

IMPORTANT BULLETIN

March 30, 2016

MPEG-2 TO MPEG-4 TRANSITION

In April 2017 Shaw Broadcast will begin transitioning all MPEG-2 satellite signals to MPEG-4 (this does not impact signals on ANIK G1 as these signals are already MPEG-4). Conversions will occur in three phases over three years from approximately April to October of 2017, 2018 and 2019. Our objective is to be 100% MPEG-4 by the Fall of 2019.

We are transitioning to MPEG-4 because the legacy MPEG-2 encoding equipment is reaching End of Support status. This means that within the next few years the MPEG-2 encoding equipment used by Shaw Broadcast will no longer be able to be supported or repaired. Upgrading to current generation MPEG-4 equipment allows our customers to continue to broadcast television signals for distribution.

To continue to receive signals from ANIK F1R and F2, BDUs will require equipment capable of receiving MPEG-4 satellite signals in their head ends. If this equipment transcodes the signal back to MPEG-2 before distributing it over the local cable network, no customer premise upgrades would be required. If this equipment sends out an MPEG-4 signal, then all Cable customer premise equipment must be capable of handling an MPEG-4 signal. Transcoding signals is not an option for BDUs utilizing the QT Plus product, all customer premise equipment must be MPEG-4 capable.

To assist with this Transition, Shaw Broadcast is currently working with our suppliers to determine if there are cost savings for equipment and mapping costs. Once we have more information about equipment pricing we will provide details.

For detailed information about the MPEG-2 to MPEG-4 Transition please visit our website www.shawbroadcast.com.

If you have any questions please e-mail your Shaw Broadcast Account Representative.

For more information, please contact:

Alison Murchie (SK, AB, BC & Territories) – Phone (905) 403-2118 alison.murchie@sjrb.ca
Wendy Vonk (ON & MB) – Phone (905) 403-2148 wendy.vonk@sjrb.ca
Thi-Mong Tran (Quebec & Atlantic) – Phone (514) 904-5606 simone.tran@sjrb.ca
Georgia Priftakis (Quebec & Atlantic) – Phone (514) 228-3064 georgia.priftakis@sjrb.ca