter R; for example, 1R, 2R, 3R.

**3.2.4** The perforation shape shall be indicated by a code letter or combination of letters. The letter designation for the perforation shape shall be as specified in the note or the appropriate film dimensions standard.

**3.2.5** The perforation pitch shall be as specified in its appropriate millimeter equivalent without the decimal point; for example, 3810, 4234, 4750, and 7620. It is recognized that it has been the practice to specify the perforation in its inch equivalent without the decimal point. Therefore, a manufacturer may include the inch equivalent of the perforation pitch in parentheses without the decimal point; for example, 3810 (1500), 4234 (1667), 4750 (1870), and 7620 (3000).

**3.2.6** The arrangement of rows of perforations shall be specified by numerals separated by a dash to indicate how the rows of perforations are



American National Standard

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placed on the film. This designation is necessary only when the film stock is wider than its end-use and more than one combination of perforation rows is possible. The total number of rows for the perforation type and end-use considered is determined by including all rows of all combinations.

The perforation rows shall be numbered starting at the reference edge. The reference edge is that edge of the strip nearest to the row of perforations which is retained on one of the slit prints (i.e., not discarded in any subsequent slitting). The row(s) of perforations which is discarded will always be given by the number 0. Negative or intermediate films which are not slit may contain the 0-numbered row of perforations if that perforation row corresponds to the discard row of perforations in the subsequent print stock.

For all films with nonsymmetrical perforation rows, there could be two different windings for the same numbered rows of perforations. Film perforated 16/8 1-3 would be 1-3 regardless of winding, but the winding could be A or B, depending upon the location of the reference edge.

**3.2.7** A designation of emulsion orientation shall be specified. If the emulsion side of the film is in, it shall face toward the center of the wound roll, and the designation EI shall be used. If the emulsion side of the film is out, it shall face away from the center of the wound roll, and the winding designation EO shall be used.

**3.2.8** The designation of winding orientation is indicated only when a nonsymmetrical format is involved, and shall be specified as A or B in compliance with ANSI/SMPTE 75M.

**3.2.9** The designation M shall be included if the film has been striped with a magnetic coating for audio recording. Magnetic striping is usually placed on the base of the product; however, variations are possible when it is believed important to the end use. To identify the location of the stripe, the symbol MB may be used when the magnetic material is on the base side and the symbol ME when it appears on the emulsion side.

## 4 Spooling specifications

**4.1** The roll length (which in some cases may be the usable length) shall be specified on the label and designated in feet and meters. In lieu of or in addition to the separate designation, the roll length may be included as part of the sequential listing of physical specifications following the item designated in 3.2.9 with the length specified first in meters and parenthetically in feet; e.g., 304.8 (1000). When the designation of length applies to the slit width (not a usual practice), the designation SL shall follow the length specification.

**4.2** Currently, there is no national standard nomenclature for the device (core, spool, reel, or cartridge) containing the film. If such standard nomenclature is derived, it should be indicated in the sequential listing or separately.

## 5 Suggested characteristics and specifications of the label

**5.1** The label may be any color and of any suitable material. The shape should be a simple geometric form and of a size consistent with legibility.

**5.2** The line (2) of physical specification (clauses 3 and 4 above) should be distinct and placed prominently in the upper half of the label. The line(s) may also be used on other parts of the individual or bulk film containers.

**5.3** The manufacturer's notices (e.g., warranty, disclaimer, open in darkness, safety film, etc.) should be grouped together in one area of the label, preferably the lower portion.

**5.4** The description of the film product should include the primary intended use of the film together with the manufacturer's product code identification and trade name. Examples of common uses of motion-picture films are: negative, positive or print, intermediate, internegative, reversal, and leader.

NOTE – The nomenclature system adopted several years ago for titles of American National Standards contains a reference to the perforation types used for 35-mm films. However, symbols for 16-mm, 8-mm type R, and 8-mm type S perforation shapes were not included. The list below specifies the symbols used for identifying perforation shapes. The symbols differ from those previously used and

represent international agreement. It is anticipated that revisions of American National Standards on film dimensions will incorporate the new symbols in their titles and that these documents will specify the symbols for any new perforation shapes.

**Perforation shape symbols**

KS – 35-mm, 65-mm, 70-mm positive type (known internationally as P)

BH – 35-mm negative (known internationallyas N)

DH – 35-mm Dubray-Howell

SE – 16-mm and 8-mm (8-mm type R)[1]

S – 8-mm type S

SC – Soviet CinemaScope

AC – American CinemaScope (now preferred and documented as CS)

[1]Caution is advised when incorporating the SE designator in any labeling used in international distribution. Currently, ISO documents specify no symbol identifier for 16-mm and 8-mm type perforations.

## **Annex A** (informative)
## **Application**

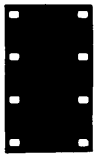
Listed below is the recommended method of applying the specifications for film identification and spooling (contained in clauses 3 and 4) to most of the existing motion-picture film sizes and formats. The emulsion orientation, winding, magnetic coating, and length are hypothetical and included to supplement the perforation format and gauge specifications shown to illustrate possible applications of this standard.

8 1R SE3810(1500) EIB 30.5(100)

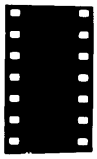
8 1R S4234(1667) EOB 15.2(50)

16 1R SE7605(2994) EIB M 122(400)

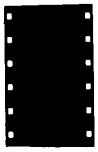
16 1R SE3810(1500) EIB 61(200)



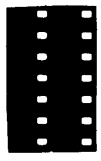
16 2R SE7620(3000) EI 30.5(100)



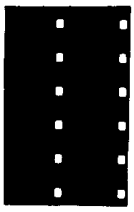
16/8 2R SE3810(1500) 1-4 EI M 15.2(50)



16/8 2R S4234(1667) 1-4 EI M 305(1000)

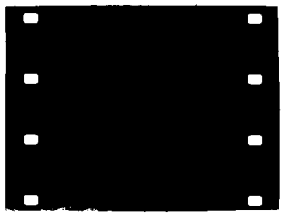


16/8 2R SE3810(1500) 1-3 EIB 305(1000)

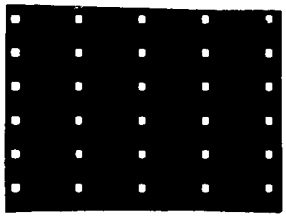


16/8 2R S4227(1664) 1-3 EOA M 610(2000)

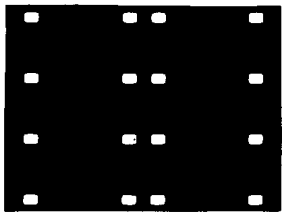
35/8 2R SE3802(1497) 1-0 EOB 610(2000)



35/16 2R SE7620(3000) 1-4 EO 610(2000)

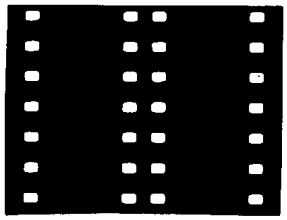


35/8 5R S4234(1667) 1-3-5-7-0 EIA M 610(2000)

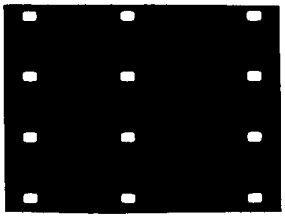


35/16 4R SE7620(3000) 1-2-3-4 EI 610(2000)

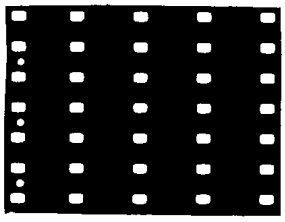
35/8 2R S4227(1664) 1-0 EIB 610(2000)



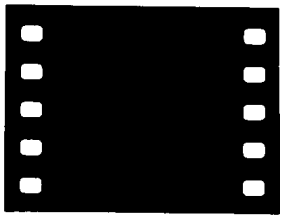
35/8 4R SE3810(1500) 1-4-5-8 EO 610(2000)



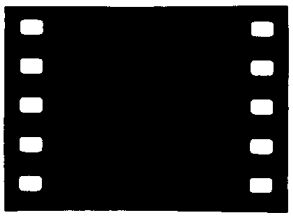
35/16 3R SE7620(3000) 1-3-0 EIA 610(2000)



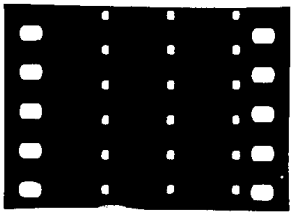
35/8 5R SE3810(1500) 1-3-5-7-0 EIA 610(2000)



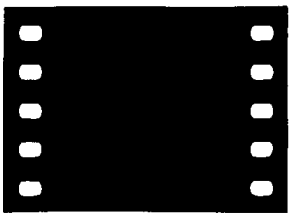
35 2R KS4750(1870) EI 610(2000)



35 2R DH4750(1870) EI 610(2000)



35/8 3R S4234(1667) 1-3-5 2R BH4740(1866)
EIA 610(2000)



35 2R BH4740(1866) EI 30.5(100)

65 2R KS4740(1866) EI 305(1000)

35 2R AC4750(1870) EO 610(2000)

70 2R KS4750(1870) EO 610(2000)