

# PHOTOSENSITIVE EPILEPSY TESTING UPDATE

## 1.1. What is happening?

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 all approved PSE testing devices must comply with the clarified definition of a flash sequence. This is a very minor change and some PSE devices are already compliant.

## 1.2. Why is it happening?

A complaint to Ofcom showed there were inconsistencies in the interpretation of the Broadcasting Code Harm and Offence section that details the requirements for PSE testing. The circumstances of the sequence that caused the complaint were very unusual and are very unlikely to occur naturally (the sequence was an edited effect).

## 1.3. Isn't this short notice?

The DPP group of broadcasters has been working with all the approved testing device manufactures. Some devices are already compliant and the others will be updating the PSE test as part of the normal support and maintenance contracts. All testing devices will be ready in time.

## 1.4. What about programmes already tested?

Only programmes **delivered** on or after 1<sup>st</sup> of January must use the revised test algorithm. As this particular issue is extremely unlikely to occur, the broadcasters are not concerned that programmes already delivered will cause a complaint.

## 1.5. Why change if it's so unlikely?

Broadcasters and therefore supplied content must comply with the Broadcasting Code. Broadcasters who breach the code are liable to sanction (which could include loss of their licence to broadcast). In the case of PSE breaches, the DPP delivery document states that;

*"... the Producer of the programme as well as the Broadcaster may be liable for any action taken by Ofcom or a member of the public, for a breach of the Photosensitive Epilepsy requirements."*

## 1.6. What do I need to do next?

- If you are the owner of a testing device, first check the table below to make sure the PSE testing version is approved. Remember the PSE version number is separate to the AQC version number. This allows the manufactures to update the AQC tools without having to re apply for approved PSE testing.
- If you hire devices, please hand this to the hire company and make sure they confirm their device is compliant.
- If you are booking QC and PSE testing, hand this to the post production company or QC supplier and make sure they confirm their testing devices are compliant.

## 1.7. What if my PSE device does not have a maintenance contract?

PSE testing is a regulatory requirement that broadcasters and programme makers must comply with. Any programme tested on a non-approved device will be rejected. If you are in this position please contact your supplier or the manufacturer to discuss your options.

## 1.8. Will there be any more updates?

Unless the regulator revises the Broadcasting Code or further interpretation issue are discovered there are no plans to revise the PSE test requirements. However there will be new guidelines for testing High Dynamic Range (HDR) content as soon as enough it known.

## 1.9. Who can I contact?

Until the change on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 please contact [andy.quested@bbc.co.uk](mailto:andy.quested@bbc.co.uk). After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 please contact the broadcaster directly (contact details are in each broadcaster version of the DPP Delivery Document)

# TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT BROADCASTER APPROVED PHOTSENSITIVE EPILEPSY TEST DEVICES UPDATE

## Photosensitive Epilepsy Test Devices

### The reason for this change

The International Telecommunications Union (part of the United Nations) has revised the Photosensitive Epilepsy advice document ITU-R BT.1702 to clarify the definition of a sequence of potentially harmful flashes. Applying this revision is a further step in reducing the inconsistencies between devices.

***From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 all programmes must be tested using PSE Algorithms that comply with the revision to the ITU Recommendation.***

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Photo Sensitive Epilepsy (PSE) affects around one in four thousand people, with the age group, seven to twenty years old being five times more likely to be susceptible than the rest. PSE is triggered by visual stimuli that overload the brain temporarily and cause a seizure. The triggers are commonly flashes or repeating changes between dark and light (such as stroboscopic effects or flash photography), some geometric patterns, and certain colours such as deeply saturated red.

All broadcasters in the UK must comply with Section 2.12 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code (detailed in Annex 1 of the Ofcom Guidance notes) which provides guidance to UK TV broadcasters and producers on how to minimise the risk of causing PSE events.

The Digital Production Partnership Delivery Document mandates **every** programme whether live or file (including commercials, sponsorship messaging, promotions and presentation material) that is submitted for transmission must satisfy the Ofcom Photosensitive Epilepsy guidelines. Any programme failing to meet these requirements may be rejected and returned to the supplier for repair

*Please be note that the Producer of the programme as well as the Broadcaster may be liable for any action taken by Ofcom or a member of the public, for a breach of the Photosensitive Epilepsy requirements.*

The following list contains products that the UK broadcasters have agreed competently perform PSE testing. The aim is to provide producers with a guide to available products that may automatically identify any PSE failures in file-based content that would require re-working before delivery to the broadcasters.

This list is not exhaustive and will be updated if other approved products become available. It does not represent a recommendation or endorsement by the DPP or any UK broadcaster. Manufacturers are invited to submit appropriate candidate products for testing.

Note: Ofcom has stated that use of automatic testing devices is *not* a guarantee of compliance with the Broadcasting Code.

### Product List

The PSE algorithm version is noted, and provided the same PSE algorithm is used, subsequent product updates or revisions can be made without affecting the PSE test algorithm.

This Supplement is *not* a DPP document – the Broadcasting Code makes it clear the Broadcasters are responsible for ensuring the safety of their audiences.

If you have any queries about this, please contact the relevant broadcaster. The DPP will pass your enquiry to the relevant broadcaster if you are unsure who to contact. ([info@digitalproductionpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@digitalproductionpartnership.co.uk)).

TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT BROADCASTER APPROVED PSE TESTING DEVICES

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 the PSE Versions in **RED** below will no longer be accepted

Company	Product Version(s)	PSE Current Version	PSE BT.1702-1 Version Required from 01/01/19	Comments
Cambridge Research Systems	FPA Desktop V3.5 or later	FPA V3.4	FPA V3.4 No change	Note: Cambridge Research devices can also be used to test Live (or as Live) programmes using the Legacy Mode
	FPA Server V3.0.0 or later			
	FPA UK Digital V0110 or later			
Tektronix	Cerify V7.8.0 or later	FPA V3.4	FPA V3.4 No change	Cerify uses a licensed Cambridge Research Systems algorithm.
	Aurora V3.6 or later with FPA option	FPA V3.4	FPA V3.4 No change	Aurora uses a licensed Cambridge Research Systems algorithm.
	<b>Aurora V5.1.331 or later ProVersion</b>	<b>Tektronix PSE V5.1</b>	FPA V3.4 Update required	<b>Tektronix has ceased support for the Tektronix PSE V5.1 Algorithm. An update to use the FPA V3.4 algorithm is available for all supported Aurora V5.1 customer</b>
Interra	Baton V4.2 – v7.3	<b>Interra PSE V1.0</b>	<b>No longer supported in the UK Update to V7.4 is required</b>	
	Baton V7.4 or later	<b>Interra PSE V1.0 (Low sensitivity)</b> <b>Interra PSE V1.0 (High sensitivity)</b>	ITU-R BT.1702 2018 (v1.0)	Available Now
Vidcheck	Vidchecker V4.5 to v6.1	<b>Version no longer supported</b>	<b>No longer supported Update to V8.0 required</b>	
	Vidfixer V4.5 to v6.1			
	Vidapps-PSE V1.0 or later	<b>Vidcheck PSE V5.0</b>	Vidcheck PSE V5.1 Update required	Available Now
	Vidchecker V8.0 or later			
	Vidfixer V8.0 or later			
Cel-Soft	PSE-Check V2.410 or later	<b>Cel-soft PSE V1.5</b>	<b>Cel-soft PSE V2.0</b>	Available Now
	Reel-Check Solo V1.410 or later			
	Reel-Check SE V3.410 or later			
Venera	Pulsar V4.3 and higher	FPA V3.4	FPA V3.4 No change	Pulsar uses a licensed Cambridge Research Systems algorithm.
EditShare	QScan One	Quales V1.1.0	Quales V1.1.0 No change	The Quales PSE Algorithm was developed and approved after the inconsistency was discovered and therefore compliant when first approved
	QScan Pro			
	QScan Max			

## Appendix A – Version Control

VERSION	DATE	REQUIRED / INFORMATION	UPDATE
1.0	15/10/2013	Required	'A Product Guide for file-based Photo Sensitive Epilepsy Testing' first published on the DPP website
1.1	12/11/2014	Information	Header note added confirming inconsistency and Venera Pulsar added to product list.
1.2	24/11/2014	Information	Updated product versions and algorithm version information added. (Vidcheck)
1.3	02/12/2014	Information	Updated product versions and algorithm version information added. (Interra)
1.4	08/01/2015	Information	Updated product versions and algorithm version information added. (Tektronix and Cel-Soft)
1.5	09/01/2015	Information	Updated product versions. (Cambridge Research Systems)
2.0	23/01/2015	Information	Updated product versions (Vidcheck) and explanatory notes around algorithm versions.
2.1	19/02/2015	Information	Updated product version and PSE algorithms version (Digimetrics)
2.2	22/04/2015	Information	Tektronix and Digimetrics rows merged, providing Tektronix with 3 device options.
3.0	07/04/2018	Required	Clarified relationship of stakeholders with regards to PSE testing.
3.0	07/04/2018	Information	Updated product information added. (EditShare QScan)
3.1	07/19/2018	Required	Updates to Algorithm versions to comply with ITU-R BT.1702-1 2018
3.2	26/11/2018	Required	Final Updates to Algorithm versions to comply with ITU-R BT.1702-1 2018