

# THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN



## TECHNICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES THIRD INTERIM REPORT APRIL 2006

#### Disclaimer

Nothing in this Report is to be taken as recommending any particular manufacturer, equipment, service, or supplier in preference to any other.

#### Acknowledgments

Many people have contributed personally to the work of the Committee in producing this report. Please refer to the Sources list in Annex A.

Version	Date	Description
0.0	19/03/2006	Part-report for rapid comment
1.0	07/04/2006	Complete draft for comment by contributors
1.1	14/04/2006	Contributors' comments included for PAGB Exec
1.1.1	15/5/2006	Subsection numbering corrected in 10.5, 10.6
1.1.2	9/12/2006	Typos corrected

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# 1. SUMMARY

## 1.1 *Background*

The Alliance Executive established a Technical Standards Committee in April 2005, with the remit of reviewing information concerning Projected Digital Images (PDI). The Committee has proceeded by searching a large number of websites, and by corresponding with many individuals with expertise in PDI. Short reports were received by the Executive in October 2005, and again in February 2006. At these times, it was noted that:

- PDI is a new technology for most photographers.
- By corresponding with a sufficient range of experts, it is unlikely that any major issue will have remained unexplored by the Committee.
- By reviewing such a large body of experience, the benefit of the Committee's work is that all other Federations and Clubs need not repeat the same searches.
- By recording and, if approved by the Executive, publishing the results of the Committee's work, the knowledge base of PDI will be widened, and common practice will start to converge.
- Rapid technology change in PDI continues. No single set of recommendations could ever remain current. A statement of some basic principles may be more long-lasting.
- Recommendations by the Executive would not be binding on member Federations or their Clubs.
- The Alliance will need to have its own choice of standards for any future PDI event which it chooses to run.

## 1.2 *Report Format*

This is the Third Interim Report, April 2006, to the Alliance Executive. The Executive is requested to receive this report in full, while a short version (Title, Contents and Summary) will also be circulated and available.

The full report is a record, in some technical detail, of the information researched by the Committee. The short form of the report includes the Contents list of the full report and this Summary, which omits technical detail.

## 1.3 *Review of Chapters*

**Chapter 1 (Summary)** is this Chapter.

**Chapter 2 (Introduction)** describes the establishment of the Technical Standards Committee, its methods of work, and progress to date.

**Chapter 3 (Standards)** describes the reason for having standards; their scope and use; and why the Alliance could not produce formal standards for PDI which could be binding on member Federations.

**Chapter 4 (Principles of Projection)** compares and contrasts the principles of slide projection and of PDI. Slide use and projection have become a cultural norm. PDI has important differences from slide projection. In particular, a PDI system imposes a lot of data processing on the image data files submitted by authors, and this processing needs to be understood and minimised.

**Chapter 5 (Digital Projectors - Types)** describes the market for, and the main types of digital projector. Each has its adherents, and there is no obvious best type. There are many manufacturers and suppliers; and the model ranges change rapidly.

**Chapter 6 (Digital Projectors - Common Features)** describes features common to all digital projectors, and gives some generic preferences.

**Chapter 7 (Computers to Drive Projectors)** challenges the idea that a laptop computer is always required to drive a projector. Alternatives are described, with generic preferences for graphics features.

**Chapter 8 (Computer/Projector Setup)** describes the basic layout requirements, and various methods for colour setup of a projector and its driver computer.

**Chapter 9 (Image Display & Event Workflow)** lists a variety of display software and of event workflow software. (These lists are incomplete.) A typical slide event workflow can be replicated in digital, although users must realise that this involves increased skill and preparation time. In turn, the chosen event workflow will lead to 'rules', in the sense that authors must cooperate in providing suitable data files.

**Chapter 10 (Data Files & Image Preparation)** describes the typical data file formats in use, their characteristics, and appropriate ways of preparing image files for submission to PDI events. All images require additional information about the author's images (metadata), whether electronic or simply an entry form.

**Annex A (Sources)** lists the main sources reviewed to prepare this report. Some additional sources are listed in individual Chapters.

**Annex B (Glossary)** provides a list of technical terms used in the report, or otherwise relevant to PDI.

## **1.4 Next Steps**

This Third Interim Report is a stage, and not the end of the processes required. As advised to the Executive in February 2006, it is necessary to reach this stage of recording the full range of facts and opinions recovered by, and contributed to the Committee. This is our firm foundation.

Having made this full record, it would be possible to return in the future to any individual section, and see how technology change has affected the content. However, keeping all the information formally updated would detract from what is now required.

Many correspondents have said that typical Clubs and their members are sufficiently confused by PDI that any type of technical report could not help them. They now need some simple guidance, maybe with checklists of actions, and with content which will not be out of date immediately. With our firm foundation, the Executive is now in a strong position to commission and direct such developments.

The Executive is invited to comment, and to instruct the Technical Standards Committee accordingly.