

Updating from ONIX 3.0 to ONIX 3.1

Introduction to Release 3.1

This new release of the ONIX Product Information Format – introduced in March 2022 – is characterized by two key changes. First, the removal of a handful of elements from release 3.0 that have been deprecated up to a decade, and second, the addition of a range of new data elements, including tags to describe hybrid open access products, tags to prioritize marketing collateral, and a new <MarketReference> tag for enabling per-market block updates of Block 6. The removal of deprecated elements means that release 3.1 is not fully backwards-compatible with the previous version, so is labelled Release 3.1 rather than Release 3.0 revision 9.

Removal of deprecated elements should have a relatively limited impact, as only a couple of the removed elements have ever seen more than occasional real-world use. Of the two that have seen significant use, <DateFormat> can easily be replaced with the *dateformat* attribute, and <AudienceCode> can be replaced with use of the <Audience> composite. In fact with one exception, ending use of these removed data elements could have been completed by ONIX users at any point in the last ten years, and many ONIX users have done so as they have been deprecated for many years.

The addition of <MarketReference> changes the processing of Block 6 partial updates (block updates). *Without* <MarketReference>, Block 6 must be considered as a non-repeatable block containing one or more repeats of <ProductSupply>, and a change to the metadata in one <ProductSupply> implies that all repeats of <ProductSupply> must be included in a Block 6 update. *With* the addition of <MarketReference>, Block 6 can be considered as a truly repeatable block, each repeat containing a single <ProductSupply>, and each <ProductSupply> can be block-updated individually without having to repeat unchanged <ProductSupply> composites for other markets. This greatly improves the efficiency of many price and availability updates where block updates are used.

This release also includes several minor updates such as addition of an Affiliation identifier and explicit ordering of collateral material to improve the usability of ONIX metadata by recipients, and one more significant addition – the inclusion of an extended <EpubLicense>, <EpubUsageConstraint>, <Publisher> and <CopyrightStatement> within <ContentItem> in Block 3. This enables a rich description of hybrid open access (OA) monographs, where each chapter of the product may be licensed differently.

The newly-added data elements are marked ‘New in 3.1’ in the main body of the ONIX 3.1 *Specification* (doi:[10.4400/zrzq](https://doi.org/10.4400/zrzq)), and with an Omega symbol (Ω) in the Data element summary (Appendix A.1). Changes are dated 29 Mar 2023 in the Document history, and use of data elements introduced in 3.1 may require Codelists Issue 60 or later.

Introduction to Release 3.1 revision 1 (3.1.1)

This minor revision includes a new option for expressing Usage constraints and Licensing that apply to collateral material such as descriptive text, reading guides and cover images. It also adds two other improvements, to <CopyrightStatement> and to <Prize>. Full use of the new data elements introduced in version 3.1.1 requires Codelists Issue 65 or later. The newly-added data elements are marked 'New in 3.1.1' in the main body of the *Specification*, and with a Pi symbol (Π) in the Data element summary (Appendix A.1).

Introduction to Release 3.1 revision 2 (3.1.2)

This minor revision adds provision for postal addresses to <ProductContact> and <SupplyContact>, for GPSR compatibility. Full use of version 3.1.2 requires Codelists Issue 65 or later. The newly-added data elements are marked 'New in 3.1.2' in the main body of the ONIX 3.1 *Specification*, and with a Lamda symbol (Λ) in the Data element summary (Appendix A.1).

Summary benefits of 3.1 (and its revisions)

- More granular Block 6 (market, suppliers, availability, prices) block updates
- GPSR contact addresses, a legal requirement for EEA sales
- Affiliation identifiers (eg RORs) for academic and research institutions
- Usage constraints, licensing and copyright data for specific chapters, to support hybrid OA
- Usage constraints and licensing information for collateral resources

Technical steps to update from ONIX 3.0

Release 3.1 is almost entirely backwards compatible with 3.0, but there *are* a few changes. Updating is a two-stage process:

1. Ensure you're ready, and bring your existing ONIX 3.0 up to date. Discuss your upcoming update with your metadata supply chain partners. If you are a data sender, ensure your recipients can cope with 3.1, or are planning to do so. If you are a data recipient, ask your metadata suppliers if they can update at the same time. Sender or recipient, before any update, you must ensure you are not making use of any data elements that are deprecated in the ONIX 3.0 *Specification* (doi:[10.4400/jzhw](https://doi.org/10.4400/jzhw)), as they have been removed from 3.1.

There is a handy list of the relevant data elements in Appendix A.4 in the ONIX 3.1 *Specification* (doi:[10.4400/zrzq](https://doi.org/10.4400/zrzq)), together with suggested replacements – those replacements can be used in 3.0, so you should phase out use of the deprecated elements while still using 3.0. Note this list also includes <Gender>, which was not deprecated, but has also been removed from 3.1.

In addition to the individual data elements, two tags used in a specific context have been removed, while the same XML tags are still used elsewhere. Specifically, the previously-deprecated use of <SalesRestriction> *outside* of <SalesRights> in Block 4 has been removed (this was P.21.11 to P.21.18 in ONIX 3.0 documentation), together with the deprecated use of <UnnamedPersons> *after* contributor metadata such as contributor dates, professional affiliations, biographical notes and places (*ie* P.7.47 in ONIX 3.0 documentation). You should

replace these with <SalesRestriction> used *inside* <SalesRights> (where the territory to which the restriction applies is made clear), and with <UnnamedPersons> *before* any alternative name, dates, affiliations, biographical notes *etc.*

2. Once you are sure that you and your supply chain partners are not making use of the data elements listed in Appendix A.4, you can update to ONIX 3.1.

For senders, all this requires updating the mandatory *release* attribute and the recommended *xmlns* attribute, both attached to the <ONIXMessage> tag. Nothing more need be done.

For recipients, you must prepare to receive (and potentially make use of, or re-distribute) the new release, including the various new data elements added in 3.1 and its two revisions. Ensure you can either ignore or make use of any of the new data elements introduced in 3.1.

New features of ONIX 3.1 can then begin to be used – but none are mandatory.

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