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SMPTE STANDARD

SMPTE 171-2001

Revision of
ANSI/SMPTE 171-1996for Motion-Picture Film (35-mm) —
Perforated 16-mm, 3R (1-3-0)

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1 Scope

This standard specifies the cutting and perforating dimensions for 35-mm motion-picture film with 16-mm perforations in positions 1-3-0 and a perforation pitch of either 0.2994 in or 0.3000 in (7.605 mm or 7.620 mm). The width of the 16-mm strip after processing and slitting is also specified.

2 Dimensions

2.1 The dimensions shall be as given in figure 1 and table 1.

2.2 The dimensions pertain to a safety film as defined in SMPTE 223M.

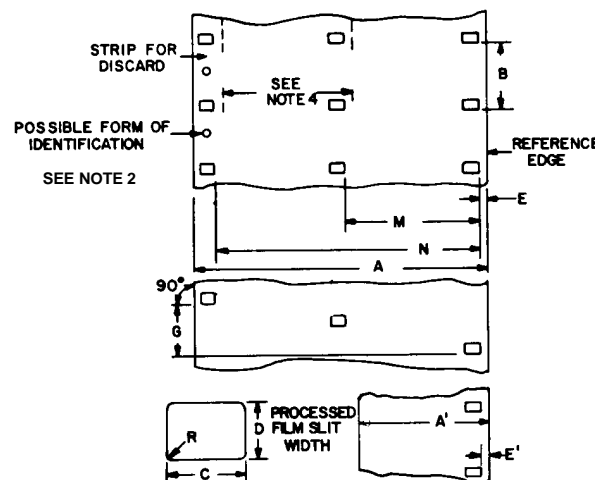


Figure 1 – Dimensions

Table 1 – Specifications

Dimensions		Inches	Millimeters
A	Film width	1.377 ± 0.001	34.975 ± 0.025
A'	Film width after processing and slitting	0.627 ± 0.002	15.93 ± 0.05
B	Perforation pitch (long)	0.3000 ± 0.0004	7.620 ± 0.010
B'	Perforation pitch (short)	0.2994 ± 0.0004	7.605 ± 0.010
C	Perforation width	0.0720 ± 0.0004	1.829 ± 0.010
D	Perforation height	0.0500 ± 0.0004	1.270 ± 0.010
E	Reference edge to first perforation row	0.0355 ± 0.0020	0.902 ± 0.051
E'	Edge to perforation after processing and slitting	0.0355 ± 0.0020	0.902 ± 0.051
G	Perforation misalignment	0.001 max	0.03 max
L	100 consecutive perforation pitches	30.00 ± 0.03	762.0 ± 0.8
L'	100 consecutive perforation pitches	29.94 ± 0.03	760.5 ± 0.8
M	Reference edge side of first perforation row to second perforation row	0.628 ± 0.001	15.95 ± 0.03
N	Reference edge side of first perforation row to third perforation row	1.234 ± 0.001	31.34 ± 0.03
R	Radius of perforation fillet	0.010 ± 0.001	0.25 ± 0.03

2.3 Except for dimensions A' and E', the dimensions apply at the time of cutting and perforating for film adjusted to a temperature of $23^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ (nominally converted to $73^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{F}$) and a relative humidity of $(50 \pm 2)\%$. The manufacturer may indicate other nominal temperature and humidity conditions under which the dimensions apply. Dimensions A' and E' apply immediately after slitting.

NOTES

1 The title of this standard was established by the application of a nomenclature system developed for all film dimension standards. Each title provides an indication of the film width, a code designation for the perforation shape (BH, KS, DH, or CS), or the number of rows of perforations (1R, 2R, etc.), depending upon which is the significant factor, or the perforation pitch without the decimal point.

The numerals (1-3-0) have been added to the title of this standard to specify how the rows of perforations are 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. For 16-mm type perforations on 35-mm width film, a maximum of four usable rows of perforations is possible. The perforation rows shall be numbered starting at the reference edge. The reference edge is the edge nearest to that row of perforations which

is retained in one of the 16-mm strips that may be generated by appropriate slitting of the parent 35-mm film. A row of perforations which is discarded will always be given the number 0. Negative or intermediate films which are not slit may contain a 0-numbered row of perforations if that perforated row corresponds to the discard row of perforations on 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 1-0 would be 1-0 regardless of winding, but depending on the location of the reference edge, the winding would be A or B, according to ANSI/SMPTE 75M, which has been expanded to include all nonsymmetrically perforated film.

2 The 0-numbered discard row is provided with round perforations as a visible means of identification.

3 Dimension A' represents the film width and dimension E' the edge-to-perforation distance after slitting a nominal 16-mm strip from the exposed and processed parent 35-mm width film. In deriving the dimension of 0.627 in (15.93 mm), the specified film shrinkage characteristics described in annex A.2 have been taken into account. Notwithstanding accumulation of tolerances, A' and E' shall be as specified.

4 The dotted lines in figure 1 indicate the edge of the 16-mm cuts after slitting.

5 The metric conversion of dimension A is purposely chosen and shown to three decimal places to prevent the maximum width dimension from exceeding 35 mm.

Annex A (informative) Additional data

A.1 The user is reminded that, as a plastic, film can change dimensions temporarily due to moisture or temperature, or permanently due to solvent loss or strain effect.

A.2 Film for positive use has a longitudinal pitch 0.2% longer than its companion negative. Shrinkage of the negative during processing and aging prior to printing will generally not exceed 0.2%. Thus, the negative stock is expected to be $0.3\% \pm 0.1\%$ shorter than the positive. This difference will minimize slippage between the two on the 12-in (305-mm) circumference sprocket of the printer, assuming a film thickness of 0.0055 in to 0.0065 in (0.140 mm to 0.165 mm).

A.3 The uniformity of pitch, hole size, and margin (dimensions B, C, D, and E) is an important variable affecting steadiness. Variations in these dimensions, from roll to roll,

are of little significance compared to variations from one perforation to the next within any small group of consecutive perforations. As an example, the uniformity of the margin is uniquely critical for optical printing. During the printing process, the placement of the image on the film is usually with respect to successive lateral pairs of perforations at one-frame intervals. During subsequent projection, however, the portion of the image projected is usually located, not by these perforations, but by the edge of the film. The lateral steadiness of the projected image is, therefore, directly related to the frame-to-frame uniformity of the margin.

A.4 For historical background on the development of this standard, refer to A. J. Miller and A. C. Robertson, "Motion-picture film — its size and dimensional characteristics," Jour. SMPTE, 74: 3-11, Jan. 1965.

Annex B (informative) Bibliography

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

SMPTE 223M-2001, Motion-Picture Film — Safety Film