

CMAF Migration Checklist (2026)

Twenty-six items every team should verify before declaring a CMAF migration complete.

Brand declarations

- ftyp / styp boxes declare a structural brand (cmf2 for new content, cmfc for legacy compatibility).
- compatible_brands list includes the codec profile brand (cfhd / chd1 / cud1 / cav1 / cdm1 / cvvc).
- Audio profile brand declared (caac / cec3 / caca / cmac).
- Every rendition declares the same structural brand; codec brand may differ per rendition.

Encryption

- cbcsc scheme used for all new content (ISO/IEC 23001-7:2023 §10.4) — never cenc-only.
- Subsample pattern set to 1:9 for video; audio fully encrypted (pattern 0:0).
- Single Key ID (KID) per Representation across all DRMs; no per-DRM key duplication.
- FairPlay, Widevine, and PlayReady license servers configured against the same KID.
- Audit content packaged before 2018 — re-encrypt to cbcsc if still in active rotation.

Segment alignment

- segmentAlignment='true' in every DASH AdaptationSet.
- GOPs aligned across renditions: every IDR frame at the same wall-clock timestamp.
- All renditions use the same chunk duration (333 ms is the production default).
- Init segment (init.mp4) static for the duration of the stream.

Manifest discipline

- HLS playlist uses #EXT-X-MAP referencing the init segment; #EXT-X-VERSION ≥ 6.
- DASH manifest declares urn:mpeg:dash:profile:cmf:2019 in the profiles attribute.
- Both manifests reference the same .m4s files at the same URLs.
- Segment URLs free of session-specific query parameters that defeat CDN caching.

CDN cache keys

- CDN normalizes cache key to path-only — query string stripped or whitelisted.
- Cache TTLs sized to the timeShiftBufferDepth (segments) and 1-2 s (manifests).
- Cache hit ratio measured before and after CMAF cutover; target ≥ 85% for hot content.
- Origin shielding deployed; mid-tier coalesces requests for the same .m4s.

Player & device matrix

- iOS / Safari plays cbcsc-encrypted CMAF (test back to iOS 12 minimum).
- Android / ExoPlayer plays the same files under Widevine L1.
- Smart TV matrix tested: Tizen 4+, webOS 4+, Roku OS 9+, Fire TV, Android TV.
- Legacy MPEG-TS HLS fallback shipped only for pre-2018 devices that still need it.