



Jointly with Book Industry Study Group, New York, and
Book Industry Communication, London

ONIX for Books

Product Information Message

How to send product information updates in ONIX 3

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EDItEUR (www.editeur.org) is the international group which coordinates the development and promotion of standards for electronic commerce in the book and serials sectors. EDItEUR has developed the ONIX for Books standard jointly with Book Industry Study Group (BISG), New York, and Book Industry Communication (BIC), London. Contact EDItEUR by [email](#).

At the time of writing there are ONIX for Books national groups in some fifteen countries. More information and contact details for many of the national groups (including BIC and BISG) will be found on the [Maintenance and Support page](#) on the EDItEUR website.

How to send updates in ONIX 3

1. Introduction

In ONIX for Books Release 3.0, the Product record, following a small initial group of 'housekeeping' and identifier elements, has been divided into six blocks as shown in the table below:

<Product>		
<RecordReference>	Mandatory record reference number	1
<NotificationType>		1
- other 'housekeeping' elements -		
<ProductIdentifier>	Mandatory product identifier	1-n
- other elements of product identity -		
<DescriptiveDetail>	Block 1: bibliographic description:	0-1
<CollateralDetail>	Block 2: elements of marketing 'collateral'	0-1
<ContentDetail>	Block 3: structured details of chapters or other content items	0-1
<PublishingDetail>	Block 4: publisher and 'global' publishing detail	0-1
<RelatedMaterial>	Block 5: related works and/or products	0-1
<ProductSupply>	Block 6: supply detail (for specified markets, where applicable)	0-n

The reason for this change is to enable updates to ONIX records to be sent without requiring complete replacement in all cases. The structure of an XML document such as an ONIX 2.1 Product record, with a variable mix of repeating and non-repeating elements and composites, means that the only unambiguous way of delivering updates is to replace the whole record.

In Release 2.1, a separate Supply Update message format was defined and released in 2006, to allow price and availability detail to be updated without replacing the complete Product record. Take-up of this update format has been limited; and one stated reason for this was that it required a separate message and a separate data feed to be implemented. *There will be no equivalent to the separate Supply Update format in ONIX 3.0.*

By dividing the Product record into blocks, we make it possible in ONIX 3.0 for any block to be sent individually, with the explicit assumption that any data previously sent in other blocks is unchanged. Product records sent in this way are referred to as 'block update records'.

It is also possible in principle for this to be done as part of a single ONIX feed, in which new records, complete replacements and block updates are freely mixed. However, there had been indications that some ONIX user communities might not wish to encourage this level of flexibility. It was therefore agreed at the International Steering Committee in London in April 2009 that, when the publication of ONIX Release 3.0 with Code Lists Issue 10 was complete, a consultation paper would be prepared and circulated to national groups. This consultation was completed in September 2009, with a clear consensus from all those groups who provided feedback. These guidelines are based on that consensus.

2. Principles

The following principles will apply to the use of the block update facility in ONIX 3.0:

- 2.1 Block update records are sent as part of a regular ONIX for Books message, ie there is no separate message type for updates as there was in ONIX 2.1.
- 2.2 New records, complete replacement records and block update records may be freely mixed within a single message.
- 2.3 Any single block or combination of blocks may be updated by a single block update record.

- 2.4 A block update record is designated by the presence of the code value 04 in the Notification Type element (P.1.1). The definition of this code will be modified in Code Lists Issue 11 (see section 4 below).
- 2.5 These principles are embodied in the ONIX 3.0 schema definitions, and will apply to ONIX 3.0 exchanges unless otherwise agreed between a sender and receiver, or as part of local application guidelines or 'best practices'.

3. Business rules

The following business rules will apply to ONIX Release 3.0 exchanges, to enable block updates to be supported:

Rule 1: for all notification types, the Product record must include <RecordReference>, <NotificationType> and <ProductIdentifier>.

Rule 2: if the notification type value is one that indicates a 'complete record' (ie any value other than 04), the Product record must include <DescriptiveDetail> and <PublishingDetail> blocks, and at least one <ProductSupply> block¹.

Rule 3: if the notification type value is one that indicates a 'block update' (ie, code value 04), the Product record may include any one or more blocks, subject to Rule 5.

Rule 4: if the notification type value is one that indicates a 'block update', the receiver must replace each included block, and make no changes to data previously received in blocks not included in the update record.

Rule 5: if a 'block update' includes <ProductSupply>, the sender must include replacements for ALL instances of <ProductSupply> previously sent, and the receiver must replace ALL instances of <ProductSupply> previously sent.

Rule 5 is necessary to avoid ambiguity, since <ProductSupply> is a repeatable element.

4. Redefinition of Notification Type code 04 in List 1

The existing definition and notes for code 04 in List 1 are:

Update (partial) Intended to be used for an update to a part of the record which is sent without re-issuing the complete record. In practice, however, ONIX updating is invariably by complete record replacement using code 03, and code 04 is not used.

From Issue 11 of the code lists, these will be revised to read:

Update (partial) In ONIX 3.0, use when sending a 'block update' record. In previous ONIX releases, ONIX updating is by complete record replacement using code 03, and code 04 is not used.

In addition, the notes on codes 12, 13 and 14 in List 1 will be amplified to make it clear that these values apply only to Supply Updates in ONIX 2.1, and that they are not used in ONIX 3.0.

¹ Except in exceptional circumstances where exchange partners wish to send and receive bibliographic descriptions without trade detail.