

# Film identification — Minimum set of metadata for cinematographic works

ICS 37.060.99

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 15744:2009.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CPW/36, Cinematography.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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English Version

**Film identification - Minimum set of metadata for  
cinematographic works**Identification des films - Jeu minimal de métadonnées pour  
œuvres cinématographiquesIdentifikation von Filmen - Mindestsatz von Metadaten für  
Kinofilme

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 17 January 2009.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 15744:2009) has been prepared by CEN/TC 372 "Cinematographic Works", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2009.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

In recent years, there has been a proliferation of new metadata standards intended to provide greater control, consistency and accuracy of the data in the ever-expanding environment of the World Wide Web, through, for example, links to shared named authority files. In developing a new standard this is one of the main issues to which CEN/TC 372 "Cinematographic Works" has needed to address. It is also the case that the data that exists in many cultural organisations across Europe has been compiled over many years and in some cases predates the advent of computer databases. To help reconcile some of the data inconsistencies that will inevitably exist in such a volume of data from so many disparate sources, the standard seeks to provide a bridge between the data that exists and the emerging technologies chosen to represent this data. The principle of EN 15744 is to enable the clearest possible enunciation of data that is available to assist with the task of resource identification. The aim of prEN 15907 is to provide a framework for improved interoperability of that data by providing a common definition for that data. CEN/TC 372 "Cinematographic Works" was set up to develop the European standards mandated by the European Commission. The Task Force decided to fulfil the tasks listed in the mandate M/365 by developing two projects:

- EN 15744 – "Film Identification – Minimum set of metadata for cinematographic works"; which contains a minimum set of 15 data elements considered necessary for the identification of cinematographic works. In addition, it contains a unified terminology required for the clear understanding of the standard.
- prEN 15907 – "Film Identification – Enhancing interoperability of metadata – Element sets and structures", which provides a comprehensive standard for the representation and exchange of metadata for cinematographic works, as well as a comprehensive and consistent terminology.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

Cinematographic works are an essential component of European cultural heritage. Film history and culture is recognized as an integral part of everything from tourism to documentary evidence and is known to have a significant impact on culture and education worldwide. This has been emphasized by the European Parliament and Council Recommendation of 16 November 2005 on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities.

Film archives, film museums, cinemathèques and other cultural organisations have the responsibility to both preserve and make accessible film heritage. This responsibility includes acquisition of culturally important works; preservation through good storage and duplication to modern stable formats; curatorial research and interpretation; and programming and exhibition. Key to all of these activities is the responsibility of creating and maintaining databases containing information about the films. Without such documentation, preservation and access activities are not possible.

At present, there is great variation in how filmographic databases are organized and implemented. Experts of all European countries have recognized that this variance stands in the way of interoperability and commonality of data.

The European Commission charged CEN with a mandate on 14 March 2005 to create a metadata standard for cinematographic works. In response to this mandate, this standard undertakes to define the metadata essential for data migration between databases and consistent identification of films.

The primary users of this European standard will be film archives, film museums, cinemathèques and any other cultural organisations with filmographic databases. They will also be the primary beneficiaries of the implementation of this European standard throughout Europe, as it will facilitate their access to filmographic metadata on works held by other organisations. Researchers, universities, students and the general public will also benefit in that it will be easier to integrate the information contained in the databases into larger information systems if it is organised according to this European standard. The standard will also benefit film producers which, like the primary users, will be able to organize their metadata as defined by the standard. In consequence, this European standard is expected to raise the visibility of Europe's rich and diverse film heritage on the internet, and to improve access to it by citizens and professional users of cultural material in line with the objectives set out in the Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation of 24 August 2006.

As requested by the European Commission's mandate, this standard is based on international recommendations and practices. It should be noted that this European Standard is intended to define and enable the selection of those data elements that are considered of prime importance for distinguishing and identifying individual cinematographic works.

Information necessary to implement a representation of cinematographic metadata in practice will be provided in prEN 15907.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard contains a comprehensive set of metadata elements for representing information about cinematographic works, their variants and manifestations. Detailed information on available media items, viewing requirements, and access conditions is not covered by this standard. However, elementary information concerning the availability of media items can be expressed.

This European Standard also provides some extension points for adding more detailed data types without violating conformance. The guiding principle here is that no information from existing filmographic records should be lost when these are expressed according to this standard.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15836, *Information and documentation – The Dublin Core metadata element set*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **attribute**

(metamodel) characteristic of an object or entity

[ISO/IEC 11179-3]

### 3.2

#### **cinematographic work**

moving image creation of any length, in particular works of fiction, cartoons and documentaries, which is intended to be shown in cinemas or in one of the subsequent audio-visual windows

### 3.3

#### **database**

collection of data organized according to a conceptual structure describing the characteristics of the data and the relationships among their corresponding entities, supporting one or more application areas

[ISO/IEC 2382-1]

### 3.4

#### **data element**

unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation and permissible values are specified by means of a set of attributes

[ISO/IEC 11179-3]

### 3.5

#### **data model**

graphical and/or lexical representation of data, specifying their properties, structure and inter-relationships

[ISO/IEC 11179-3]

### 3.6 interoperability

ability of systems to provide services to and accept services from other systems and to use the services exchanged to enable them to operate effectively together

[Adapted from: American National Standard T1.523-2001]

### 3.7 metadata

structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use or manage an information resource

### 3.8 moving image

any set of images recorded by whatever means and on whatever medium, whether or not accompanied by sound, capable of conveying an impression of movement

## 4 Minimum Set of Data Elements required for Interoperability

### 4.1 Principles

Clause 4 defines a set of 15 data elements fundamental in the identification of cinematographic works. These data elements are the minimum set of data elements necessary for identifying cinematographic works when exchanging information on such works e.g. among national film archives. Since one of the objectives of this European Standard is the improvement of interoperability between different databases, the minimum set of data elements defined herein shall be supplied by all organizations participating in an exchange of information on cinematographic works held by them.

NOTE 1 The minimum set of data elements may serve as a tool enabling organizations to identify those pieces of information on cinematographic works which need to be selected from within their own databases when interchanging such information with other organizations.

NOTE 2 Detailed information needed to implement a representation of cinematographic metadata in practice is provided in prEN 15907.

### 4.2 Presentation Format of Data Element Definitions

The data elements listed in 4.3 are all presented in a common format using the following six categories to describe the data elements and to give additional information on them.

Name:	Data element name
Definition:	Data element definition in verbal form
Repeatable:	Information on whether or not this data element may be repeatable within one record
Status:	Information on whether or not this data element shall be contained in a record supplied by a source organisation
Superordinate:	Identification of a category at a higher level of abstraction which the data elements defined herein can pertain to; these categories are put to use in the second part of this European standard which describes a complete data model for the data elements defined here
Dublin Core:	Information expressing the relation of the data element defined in this European Standard with the fundamental data element definitions of ISO 15836



### 4.3 Data Elements

#### 4.3.1 Data Element 1

Name:	Title
Definition:	A word, phrase, character, or group of characters, normally appearing in an item, naming the item or the work contained in it
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required
Superordinate:	Work
Dublin Core:	Title + Alternative

#### 4.3.2 Data Element 2

Name:	Series/serial
Definition:	<p>A series is a group of separate items related to one another by the fact that each item bears, in addition to its own title, a collective title applying to the group as a whole</p> <p>A serial is a type of "short subject" work which is characterized principally by the episodic development of a story</p>
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available <sup>1</sup> and if applicable <sup>2</sup>
Superordinate:	Work
Dublin Core:	Relation + "Conforms to", "Has format/Is format of", "Has part/Is part of", "Has version/Is version of", "References/Is referenced", "Replaces/Is replaced by"

#### 4.3.3 Data Element 3

Name:	Cast
Definition:	A collective term for actors and their roles. A broad distinction is made between cast and credits by defining cast as those in front of the camera and credits as those behind the camera
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available and if applicable
Superordinate:	Agent

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1 Not all database records will contain all the different pieces of information defined by the minimum set of data elements. If data cannot be provided, one of the following may be given: "unknown" or "unavailable".

2 Not all data elements are applicable to all kinds of cinematographic works, e.g. cartoon movies may not necessarily have a cast and most cinematographic works are not part of a series/serial. In such cases the following entry may be given: "not applicable".

Dublin Core: Contributor + "Role"

#### 4.3.4 Data Element 4

Name: Credits

Definition: The names and functions of persons responsible for the production and/or artistic or intellectual content of a cinematographic work; the term "credits" is often used more specifically to distinguish between those behind the camera from "cast", those in front of the camera

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available

Superordinate: Agent

Dublin Core: Contributor + "Role"

#### 4.3.5 Data Element 5

Name: Production company

Definition: The name of an organisation or company under whose financial, technical and organisational management a cinematographic work is made

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available and if applicable

Superordinate: Agent

Dublin Core: Publisher

#### 4.3.6 Data Element 6

Name:	Country of reference
Definition:	The country or countries where the principal offices of the production company (or companies) of a cinematographic work are located
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available
Superordinate:	Work
Dublin Core:	Publisher

#### 4.3.7 Data Element 7

Name:	Original format
Definition:	The description of the physical artefact on which the first known manifestation of a cinematographic work was fixed
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available
Superordinate:	Work
Dublin Core:	Format

#### 4.3.8 Data Element 8

Name:	Original length
Definition:	The total physical length of the first known manifestation of a cinematographic work, measured in feet or metres
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available
Superordinate:	Work
Dublin Core:	Format

#### 4.3.9 Data Element 9

Name:	Original duration
Definition:	The running time of the first known manifestation of a cinematographic work, measured in minutes and seconds
Repeatable:	Yes
Status:	Required if available
Superordinate:	Work

Dublin Core: Format

#### 4.3.10 Data Element 10

Name: Original language

Definition: The language or languages of the spoken, sung or written content of the first known manifestation of a cinematographic work

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Language + "Script"

#### 4.3.11 Data Element 11

Name: Year of reference

Definition: A date associated with an event in the life cycle of the cinematographic work, typically associated with its creation, availability or registration (for example for copyright purposes)

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Date + "available", "created", "copyrighted", "issued", "modified", "valid"

#### 4.3.12 Data Element 12

Name: Identifier

Definition: An unambiguous reference to the resource within a given context, where possible the International Standard Audio-visual Number (ISAN), otherwise a specific number issued by a government department, or other official body in an individual country, or an archive's inventory number

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Identifier

#### 4.3.13 Data Element 13

Name: Genre

Definition: A descriptor or descriptors, preferably from a controlled vocabulary which characterise the general style of a cinematographic work

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if available

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Subject

#### 4.3.14 Data Element 14

Name: Relationship

Definition: A reference to a related work, cinematographic, literary or other, preferably by means of a formal identification system

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required if applicable

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Relation

#### 4.3.15 Data element 15

Name: Source

Definition: The name of the archive or other organisation supplying the record

Repeatable: Yes

Status: Required

Superordinate: Work

Dublin Core: Identifier

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