



## PRSS Loudness Standard

The following are parameters for the PRSS Loudness Standard that contributing producers are required to adhere to for audio program material:

- **Target Loudness:** Integrated loudness shall be -24 LUFS per program segment with a variance of  $\pm 2$  LU. This will apply to speech and/or music elements.
- **Maximum Peak Level:** Shall be no higher than -3 dBFS for sample peaks or shall be no higher than -2 dBTP for True Peaks

### Abstract

Loudness technology uses perception-based measurement and can be a helpful tool for producing at a consistent level from program to program as perceived by the listener. For this standard, measurements will be made with tools that are compliant with International Telecommunications Union ITU-R BS.1770-3. Tools conforming to this specification are readily available for creating file based and live streaming content and should be implemented prior to delivery.

Two different types of peak levels are specified because tools that can read true peaks for streaming content at this time are expensive, and timely compliance with this standard may be difficult for some content providers. Because sample peak meters are in wide use, we are specifying a conservative value of -3 dBFS to allow producers to continue their use until such time that True Peak reading instruments are readily available and easily obtainable.

This loudness recommendation aligns closely with the previous PRSS recommendation of an alignment level of 0 VU equal to -20 dBFS with peaks no higher than -3 dBFS as measured using traditional PPM and VU meters. The desired maximum range between peak and average levels for the PRSS is 12 dB. It also adheres closely with the Public Broadcasting System Technical Operating Standard published in November, 2014 which promulgates their standard for loudness measurement.

Adhering to this loudness standard alone is not a substitute for good production practices. Merely keeping levels within PRSS-recommended limits does not guarantee consistent integration with other programs. Managing program levels is an ongoing discussion of tools and best practices; detailed recommendations are well beyond the scope of this submission standard.