

# ETSI TS 126 140 V18.0.0 (2024-05)



**Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM);  
Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS);  
LTE;  
5G;  
Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS);  
Media formats and codecs  
(3GPP TS 26.140 version 18.0.0 Release 18)**



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**Reference**

RTS/TSGS-0426140vi00

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**Keywords**

5G,GSM,LTE,UMTS

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# Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

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- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the specification;

The 3GPP Multimedia messaging service (MMS) specification consists of three 3GPP TSs; 3GPP TS 22.140, 3GPP TS 23.140 and the present document. The TS 3GPP TS 22.140 [22] provides a set of requirements which shall be supported for the provision of non real-time multimedia messaging service, seen primarily from the subscriber's and service providers' points of view. The TS 23.140 [23] identifies the functional capabilities and information flows needed to support the MMS. The present document provides the details of media types, formats and codecs used by the MMS service.

The issue of codecs for MMS services has been addressed initially in TS 23.140, owned by the 3GPP T2 group. During the TSG-T WG2 group meeting in Edinburgh in September 2001, the TSG-T WG2 group sent a Liaison statement (S4-AHP040) to the 3GPP SA WG4 group, requesting that the responsibility for the specification of codecs and formats to be used in MMS services is transferred to SA WG4 group starting with Release 5.

After the SA WG4 group agreed to take over this responsibility, and the present document is the result of such commitment on Release 6 and subsequent releases.

For the sake of interoperability and alignment it is important there is no contradiction between the recommendations made in the present document and in the 26.511 specification [67].

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# 1 Scope

The present document specifies message bodies for MMS that include different media types, formats and codecs within the 3GPP system. The scope of the present document extends to codecs for speech, audio, video, still images, bitmap graphics, 3D scenes and assets, and other media in general, as well as scene description, multimedia integration and synchronization schemes.

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# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

**continuous media:** media with an inherent notion of time, in the present document speech, audio and video

**discrete media:** media that itself does not contain an element of time, in the present document all media not defined as continuous media

**scene description:** description of the spatial layout and temporal behaviour of a presentation, it can also contain hyperlinks

### 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply:

3GP	3GPP file format
AAC	Advanced Audio Coding
AVC	Advanced Video Coding
CC/PP	Composite Capability/Preference Profiles
CPB	Coding Picture Buffer
DIMS	Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene
DLS	Downloadable Sounds
DRM	Digital Rights Management
Enhanced aacPlus	MPEG-4 High Efficiency AAC plus MPEG-4 Parametric Stereo
EXIF	Exchangeable image file format
GIF	Graphics Interchange Format
glTF	Graphics Library Transmission Format
HDTV	High-definition television
HEVC	High Efficiency Video Coding
ITU-T	International Telecommunications Union - Telecommunications
JFIF	JPEG File Interchange Format
JPEG	Joint Picture Expert Group
MIDI	Musical Instrument Digital Interface
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
MM	Multimedia Message
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service
MPEG	Motion Picture Expert Group
MP4	MPEG-4 file format
PIM	Personal Information Manager
PSS	Packet-switched Streaming Service
SBR	Spectral Band Replication
SP-MIDI	Scalable Polyphony MIDI
SVG	Scalable Vector Graphics
UTF-8	Unicode Transformation Format (the 8-bit form)
VCL	Video Coding Layer
XMF	Extensible Music Format

## 3A MMS Message Body Formats

This specification defines message body formats for MMS.

MMS Message bodies conform to Internet Message Bodies as defined in RFC 2045.

MMS Message bodies may conform to MIME multipart format as defined in RFC 2046 [25].

The following multipart MIME type subtypes may be used:

- `mixed` as defined in RFC 2046
- `alternative` as defined in RFC 2046
- `parallel` as defined in RFC 2046
- `related` as defined in RFC 2387

## 4 Media Types

### 4.0 Introduction

In order to guarantee a minimum support and compatibility between multimedia messaging capable terminals, MMS User Agent supporting specific media types shall comply with the following selection of media formats.

Media Types supported in this specification are provided in Table 4.0-1

**Table 4.0-1 Media Types and Capabilities defined in TS 26.140**

Media Type in TS 26.140	Applicable capability(ies) as specified in TS 26.143 [64]	Supported Media subtype(s)	Definition(s)
<b>Text</b>	26143_TEXT_PLAIN 26143_TEXT_ENC_PLAIN	text/plain	Clause 4.1
<b>Speech</b>	26143_AUDIO_EVS 26143_AUDIO_AMR-WB 26143_AUDIO_AMR [ 26143_AUDIO_IVAS ] 26143_AUDIO_ENC_EVS 26143_AUDIO_ENC_AMR-WB 26143_AUDIO_ENC_AMR [ 26143_AUDIO_ENC_IVAS ]	audio/3gp	Clause 4.2
<b>Audio</b>	26143_AUDIO_XHE-AAC 26143_AUDIO_EAAC+ [ 26143_AUDIO_IVAS ] 26143_AUDIO_ENC_XHE-AAC 26143_AUDIO_ENC_EAAC+	Audio/mp4	Clause 4.3

	[ 26143_AUDIO_ENC_IVAS ]		
<b>Synthetic audio</b>	n/a	Audio/sp-midi	Clause 4.4
<b>Still Image</b>	26143_IMG_JPEG	image/jpeg	Clause 4.5
	26143_IMG_ENC_JPEG		
	26143_IMG_HEIC	image/heic	
<b>Bitmap graphics</b>	26143_IMG_GIF	image/gif	
	26143_IMG_PNG	image/png	
<b>Video</b>	26143_VIDEO_AVC-HD	video/mp4	
	26143_VIDEO_AVC-FullHD		
	26143_VIDEO_HEVC-HD		
	26143_VIDEO_HEVC-FullHD		
	26143_VIDEO_HEVC-UHD		
<b>Vector graphics</b>	image	image/svg+xml	
<b>Media synchronization and presentation format</b>	26143_PRESENTATION_HTML5	Text/html	
<b>Timed text</b>	26143_TT_3GPP	Text/mp4	
	26143_TT_IMSC11	Application/mp4	
<b>PIM</b>	n/a	Tbd	
<b>Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene</b>	n/a	Tbd	
<b>3d scenes and assets</b>	n/a	model/gltf+json	
		model/gltf-binary	

In order to guarantee a minimum support and compatibility between multimedia messaging capable terminals, MMS User Agent supporting specific media types shall comply with the following selection of media formats:

## 4.1 Text

Plain text. Any character encoding (charset) that contains a subset of the logical characters in Unicode [2] shall be used (e.g. US-ASCII [3], ISO-8859-1 [4], UTF-8 [5], Shift\_JIS, etc.).

Unrecognized subtypes of "text" shall be treated as subtype "plain" as long as the MIME implementation knows how to handle the charset. Any other unrecognized subtype and unrecognized charset shall be treated as "application/octet - stream".

Interoperability with SMS text type is according to [23].

## 4.2 Speech

NOTE: when Speech is supported, the following requirements imply support for narrow-band, wideband and super wideband operations, in alignment with MTSI TS 26.114 [70].

If Speech is supported, the AMR codec shall be supported for narrow-band speech [26][40][41][42].

The AMR wideband speech codec [27][43][44][45] shall be supported for wideband speech working at 16 kHz sampling frequency.

When using speech media type alone, AMR or AMR-WB data is stored according to the file format specified in [32] and EVS data is stored according to the storage specified in Clause A.2.6 of TS 26.445 [x3].

If Speech is supported, then **EVS** decoding capability shall be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.2; and the **EVS** encoding capabilities as defined in clause 5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] and the sender requirements in clause 6.2.4.3 of TS 26.117 [5] shall be supported.

Multi-channel sessions shall not be used when using AMR, AMR-WB and EVS codecs.

If Speech is supported, then **IVAS** decoding capability should be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.2; and the **IVAS** encoding capabilities as defined in clause 5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] and the sender requirements in clause 6.3.5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] should be supported.

NOTE: IVAS codec level setting is TBD.

## 4.3 Audio

If Audio is supported, then **eAAC+** decoding capability shall be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.2 and **eAAC+** encoding capability shall be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.3 and the sender requirements in clause 6.3.2.3 of TS 26.117.

If Audio is supported, then **xHE-AAC stereo** decoding capability should be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.2; and the **xHE-AAC stereo** encoding capabilities as defined in clause 5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] and the sender requirements in clause 6.4.2.3 of TS 26.117 [5] should be supported.

NOTE: xHE-AAC® is a registered trademark of Fraunhofer in Germany and other countries and is used with Fraunhofer's permission.

If Audio is supported, then **IVAS** decoding capability should be supported as defined in 3GPP TS 26.117 [68] clause 5.2; and the **IVAS** encoding capabilities as defined in clause 5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] and the sender requirements in clause 6.3.5.3 of TS 26.117 [5] should be supported.

NOTE: IVAS codec level setting is TBD.

## 4.4 Synthetic audio

If synthetic audio is supported, the Scalable Polyphony MIDI (SP-MIDI) content format defined in Scalable Polyphony MIDI Specification [28] and the device requirements defined in Scalable Polyphony MIDI Device 5-to-24 Note Profile for 3GPP [29] may be supported.

SP-MIDI content is delivered in the structure specified in Standard MIDI Files 1.0 [31], either in format 0 or format 1.

In addition the Mobile DLS instrument format defined in [38] and the Mobile XMF content format defined in [39] may be supported.

An MMS client supporting Mobile DLS may meet the minimum device requirements defined in [38] in section 1.3 and the requirements for the common part of the synthesizer voice as defined in [29] in sections 1.2.1.2. If Mobile DLS is supported, wavetables encoded with the G.711 A-law codec (wFormatTag value 0x0006, as defined in [38]) may also be supported. The optional group of processing blocks as defined in [39] may be supported. Mobile DLS resources are delivered either in the file format defined in [38], or within Mobile XMF as defined in [39]. For Mobile DLS files delivered outside of Mobile XMF, the loading application should unload Mobile DLS instruments so that the sound bank required by the SP-MIDI profile [29] is not persistently altered by temporary loadings of Mobile DLS files.

Content that pairs Mobile DLS and SP-MIDI resources is delivered in the structure specified in Mobile XMF [39]. As defined in [39], a Mobile XMF file shall contain one SP-MIDI SMF file and no more than one Mobile DLS file. MMS clients supporting Mobile XMF must not support any other resource types in the Mobile XMF file. Media handling behaviours for the SP-MIDI SMF and Mobile DLS resources contained within Mobile XMF are defined in [39].

## 4.5 Still Image and Bitmap graphics

If still images are supported, ISO/IEC JPEG [8] together with JFIF [9] shall be supported. The support for ISO/IEC JPEG only apply to the following two modes:

- mandatory: baseline DCT, non-differential, Huffman coding, as defined in table B.1, symbol 'SOF0' in [8];
- optional: progressive DCT, non-differential, Huffman coding, as defined in table B.1, symbol 'SOF2' [8].

For JPEG baseline DCT, EXIF compressed image file format should also be supported, as defined in [54]. In that case there is no requirement for the MMS client to interpret or present the EXIF parameters recorded in the file.

If still images are supported, HEIF should be supported which consists in conforming to:

- the 'heic' brand as defined in ISO/IEC 23008-12 [69],
- the 'MiHB' brand as defined in ISO/IEC 23000-22:2019 [71], and
- the contained elementary bitstream conforming to H.265 (HEVC) Main Profile, Main Tier, Level 5.1 [62] bitstreams have `general_progressive_source_flag` equal to 1, `general_interlaced_source_flag` equal to 0, `general_non_packed_constraint_flag` equal to 1, and `general_frame_only_constraint_flag` equal to 1.
- signalled with `image/heic, profile="heic,MiHB" itemTypes="hvc1.1.2.L153.B0"` or an equivalently compatible media type as defined in [71].

If bitmap graphics is supported, the following bitmap graphics formats should be supported:

- GIF87a [15];
- GIF89a, [16];
- PNG, [17].

## 4.6 Void

## 4.7 Video

If video is supported by the MMS client, the following applies:

- Image ratios of 16:9 and 9:16 shall be supported. Other image formats should be supported.
- the `26143_VIDEO_AVC-HD` capability as defined in clause 5.6.1 of TS 26.143 [67] shall be supported and the capability `26143_VIDEO_ENC_AVC-HD` as defined in clause 5.6.2 of TS 26.143 [67] may be supported.
- the `26143_VIDEO_HEVC-HD` capability as defined in clause 5.6.1 of TS 26.143 [67] should be supported and the capability `26143_VIDEO_ENC_HEVC-HD` as defined in clause 5.6.2 of TS 26.143 [67] may be supported.

If the reception of HD-HDR video is supported by the MMS client, then the following applies:

- the `26143_VIDEO_AVC-FullHD` capability as defined in clause 5.6.1 of TS 26.143 [67] shall be supported and the capability `26143_VIDEO_ENC_AVC-FullHD` as defined in clause 5.6.2 of TS 26.143 [67] may be supported.
- the `26143_VIDEO_HEVC-FullHD` capability as defined in clause 5.6.1 of TS 26.143 [67] shall be supported and the capability `26143_VIDEO_ENC_HEVC-FullHD` as defined in clause 5.6.2 of TS 26.143 [67] shall be supported.

- the 26143\_VIDEO\_HEVC-UHD capability as defined in clause 5.6.1 of TS 26.143 [67] should be supported and the capability 26143\_VIDEO\_ENC\_HEVC-UHD as defined in clause 5.6.2 of TS 26.143 [67] may be supported.

If stereoscopic 3D video is supported, ITU-T Recommendation H.264 / MPEG-4 (Part 10) AVC [52] Stereo High Profile (SHP) Level 3.1 with `frame_mbs_only_flag=1` should be supported. When an H.264 (AVC) SHP sub-bitstream containing the base view only complies with Level 1.3 or below, it should be constrained as follows: the value of the `profile_idc` should be equal to 66 and the value of the `constraint_set1_flag` should be equal to 1 in all active sequence parameter sets, i.e. the H.264 (AVC) Constrained Baseline Profile should be indicated to be used for the base view.

NOTE: When the base view sub-bitstream of the MM complies with H.264 (AVC) CPB Level 1.3 or below, the base view of an MM can be played back by any MMS (Release 11) client supporting video, or the MM can be modified without re-encoding to an MM including 2D video to be played back in H.264 (AVC) CPB compatible MMS clients.

There are no requirements on output timing conformance of H.264 (AVC) decoding (Annex C of [52]) or H.265 (HEVC) decoding (Annex C of [62]).

## 4.8 Vector graphics

If 2D vector graphics is supported, Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) Tiny 1.2 [20][21] and ECMAScript [55] may be supported.

NOTE 1: The compression format for SVG content is GZIP [35], in accordance with the SVG specification [20].

NOTE 2: Only media formats supported by MMS, as specified in clause 4 of this specification, shall be used. MMS clients do not support the Ogg Vorbis format.

NOTE 3: Content creators of SVG Tiny 1.2 for MMS clients are strongly recommended to follow the content creation guidelines provided for PSS clients in Annex L of [14].

NOTE 4: If SVG Tiny 1.2 will not be published within a reasonable timeframe, the decision to adopt SVG Tiny 1.2 in favour of SVG Tiny 1.1 may be reconsidered.

## 4.9 File Format for video and associated speech/audio media types

To ensure interoperability for the transport of video and associated speech/audio and timed text in an MM, the 3GPP file format with Basic profile shall be supported.

The usage of the 3GPP file format shall follow the technical specifications and the implementation guidelines specified in TS 26.233 [33]:

- For the AMR encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements of the codec entry 'samr' as defined in TS 26.244 [26].
- For the AMR-WB encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements of the codec entry 'sawb' as defined in TS 26.244 [26].
- For the EVS encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements of the codec entry 'sevs' as defined in TS 26.244 [26].
- For the EAAC+ encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements of the codec entry 'mp4a.40.5' as defined in TS 26.244 [26].
- For the xHE-AAC encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements of the codec entry 'mp4a.40.29' as defined in TS 26.244 [26].
- For video encoded content, the ISO BMFF track shall conform with the requirements corresponding to the capability as indicated in TS 26.143 [67] clause 5.6.

NOTE: When using speech media type alone, AMR or AMR-WB data is stored according to the file format specified in [32].

## 4.10 Media synchronization and presentation format

MMS clients and servers that support HTML shall support the 3GPP HTML5 profile as defined in [63]. MMS servers should support translation from other scene description formats, such as SMIL [24] and XHTML Mobile Profile [30] to HTML5. The MMS client that supports HTML shall include the HTML5 MIME type "text/html" as part of the User Agent header field in the request sent to the server.

The MMS Relay/Server shall not accept an MMS message using HTML5 presentation unless it supports HTML5 presentation format.

A 3D scene as described in clause 4.15 may be used as the presentation format for the multimedia message. In that case, the glTF 2.0 document or the GLB file shall be carried as the first MIME part of the multi-part MIME message.

## 4.11 Timed text and subtitles

If timed text is supported, MMS clients shall support the 26143\_TT\_3GPP and 26143\_ENC\_TT\_3GPP capabilities as defined in TS 26.143 [67].

## 4.12 Digital Rights Management

If Rights Management is supported, OMA Digital Rights Management (DRM) 1.0 [56][57][58] shall be supported.

NOTE: alignment with TS 26.511 clause 5.2.7.6 Encrypted content is FFS.

## 4.13 PIM

If Personal Data Interchange is supported this shall be done according to the OMA vObject Minimum Interoperability Profile [59].

## 4.14 Dynamic and Interactive Multimedia Scene

If dynamic and interactive multimedia scene is supported, MMS clients and servers shall support 3GPP TS 26.142 [61].

## 4.15 3D scenes and assets

If 3D scenes and assets are supported, the 26143\_SCENE\_GLTF20 capability and the 26143\_SCENE\_GLTF20\_GLB capability as defined in clause 5.8 of TS 26.143 [64] shall be supported assuming either a single body part or a multipart/related body part as defined in clause 3A.

If 3D AR scenes and assets are supported, the 26143\_SCENE\_GLTF20\_AR and the 26143\_SCENE\_GLTF20\_GLB\_AR capability as defined in clause 5.8 of TS 26.143 [64] shall be supported assuming either a single body part or a multipart/related body part as defined in clause 3A.

## Annex A (informative): Change history

Change history							
Date	TSG #	TSG Doc.	CR	Rev	Subject/Comment	Old	New
2002-03	15	SP-020075			Version 2.0.0 presented for approval	2.0.0	5.0.0
2002-06	16	SP-020224	001		Correcting the reference to AMR and AMR-WB RTP payload	5.0.0	5.1.0
2002-12	18	SP-020691	002		Code points for H.263	5.1.0	5.2.0
2002-12	18	SP-020691	003	1	File Format name change from MP4 to 3GP	5.1.0	5.2.0
2004-09	25	SP-040641	006	2	Introduction of Extended AMR-WB and Enhanced aacPlus into MMS service	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-09	25	SP-040650	007	1	Update of MMS codecs and formats with Release 6 functionality	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-09	25	SP-040655	008	1	Update of MMS codecs and formats with H.264	5.2.0	6.0.0
2004-12	26	SP-040838	009	1	Support for EXIF in MMS	6.0.0	6.1.0
2004-12	26	SP-040838	010		Adoption of SVG Tiny 1.2 for MMS	6.0.0	6.1.0
2005-12	27	SP-050175	011	2	Introduction of PIM and DRM	6.1.0	6.2.0
2006-03	31	SP-060009	0012	1	Addition of a reference to TR 26.936	6.2.0	6.3.0
2006-09	33	SP-060600	0013		Editorial correction of references	6.3.0	7.0.0
2007-06	36	SP-070319	0014	2	Inclusion of DIMS in MMS	7.0.0	7.1.0
2008-12	42				Version for Release 8	7.1.0	8.0.0
2009-12	46				Version for Release 9	8.0.0	9.0.0
2011-03	51				Version for Release 10	9.0.0	10.0.0
2012-03	55	SP-120026	0016	4	On MMS video enhancements	10.0.0	11.0.0
2012-09	57	SP-120509	0017	2	Inclusion of MVC support for MMS	11.0.0	11.1.0
2014-03	63	SP-140009	0018		HEVC support	11.1.0	12.0.0
2015-12	70	SP-150653	0019	5	HTML5 as Presentation Layer for MMS	12.0.0	13.0.0

Change history								
Date	Meeting	TDoc	CR	Rev	Cat	Subject/Comment	New version	
2017-03	75					Version for Release 14	14.0.0	
2018-06	80					Version for Release 15	15.0.0	
2020-07	-	-	-	-	-	Update to Rel-16 version (MCC)	<b>16.0.0</b>	
2020-09	SA#89-e	SP-200804	0020	-	C	Removing H.263 from MMS	<b>16.1.0</b>	
2022-04	-	-	-	-	-	Update to Rel-17 version (MCC)	<b>17.0.0</b>	
2023-03	SA#103	SP-240047	0021	8	B	CR 26.140-0021r7 Updates to codecs and formats (Rel-18)	<b>18.0.0</b>	



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# History

<b>Document history</b>		
V18.0.0	May 2024	Publication