

Announcing SEG-Y revision 2.0

Editors: Rune Hagelund and Stewart A. Levin, SEG Technical Standards Committee

The Society of Exploration Geophysicists has released a major update to the venerable SEG-Y workhorse seismic data exchange standard. Culminating more than two years of development and feedback from a large community of users, SEG-Y_r2.0 provides highly enhanced flexibility while maintaining a high degree of backward compatibility. Notable new features of SEG-Y_r2.0 include

- Up to 65535 additional 240-byte trace headers
- The ability to unambiguously map or remap trace-header contents (For example, Seismic Unix and PASSCAL can now create revision 2-compatible SEG-Y while still preserving their prior trace-header usage.)
- Capacity for traces to have up to $2^{32}-1$ samples, and for up to $2^{64}-1$ traces per line and ensemble
- Sample intervals can be arbitrarily large or small
- Support for little-endian and pair-wise byte swapping
- Microsecond time-stamp accuracy
- Higher-precision coordinates, depths, and elevation and more options for coordinate reference system specification
- Depth, velocity, electromagnetic, gravity, and rotational sensor data types
- Optional XML-based Extended Textual File Headers for ease in machine processing

This updated format standard may be downloaded from the SEG Technical Standards Web page: <http://seg.org/Publications/SEG-Technical-Standards>.