

MPEG-2 OR MPEG-4?



At a glance

The MPEG-4 format is **more efficient** than MPEG-2.

By moving to MPEG-4, satellite providers will be positioned to offer **more HD channels**.

Format conversion is required for an **MPEG-2** capable TV to display MPEG-4 content.

MPEG-4 capable TVs require **no additional conversion hardware** and can support MPEG-2 compressed channels.



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S1122AG08

What You Need To Know

There are several factors to consider when selecting new HDTVs for your property. Among them is whether to buy TVs that support the MPEG-2 or new MPEG-4 compression standards. If you receive or plan to receive your high definition (HD) free-to-guest (FTG) channels through LodgeNet or via satellite from another provider, you should be aware that they are using MPEG-4 as their standard to deliver their HD channels.

While the choice between MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 capable TVs is ultimately yours, we want you to understand the facts so you can make the most cost-effective purchasing decision for the long term. Here are answers to some of the most common questions you may have:

Why Is Satellite HD Content Moving To MPEG-4?

Providers of satellite delivered HD Content – including DIRECTV – are adopting the MPEG-4 format because it is more efficient than MPEG-2. In other words, content can be compressed more without losing quality – which in turn means that more HD content can be supported in the same delivery space. By moving to MPEG-4, satellite providers will be positioned to offer more HD channels.

What Difference Does This Make For My TV Purchase?

Format conversion is required for an MPEG-2 capable TV to display MPEG-4 content. The hardware that performs this conversion will add a cost to your free-to-guest TV solution over and above the cost of the TVs themselves. MPEG-4 capable TVs, on the other hand, require no additional conversion hardware and can support MPEG-2 compressed channels as well. So, although MPEG-4 capable displays may come with a higher price tag, they may still be the better investment if you desire the maximum capacity for HD channels in the future.

Questions? We're Here To Help.

As the leader in HDTV for hotels, we understand that converting to HDTV is a major financial commitment. We would be happy to take you through a cost analysis to determine the TV purchasing scenario that best meets your needs and to minimize expensive surprises later. To start the conversation, please contact your LodgeNet Professional Solutions team at **1-888-LODGENET (563-4363)**.

"Display only" panels are not equipped with tuners and therefore not capable of receiving content in the guest room without a separate in-room device.