

Digital TV Group (DTG) response:

**‘Consultation on proposals for the reorganisation of the DTT LCN Listing
and on changes to DMOL’s LCN policy’**

24 May 2012

In replying to this consultation, the Digital TV Group (DTG) has limited its response to practical and technical matters directly related to the implementation of the D-Book: the technical specification for digital terrestrial television (DTT) in the UK (See Annex 2).

Question 1. Do you agree that the revised LCN listings must at a minimum address the issues of the genres which have overflowed and ensure there are no further overflows in the next two to four years?

The DTG agrees with DMOL that decisions on Logical Channel Numbering (LCN) and associated channel positioning issues raised in the consultation document should be driven by the regulatory framework and be for the long term benefit of the DTT platform and its stakeholders, and in the interest of viewers.

Question 4. Do you agree with the proposal to position the HD genre at LCN 101? Do you agree with the proposal to reorder the HD channels in the same order as their standard definition equivalents? Do you agree with the proposal to support LCN swaps of SD for identical simulcast HD channels if proposed by the channel provider?

With reference to the LCN swap mechanism, if this is used the mechanism defined in the D-Book should be adhered to. This mechanism should remain a requirement for Freeview HD branded receivers and recorders.

Question 13. What are your views on DMOL's overall proposal for the LCN listings? Please provide reasons for your views, and where appropriate, suggest alternatives where you disagree with the proposal.

The DTG supports DMOL's proposal to use DTT platform features to improve the viewer experience both as changes are implemented and in normal operation, to include:

- Use of MHEG pop-ups to inform viewers about changes, such as LCN changes;
- Use of slate "bookends" to bracket the genres;
- Use of Network Change Notifier Descriptors (NCDs) to notify of retunes when appropriate.

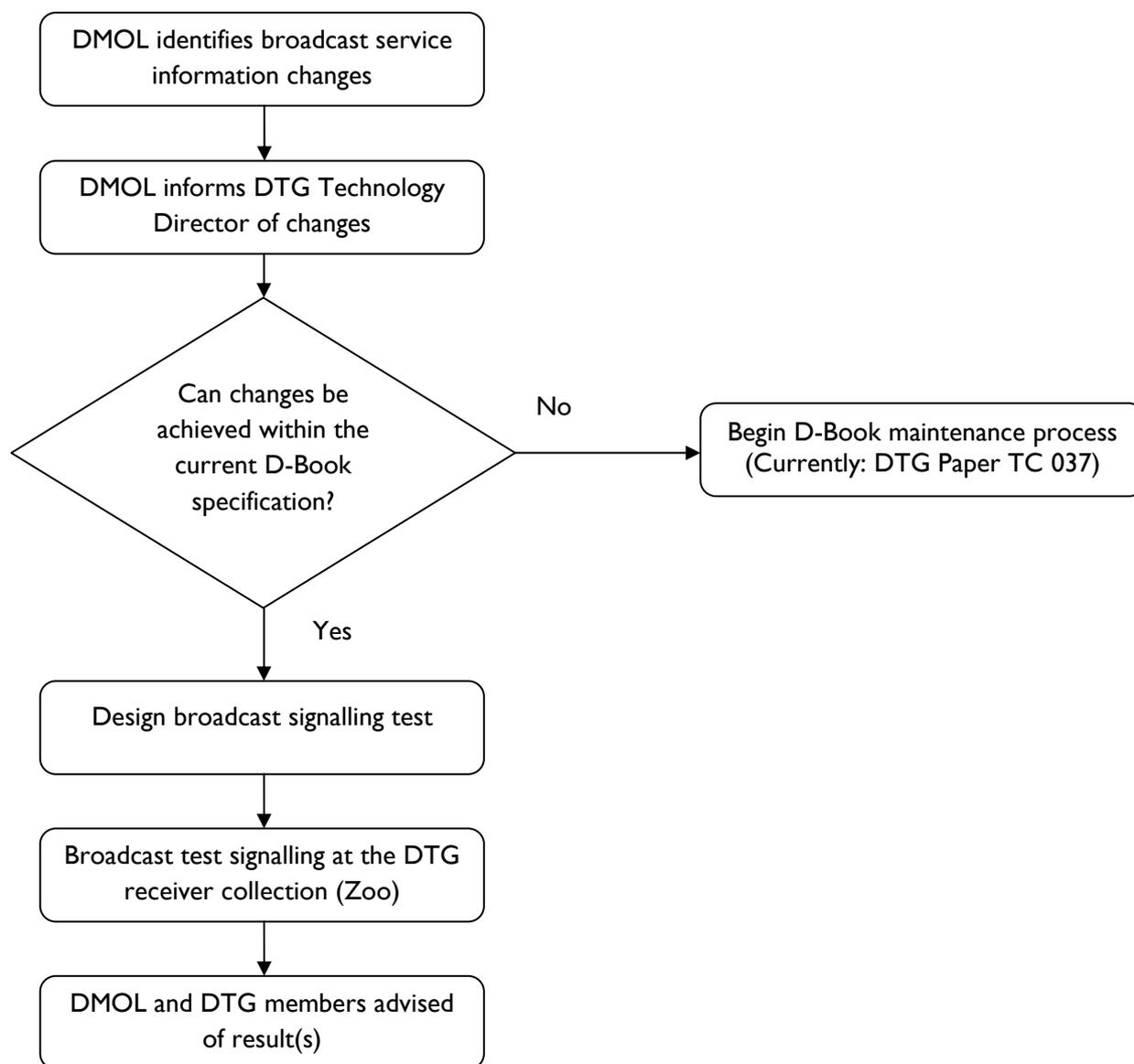
Any changes to the broadcast signal should be subject to the normal processes for technical change management on the platform. This includes, prior to the changes being made, referral of changes to the Technology Director of the DTG to instigate the change management process outlined in the flow chart at Annex I.

Question 24. Do stakeholders have any comments on the other proposed amendments to the DMOL LCN Policy?

Some DTG members have asserted that it is critical that DMOL (as the EPG coordinator) should take steps to ensure the completeness and accuracy of service information and programme specific information. The purpose is to ensure that the consumer experience of DTT is adequate and consistent. Achieving consistent accuracy and completeness of service information would require coordination between DMOL, channel operators, the service information collator provider, and network operators. It would also likely require compliance monitoring, ideally with suitable metrics being published regularly.

ANNEX I

Changes to the Digital Terrestrial Television broadcast signal that might affect receivers - the process to ensure continued interoperability



ANNEX 2

About the Digital TV Group (DTG)

The Digital TV Group (DTG) is the focal point of the UK's digital TV industry. The Group, a not-for-profit membership organisation, brings the industry together to enable the successful delivery and evolution of digital TV and associated technologies.

The DTG publishes and maintains the technical specification for Freeview, Freeview HD and Connected TV (the D-Book) and runs the digital television industry's ISO accredited test centre: DTG Testing.

The DTG has published and maintained the D-Book for over a decade and the specification is updated annually to keep up with the pace of development in UK DTT. The D-Book is compiled by DTG working groups comprised of the DTG's membership and staff who continually update and peer-review the specification.

The first edition of the D-Book was written in 1996 when the current UK standard for terrestrial broadcasting (DVB-T) was new and untried. Early editions of the D-Book enabled the publication of the European digital TV specification: the E-Book.

In March 2009, the DTG published the 6th edition of the D-Book—enabling the launch of an initial three free-to-air HD channels on Freeview by late 2009, as well as the introduction of a broadband return path which has the potential to be used for streaming on-demand video content such as BBC iPlayer, ITV Player and 4oD. It also introduced DVB-T2, the new modulation scheme that is being used in the UK to deliver these services.

In March 2011 the DTG published D-Book 7, the detailed interoperability specification for digital terrestrial television with extended Connected TV functionality. D-Book 7 provides an industry-agreed baseline specification for Connected TV products and services that Sky, Virgin Media, YouView and others can build on for trademark requirements to support their services.

The DTG's test centre: DTG Testing tests digital TV products applying for the Digital Switchover Certification Mark (the 'digital tick'), Freeview, Freeview + and Freeview HD logos against the D-Book standard. Any manufacturer wishing to use the Freeview HD logo on a product must pass the required DTG Testing Freeview HD tests.

Since the DTG was established over a decade ago, the Group has worked closely with our members to adapt international standards such as DVB-T and DVB-T2 to create an interoperable UK digital TV platform that consumers can rely on.

The DTG currently has liaisons with international standardisation bodies including DECE (Ultraviolet), ETSI, HbbTV, and the Open IPTV Forum (OIPF). The DTG has incorporated parts of these standards into D-Book 7 and adapted them to make them work for the UK market. Extensions have now been fed back to the standardisation bodies to enable the next generation of standards across Europe.

The DTG continues to allow Digital Europe to use areas of D-Book copyright under licence to encourage international harmonisation.

Following the publication of D-Book 7, the Group is now finalising the test and conformance regime for Connected TV products and services and supporting the development of next generation technologies such as LTE, second screen and home networking.