



IEC 62106-6

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range  
from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz –  
Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the  
public domain**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	2
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms, definitions, abbreviated terms and conventions.....	9
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	9
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	9
3.3 Notation and conventions.....	9
4 ODAs in the public domain .....	9
4.1 ODAs in the <del>37-bit ODA application</del> group type A structure.....	9
4.1.1 Traffic Message Channel (TMC) .....	9
4.1.2 Other public ODAs.....	9
4.2 ODAs in the group type C structure for the upper data-streams 1, 2 and 3.....	9
5 Protocol to stream RDS on bearers different from FM (NFM) .....	9
Annex A (normative) Coding of RadioText Plus (RT+) tagging information for RadioText in group type 2A/B .....	10
A.1 General.....	10
A.2 Terms used.....	10
A.3 RT+ tag.....	11
A.4 RT+ information elements and data model .....	12
A.4.1 General .....	12
A.4.2 List of RT content types.....	12
A.4.3 Structures of RT+ messages.....	13
A.4.4 Receiver data model.....	14
A.5 RT+ coding for RT .....	15
A.5.1 General .....	15
A.5.2 RT+ identification (group type 3A) .....	16
A.5.3 Coding of the RT+ tag .....	17
A.5.4 Clearing of RT+ messages.....	18
A.6 Broadcasting conventions .....	19
A.7 Receiving conventions .....	22
A.8 Marking.....	22
Annex B (normative) Coding of RadioText Plus(RT+) tagging information for RadioText in the eRT ODA of Annex C .....	23
Annex C (normative) Coding of enhanced RadioText (eRT) .....	24
C.1 General.....	24
C.2 Coding eRT in ODA groups.....	24
C.2.1 General .....	24
C.2.2 eRT identification (Group type 3A) and coding of the text string.....	24
C.2.3 Coding of the eRT text string .....	25
C.2.4 UTF-8 decoding problems when used with RT+ .....	26
C.3 Broadcasting conventions .....	26
C.4 Receiving conventions .....	26
C.5 Marking.....	26
Annex D (normative) Coding of AF lists in the frequency range 64,1 MHz to 107,9 MHz: ODA-AF .....	27

D.1	Objective to be achieved .....	27
D.2	Description of the coding process .....	27
D.2.1	ODA-AF identification (group type 3A) .....	27
D.2.2	AF coding in the application group .....	28
D.2.3	AF method A.....	30
D.2.4	AF method B.....	30
D.2.5	Convention for identification of the AF method used .....	32
Annex E (normative)	Station logo transmission coded in group type C .....	33
E.1	Objective to be achieved .....	33
E.2	Application identification code of this ODA .....	33
E.3	Station logo requirements .....	33
E.3.1	File type .....	33
E.3.2	Logo resolution, file ID, file version and file size .....	33
E.3.3	File transport .....	34
E.3.4	Display mode.....	34
E.3.5	Link of the logo with the PI code .....	34
Annex F (normative)	ODA app – Slideshow transmission coded in C-group type .....	35
F.1	Objectives to be achieved .....	35
F.2	Application identification code of this ODA .....	35
F.3	Image requirements .....	35
F.3.1	File type .....	35
F.3.2	Resolution and file size.....	35
F.4	Text character coding .....	36
F.5	Slide structure and file elements used.....	36
F.6	Slide carousel used by the broadcaster, file updating and file transmission.....	38
F.7	File transport .....	38
F.7.1	General .....	38
F.7.2	Identification of the files.....	38
F.8	Directory trigger group .....	39
F.8.1	Function .....	39
F.8.2	Specification.....	39
F.9	Receiver display mode options.....	40
Annex G (normative)	Internet connection options coded in C-group type.....	41
G.1	Objective to be achieved.....	41
G.2	Application identification code of this ODA.....	41
G.3	Choice of the ODA channel number .....	41
G.4	Coding of IP address with port number .....	41
G.4.1	General .....	41
G.4.2	IPv4 coding .....	41
G.4.3	IPv6 coding .....	42
G.4.4	IP address and port number coded as URL text .....	43
Annex H (normative)	ODA tool – RDS data mode NFM .....	44
H.1	Objective to be achieved.....	44
H.2	Specification of the NFM protocol .....	44
Bibliography	.....	46

Figure A.1 – Example 1: RT+ information of the category 'Item' (see Table A.2) will be attached to the programme elements Item 1 and Item 2 .....

Figure A.2 – Example 2: RT+ information of the category 'Item' will be attached to the programme elements Item 1 and Item 2, but not to the programme element News .....	15
Figure A.3 – Example 3: RT+ information of the category 'Item' will be attached only to the programme element Item 1, but not to the programme element Talk .....	15
Figure A.4 – Bit allocation for group 3A (message bits and AID) .....	16
Figure A.5 – Coding of the message bits of the application group .....	17
Figure C.1 – Bit allocation for group 3A (message bits and AID) .....	24
Figure C.2 – Coding of the message bits of the application group type A .....	25
Figure D.1 – New ODA-AF – group type 3A .....	27
Figure D.2 – New ODA-AF application group – group type A.....	28
Figure F.1 – Components used in the slideshow .....	36
Figure F.2 – Structure of the [PREVIEW] text file .....	37
Figure F.3 – Structure of the [URLS] text file.....	37
Figure F.4 – Directory trigger group .....	39
Figure G.1 – Coding of IPv4 address with port number .....	42
Figure G.2 – URL text coding to connect to an application data server.....	43
Figure H.1 – NFM message format.....	44
Table A.1 – RT+ information elements for RT .....	10
Table A.2 – Code list and 'RT+ class' description of RT content types .....	19
Table B.1 – RT+ information elements for eRT.....	23
Table C.1 – eRT information elements .....	24
Table D.1 – 9-bit AF code table for VHF Band I (64,0 MHz to 88,0 MHz).....	28
Table D.2 – 9-bit AF code table for VHF Band II (87,5 MHz to 108 MHz).....	28
Table D.3 – 9-bit special meanings code table .....	29
Table D.4 – LF/MF code table – ITU regions 1 and 3 (9 kHz spacing) .....	29
Table D.5 – MF code table – ITU region 2 (10 kHz spacing).....	29
Table E.1 – File ID station logo options.....	33
Table F.1 – Start position of each file element within [PREVIEW].....	37
Table F.2 – Start position of each file element within [URL] .....	38
Table F.3 – File numbering system used.....	39
Table F.4 – Parameters used in the directory trigger group.....	40
Table G.1 – Address type code .....	42
Table G.2 – Link ID code of IP connection .....	42

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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**RADIO DATA SYSTEM (RDS) – VHF/FM SOUND BROADCASTING  
IN THE FREQUENCY RANGE FROM 64,0 MHz TO 108,0 MHz –****Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications  
for Open Data Applications in the public domain**

## FOREWORD

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**This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition IEC 62106-6:2018. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.**

IEC 62106-6 has been prepared by technical area 1: Terminals for audio, video and data services and contents, of IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Annex E: coding of station logo
- b) Annex F: coding of slideshow
- c) Annex G: coding of internet connection.
- d) Annex H: ODA tool – RDS data stream NFM

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
100/3807/CDV	100/3871/RVC

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62106 series, published under the general title *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz*, can be found on the IEC website.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under [webstore.iec.ch](http://webstore.iec.ch) in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

**IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-1980s a fascinating development has taken place. Most of the multimedia applications and standards have been created or redefined significantly. Hardware has become extremely powerful with dedicated software and middleware. In the mid-1980s, Internet as well as its protocols did not exist. Navigation systems became affordable in the late 1990s, and a full range of attractive smartphones now exist. The computing power of all these new products is comparable with that of the mainframe installations in that era.

Listener expectations have grown faster than the technology. Visual experience is now very important, like the Internet look and feel. Scrolling text or delivering just audio is nowadays perceived as insufficient for FM radio, specifically for smartphone users. New types of radio receivers with added value features are therefore required. RDS has so far proven to be very successful.

FM radio with RDS is an analogue-digital hybrid system, which is still a valid data transmission technology and only the applications need adaptation. Now the time has come to solve the only disadvantage, the lack of sufficient data capacity. With RDS2, the need to increase the data capacity can be fulfilled.

RDS was introduced in the early 1980s. During the introductory phase in Europe, the car industry became very involved and that was the start of an extremely successful roll-out. Shortly afterwards, RDS (RBDS) was launched in the USA.

The RDS Forum has investigated a solution to the issue of limited data capacity. For RDS2, both sidebands around the RDS 57 kHz subcarrier can be repeated a few times, up to three, centred on additional subcarriers higher up in the FM multiplex while still remaining compatible with the ITU Recommendations.

The core elements of RDS2 are the additional subcarriers, which will enable a significant increase of RDS data capacity to be achieved, and then only new additional data applications will have to be created, using the RDS-ODA feature, which has been part of the RDS standard IEC 62106 for many years.

In order to update IEC 62106:2015 to the specifications of RDS2, IEC 62106 has been restructured as follows:

Part 1: Modulation characteristics and baseband coding

Part 2: RDS message format, coding and definition of RDS features

Part 3: Usage and registration of Open Data Applications ODAs

Part 4: Registered code tables

Part 5: Marking of RDS and RDS2 devices

Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain

~~The following future parts are planned:~~

Part ~~7~~9: RBDS – RDS variant used in North America

Part ~~8~~10: Universal Encoder Communication Protocol UECP

NOTE 1 The Part numbers 7 and 8 will not be used.

The original specifications of the RDS system have been maintained and the extra functionalities of RDS2 have been added.

~~Obsolete or unused functions from the original RDS standard IEC 62106:2015 have been deleted.~~

# RADIO DATA SYSTEM (RDS) – VHF/FM SOUND BROADCASTING IN THE FREQUENCY RANGE FROM 64,0 MHz TO 108,0 MHz –

## Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain

### 1 Scope

This part of IEC 62106 contains the technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain. This document is maintained by the RDS Forum Office. The RDS Forum Office applies an easy procedure for registering new Open Data Applications, to ensure that they can be used without the need to change the RDS standard. The ODA feature permits defining new applications that can be decoded on a receiver. The receiver needs to the adequate software handler for the specific AID, which identifies the application. Receivers that have not implemented the software handler needed for decoding are not affected by ODA data received for any of the applications already defined and specified.

The procedure for registering a new ODA is described in IEC 62106-3.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

~~IEC 62106 (all parts), Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz~~

IEC 62106-1, Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 1: Modulation characteristics and baseband coding

IEC 62106-2:2021, Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 2: Message format: coding and definition of RDS features

IEC 62106-3, Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 3: Usage and registration of Open Data Applications (ODAs)

IEC 62106-4, Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 4: Registered code tables

ISO/IEC 10646, Information technology – Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)

ISO 14819 (all parts), Intelligent transport systems – Traffic and travel information messages via traffic message coding

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**Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz –  
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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
2 Normative references .....	8
3 Terms, definitions, abbreviated terms and conventions .....	9
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	9
3.2 Abbreviated terms.....	9
3.3 Notation and conventions.....	9
4 ODAs in the public domain .....	9
4.1 ODAs in the group type A structure.....	9
4.1.1 Traffic Message Channel (TMC) .....	9
4.1.2 Other public ODAs.....	9
4.2 ODAs in the group type C structure for the upper data-streams 1, 2 and 3 .....	9
5 Protocol to stream RDS on bearers different from FM (NFM) .....	9
Annex A (normative) Coding of RadioText Plus (RT+) tagging information for RadioText in group type 2A/B .....	10
A.1 General.....	10
A.2 Terms used.....	10
A.3 RT+ tag.....	11
A.4 RT+ information elements and data model .....	12
A.4.1 General .....	12
A.4.2 List of RT content types .....	12
A.4.3 Structures of RT+ messages.....	13
A.4.4 Receiver data model.....	14
A.5 RT+ coding for RT .....	15
A.5.1 General .....	15
A.5.2 RT+ identification (group type 3A) .....	16
A.5.3 Coding of the RT+ tag .....	17
A.5.4 Clearing of RT+ messages.....	18
A.6 Broadcasting conventions .....	22
A.7 Receiving conventions .....	22
A.8 Marking.....	22
Annex B (normative) Coding of RadioText Plus(RT+) tagging information for RadioText in the eRT ODA of Annex C .....	23
Annex C (normative) Coding of enhanced RadioText (eRT) .....	24
C.1 General.....	24
C.2 Coding eRT in ODA groups.....	24
C.2.1 General .....	24
C.2.2 eRT identification (Group type 3A) and coding of the text string.....	24
C.2.3 Coding of the eRT text string .....	25
C.2.4 UTF-8 decoding problems when used with RT+ .....	26
C.3 Broadcasting conventions .....	26
C.4 Receiving conventions .....	26
C.5 Marking.....	26
Annex D (normative) Coding of AF lists in the frequency range 64,1 MHz to 107,9 MHz: ODA-AF .....	27

D.1	Objective to be achieved .....	27
D.2	Description of the coding process .....	27
D.2.1	ODA-AF identification (group type 3A) .....	27
D.2.2	AF coding in the application group .....	28
D.2.3	AF method A.....	30
D.2.4	AF method B.....	30
D.2.5	Convention for identification of the AF method used .....	32
Annex E (normative)	Station logo transmission coded in group type C .....	33
E.1	Objective to be achieved .....	33
E.2	Application identification code of this ODA .....	33
E.3	Station logo requirements .....	33
E.3.1	File type .....	33
E.3.2	Logo resolution, file ID, file version and file size .....	33
E.3.3	File transport .....	34
E.3.4	Display mode.....	34
E.3.5	Link of the logo with the PI code .....	34
Annex F (normative)	ODA app – Slideshow transmission coded in C-group type.....	35
F.1	Objectives to be achieved .....	35
F.2	Application identification code of this ODA .....	35
F.3	Image requirements .....	35
F.3.1	File type .....	35
F.3.2	Resolution and file size.....	35
F.4	Text character coding .....	36
F.5	Slide structure and file elements used.....	36
F.6	Slide carousel used by the broadcaster, file updating and file transmission.....	38
F.7	File transport .....	38
F.7.1	General .....	38
F.7.2	Identification of the files.....	38
F.8	Directory trigger group .....	39
F.8.1	Function .....	39
F.8.2	Specification.....	39
F.9	Receiver display mode options.....	40
Annex G (normative)	Internet connection options coded in C-group type.....	41
G.1	Objective to be achieved.....	41
G.2	Application identification code of this ODA .....	41
G.3	Choice of the ODA channel number .....	41
G.4	Coding of IP address with port number .....	41
G.4.1	General .....	41
G.4.2	IPv4 coding .....	41
G.4.3	IPv6 coding .....	42
G.4.4	IP address and port number coded as URL text .....	43
Annex H (normative)	ODA tool – RDS data mode NFM .....	44
H.1	Objective to be achieved.....	44
H.2	Specification of the NFM protocol .....	44
Bibliography	.....	46

Figure A.1 – Example 1: RT+ information of the category 'Item' (see Table A.2) will be attached to the programme elements Item 1 and Item 2 .....

Figure A.2 – Example 2: RT+ information of the category 'Item' will be attached to the programme elements Item 1 and Item 2, but not to the programme element News .....	15
Figure A.3 – Example 3: RT+ information of the category 'Item' will be attached only to the programme element Item 1, but not to the programme element Talk .....	15
Figure A.4 – Bit allocation for group 3A (message bits and AID) .....	16
Figure A.5 – Coding of the message bits of the application group .....	17
Figure C.1 – Bit allocation for group 3A (message bits and AID) .....	24
Figure C.2 – Coding of the message bits of the application group type A .....	25
Figure D.1 – New ODA-AF – group type 3A .....	27
Figure D.2 – New ODA-AF application group – group type A.....	28
Figure F.1 – Components used in the slideshow .....	36
Figure F.2 – Structure of the [PREVIEW] text file .....	37
Figure F.3 – Structure of the [URLS] text file.....	37
Figure F.4 – Directory trigger group .....	39
Figure G.1 – Coding of IPv4 address with port number .....	42
Figure G.2 – URL text coding to connect to an application data server.....	43
Figure H.1 – NFM message format.....	44
Table A.1 – RT+ information elements for RT .....	10
Table A.2 – Code list and 'RT+ class' description of RT content types .....	19
Table B.1 – RT+ information elements for eRT.....	23
Table C.1 – eRT information elements .....	24
Table D.1 – 9-bit AF code table for VHF Band I (64,0 MHz to 88,0 MHz).....	28
Table D.2 – 9-bit AF code table for VHF Band II (87,5 MHz to 108 MHz).....	28
Table D.3 – 9-bit special meanings code table .....	29
Table D.4 – LF/MF code table – ITU regions 1 and 3 (9 kHz spacing) .....	29
Table D.5 – MF code table – ITU region 2 (10 kHz spacing).....	29
Table E.1 – File ID station logo options.....	33
Table F.1 – Start position of each file element within [PREVIEW].....	37
Table F.2 – Start position of each file element within [URL] .....	38
Table F.3 – File numbering system used.....	39
Table F.4 – Parameters used in the directory trigger group.....	40
Table G.1 – Address type code .....	42
Table G.2 – Link ID code of IP connection .....	42

## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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## FOREWORD

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IEC 62106-6 has been prepared by technical area 1: Terminals for audio, video and data services and contents, of IEC technical committee 100: Audio, video and multimedia systems and equipment. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) Annex E: coding of station logo
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- c) Annex G: coding of internet connection.
- d) Annex H: ODA tool – RDS data stream NFM

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Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62106 series, published under the general title *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz*, can be found on the IEC website.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/publications](http://www.iec.ch/publications).

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- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

**IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-1980s a fascinating development has taken place. Most of the multimedia applications and standards have been created or redefined significantly. Hardware has become extremely powerful with dedicated software and middleware. In the mid-1980s, Internet as well as its protocols did not exist. Navigation systems became affordable in the late 1990s, and a full range of attractive smartphones now exist. The computing power of all these new products is comparable with that of the mainframe installations in that era.

Listener expectations have grown faster than the technology. Visual experience is now very important, like the Internet look and feel. Scrolling text or delivering just audio is nowadays perceived as insufficient for FM radio, specifically for smartphone users. New types of radio receivers with added value features are therefore required. RDS has so far proven to be very successful.

FM radio with RDS is an analogue-digital hybrid system, which is still a valid data transmission technology and only the applications need adaptation. Now the time has come to solve the only disadvantage, the lack of sufficient data capacity. With RDS2, the need to increase the data capacity can be fulfilled.

RDS was introduced in the early 1980s. During the introductory phase in Europe, the car industry became very involved and that was the start of an extremely successful roll-out. Shortly afterwards, RDS (RBDS) was launched in the USA.

The RDS Forum has investigated a solution to the issue of limited data capacity. For RDS2, both sidebands around the RDS 57 kHz subcarrier can be repeated a few times, up to three, centred on additional subcarriers higher up in the FM multiplex while still remaining compatible with the ITU Recommendations.

The core elements of RDS2 are the additional subcarriers, which will enable a significant increase of RDS data capacity to be achieved, and then only new additional data applications will have to be created, using the RDS-ODA feature, which has been part of the RDS standard IEC 62106 for many years.

In order to update IEC 62106:2015 to the specifications of RDS2, IEC 62106 has been restructured as follows:

Part 1: Modulation characteristics and baseband coding

Part 2: RDS message format, coding and definition of RDS features

Part 3: Usage and registration of Open Data Applications ODAs

Part 4: Registered code tables

Part 5: Marking of RDS and RDS2 devices

Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain

Part 9: RBDS – RDS variant used in North America

Part 10: Universal Encoder Communication Protocol UECP

NOTE 1 The Part numbers 7 and 8 will not be used.

The original specifications of the RDS system have been maintained and the extra functionalities of RDS2 have been added.

# **RADIO DATA SYSTEM (RDS) – VHF/FM SOUND BROADCASTING IN THE FREQUENCY RANGE FROM 64,0 MHz TO 108,0 MHz –**

## **Part 6: Compilation of technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain**

### **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 62106 contains the technical specifications for Open Data Applications in the public domain. This document is maintained by the RDS Forum Office. The RDS Forum Office applies an easy procedure for registering new Open Data Applications, to ensure that they can be used without the need to change the RDS standard. The ODA feature permits defining new applications that can be decoded on a receiver. The receiver needs to the adequate software handler for the specific AID, which identifies the application. Receivers that have not implemented the software handler needed for decoding are not affected by ODA data received for any of the applications already defined and specified.

The procedure for registering a new ODA is described in IEC 62106-3.

### **2 Normative references**

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 62106-1, *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 1: Modulation characteristics and baseband coding*

IEC 62106-2:2021, *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 2: Message format: coding and definition of RDS features*

IEC 62106-3, *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 3: Usage and registration of Open Data Applications (ODAs)*

IEC 62106-4, *Radio data system (RDS) – VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 64,0 MHz to 108,0 MHz – Part 4: Registered code tables*

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology – Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO 14819 (all parts), *Intelligent transport systems – Traffic and travel information messages via traffic message coding*