

Accessibility Metadata Elements/Requirements of the BIC Metadata Excellence Accreditation (MEA) Scheme.

These new requirements have been agreed by the BIC Metadata Committee and the MEA Panel and will be used for the purposes of assessing suitability for the awarding of an 'Accessibility Tick' from October 2026.

Please note that this Accessibility Tick does not assess if an organisation is legally compliant with any accessibility regulations and should not be considered as indicative of any such legal compliance.

Please note: The [3 metadata sets](#) (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced) have yet to be updated with these new requirements for the 'Accessibility Tick'.

Types of Metadata Field Requirement:

Type	Description	Included in Accreditation Measures?
Recommended	Recommended for Best Practice purposes	No
Conditional	Mandatory if certain conditions are met/apply	Yes, if applicable
Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes, always

1. Supply of Accessibility Information using <ProductFormFeature> and codes from ONIX codelist 196:

The accessibility requirements for the BIC MEA scheme now require the supply of accessibility information using <ProductFormFeature> and codes from ONIX codelist 196. This will apply to all digital products (except digital audio – see below*) where <ProductForm> use one of these codes from codelist 150 - EA, EB, EC, ED, SG.

This affects the x3 BIC MEA metadata element sets as follows:

BIC Basic Metadata Set

NEW: this is a new metadata field for this set and is Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above) requirement.

BIC Intermediate Metadata Set

Existing Metadata field

NEW: This field now becomes Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above), (was previously Recommended).

BIC Advanced Metadata Set

No change: this is an existing metadata field for this set and remains Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above).

***Digital Audio Books**

The accessibility requirements for the BIC MEA scheme now require the supply of accessibility information for digital audio books – that is <ProductForm> that use these codes from codelist list 150 - AJ, AN, AO. Provision of the accessibility information to be made using <ProductFormFeature> and codes from ONIX codelist 196.

This affects the x3 BIC MEA metadata element sets as follows:

BIC Basic Metadata Set

NEW: this is a new metadata field for this set and is Recommended.

BIC Intermediate Metadata Set

NEW: this is a new metadata field for this set and is Recommended.

BIC Advanced Metadata Set

NEW: this is a new metadata field for this set and is Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above) requirement.

2. The Provision of Type of Content Information using codes from ONIX Codelist 81

The accessibility requirements for the BIC MEA scheme now require the supply of type of content information, for all digital products - that is <ProductForm> that use these codes from list 150 - AJ, AN, AO, EA, EB, EC, ED, SG. Type of content in the product must be specified using <PrimaryContent> and optionally one or more <ProductContent> elements using codes from ONIX list 81. This is mandatory for all digital products.

This affects the x3 BIC MEA metadata element sets as follows:

BIC Basic Metadata Set

NEW: This is a new metadata field for this set and is Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above).

BIC Intermediate Metadata Set

Existing metadata field.

NEW: This field now becomes Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above), (was previously Recommended).

BIC Advanced Metadata Set

No change: this is an existing metadata field for this set and remains Conditional (on <ProductForm> being as listed above).

3. Supply of <EpubTechnicalProtection> -

For all e-books, it is recommended to supply <EpubTechnicalProtection> and a code from ONIX codelist 144 for specifying DRM or its absence (note this applies to technical protection of the product as sold at retail, *not* the master files distributed to the retail platform).

This affects the x3 BIC MEA metadata element sets as follows:

BIC Basic Metadata Set

NEW: This is a new metadata field for this set and is Recommended

BIC Intermediate Metadata Set

NEW: This is a new metadata field for this set and is Recommended

BIC Advanced Metadata Set

No change: this is an existing metadata field for this set and remains Conditional (on the product being an e-book).

BIC's MEA Accessibility Tick

The above additions/amendments will be measured (if listed as “Conditional”) for the purposes of assessing suitability for the awarding of an ‘Accessibility Tick.’

Failure for MEA applicants to provide these additional/changed elements will not necessarily cause an accreditation renewal or application to fail overall against the rest of the requirements of the scheme.

The intention is to encourage inclusion of accessibility metadata elements.

However, BIC intends to fully include these accessibility elements into the MEA scheme in the future (date yet to be determined).

Please note that this Accessibility Tick does not assess if an organisation is legally compliant with any accessibility regulations and should not be considered as indicative of any such legal compliance.

End
September 2026