

8 Time code

Time code is expressed in terms of four two-digit groups representing hours (HH), minutes (MM), seconds (SS), and frames (FF), separated by punctuation marks (p), in the form HHpMMpSSpFF, followed by an optional SUB_FRAME_SPECIFIER. The separator between the seconds and frames groups is significant in that it is used to denote drop-frame/nondrop-frame time code and to indicate field 1 or field 2, as follows:

. (period)	Nondrop-frame code, field 1;
: (colon)	Nondrop-frame code, field 2;
, (comma)	Drop-frame code, field 1;
; (semicolon)	Drop-frame code, field 2.

For video standards which do not support drop-frame time code, the nondrop-frame indicators shall be used. Allowance is made for the expression of time code in compact form by the suppression of leading zeroes and associated separators, up to but not including the seconds-frames separator.

8.1 Sub frame specifier

The SUB_FRAME_SPECIFIER is an option which can be appended to any time code to specify sub-frame accuracy. The SUB_FRAME_SPECIFIER consists of a percent sign (%), followed by a REAL_NUMBER specifying a percent of a frame. This percent of a frame is relative to the start of the field specified by the time code. This percent must be greater than zero and less than one hundred.