



**Australian  
Communications  
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# Explanatory Notes for HDTV Reporting Forms ACMA B70 and ACMA B72

National TV

## The form

The ACMA has approved a form for reporting HDTV quota material as an Excel spreadsheet with mandatory fields. The top level fields identify the form name, the dates for the reporting period, the 'deemed' licence number of the national broadcaster, the category of the service, the type of service and the coverage area of service.<sup>1</sup> Apart from the dates for the reporting period (the 'from' and 'to' columns), the information in these columns will remain the same for every report.

## What must be reported?

In accordance with the requirements of the regulations, the information about HDTV television programs must be broken down into monthly figures.<sup>2</sup> The form has the calendar months listed down the left hand column of the form. Each column across the page requires a number (duration) to be recorded against the relevant month. If there is no positive number to report, a zero must be recorded in the relevant column. The column headings have the following meanings.

- **'HDTV hours per month'** – the total number of hours of high definition television programs broadcast for that month.
- **'HDTV hours in prime time per month'** – the total number of hours of high definition television programs, broadcast between 6.00 pm to 10.30 pm on a day, for that month.<sup>3</sup>

## When must the broadcaster report?

A broadcaster must report to the ACMA every six months in a calendar year. The first six month report will generally be from 1 January to 30 June inclusive (the interim report). The interim report must be submitted to the ACMA within 30 days of the reporting period (i.e. 30 July).

Broadcasters must submit a consolidated report for the full 12 month calendar period (1 January to 31 December) annually (the consolidated report). The consolidated report must be submitted to the ACMA within 30 days of the reporting period (i.e. 30 January of the following year).

Where a broadcaster's 'phase-in day' (marking the commencement of the reporting period) commences other than on 1 January in a year, broadcasters may satisfy the annual quota for the remaining part of the calendar year on a pro-rata basis. If the 'phase-in day' is in the last 3 months of a calendar year, the broadcaster may satisfy the quota on a pro-rata basis over a period of up to 15 months.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In order to meet the requirements of the ACMA's automated information management system, national broadcasters will be allocated a number (equivalent to a unique licence number) for each coverage area.

<sup>2</sup> 'High definition television program' is defined in clause 37L(1) of Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

<sup>3</sup> 'Prime viewing hours' (called 'prime time' on the form) has the meaning given in clause 37M of Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act*.

<sup>4</sup> 'Phase-in day' is the last day of a 'Phase-in period' – explained in clause 37E(2A) & (2B) of Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act* (commercial) and clause 37F(2A) & (2B) of Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act* (national).