



Non Graded Archival Master (NAM) Specifications

Purpose of NAM

- The NAM preserves the final picture of a title in a high-quality, agnostic format limited only by the original source, enabling lossless starting points for future derivative masters.
- It is a fully textured image sequence of the non-color graded, fully conformed and locked picture, including final VFX, rendered in a single scene-referred color space without output or display transform.
- Not all productions require a NAM; check your GEM Delivery List and contact your GEM representative to confirm requirements.

Specifications

- Archival resolution is project-specific but never less than 3840x2160 (UHD).
- The NAM must include the entire final delivery active picture area without cropping, matting, or masking.
- For primary capture formats under UHD, consult Post Production or Creative Technologies Workflow contacts.

File Formats Based on Color Space, Transfer Function, and Source Bit Depth:

Color Space	Transfer Function	Source File Bit Depth	Accepted Format
Scene-Referred Color Space (camera native, CF color, T-CAM, or ACES*)	Logarithmic	RAW or >10-bit compressed	16-bit DPX (.dpx)

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		10-bit compressed	10-bit DPX (.dpx)**
Scene-Referred Color Space	Linear	RAW or >10-bit compressed	Uncompressed 16-bit Half-Float OpenEXR (.exr) (ZIP/PIZ lossless)

- ACES projects must use Linear/AP0 per SMPTE ST 2065-1; ACEScct encoded files not accepted.
- 10-bit DPX accepted only if $\geq 50\%$ of primary footage is 10-bit or lower.

Frame Numbering

- Must be continuous per asset and consistent across picture assets.
- For feature films on reels, numbering continuous within reels; initial frame number at finishing partner's discretion.

Textless Inserts

- Must match image properties of corresponding texted assets.
- Include textless backgrounds for shots with on-screen graphic text.
- Full-length textless acceptable if extensive texted shots exist.
- Cut-to-cut delivery required; entire shots only.
- Numbering matches corresponding texted shots.
- Graphic overlays like emojis/text balloons considered texted elements.

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QuickTime Wrapped NAM Exceptions

- May be acceptable in limited cases, especially Animation with fully compressed source.
- Consult GEM on QuickTime acceptance.
- **Minimum compressed formats:**
 - HDR: 12-bit DNxHR 444 or ProRes 4444 XQ
 - SDR: 10-bit DNxHR 444 or ProRes 444

Best Practices

- NAM may contain color bars, framing charts, black frames, sync pops, or Academy leaders if present in timeline asset is derived from.
- Non-color grade changes (VFX, cleanup, graphics) in IMF must be reflected in NAM.
- Avoid global upscaling; image size should match or exceed IMF active picture without scaling artifacts.
- Include optical effects from online editorial but exclude those from color grading.
- Matching the active picture area of the streaming IMF validates NAM with reframing.

(This summary provides GEM's adapted best practices and specifications for Non-Graded Archival Master delivery.)