

ONIX for Books release 3.0.4

Introduction

This document summarises the key additions and changes made in ONIX 3.0 rev. 4. Initial proposals based on requests arising over the period since the release of 3.0.3 in early 2016 were made to the ONIX International Steering Committee. Several of these requests were ratified directly at the Steering Committee's meeting during the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2017, and these form revision 4. The remainder of the proposals will be considered further alongside other potential additions for a future rev. 5.

Since 2010, ONIX 3.0 has maintained a steady biennial cadence of minor revisions, with releases in early 2012, 2014 and 2016. This late 2017 release is a few months 'earlier' than usual, reflecting the split into a relatively small set of simple additions in 3.0.4 and additions that will require more extensive analysis by a technical working group in 3.0.5 – and the intention remains to release 3.0.5 during 2018.

Each potential enhancement has been considered on the basis of likely usage by senders, the likely value it carries to recipients, and the complexity it would add to processing of ONIX messages (most particularly for recipients). All the changes in rev. 4 are entirely optional and 'backward compatible', none affect the meaning of existing ONIX 3.0 data, and any ONIX message conforming to ONIX 3.0, 3.0.1 through 3.0.3 also conforms to 3.0.4. There are a couple of minor deprecations, but existing implementers of ONIX 3.0 should be able to handle receiving 3.0.4 messages, even if they make no use of the new data elements that might be included, provided they can correctly ignore the newly-added elements.

Full use of this release of ONIX 3.0.4 requires the use of Codelists Issue 39 or later, which is available from the EDITEUR website and via the online multilingual ONIX codelist browser.¹

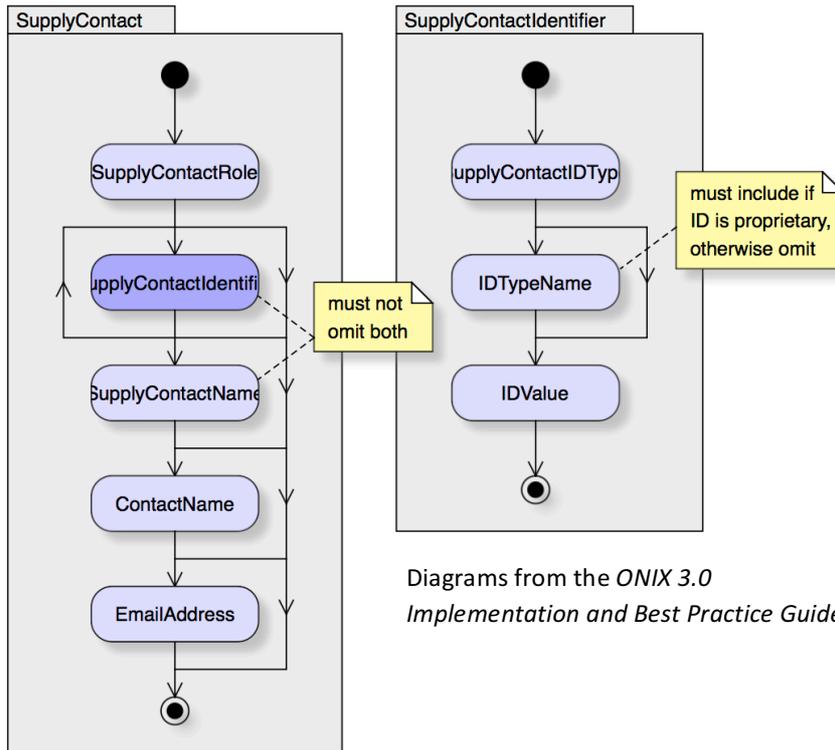
1. Addition of a <SupplyContact> composite within <SupplyDetail>

This new repeatable composite – analogous to <ProductContact> – allows the inclusion of multiple contacts at or related to a supplier, for example for ordinary customer services, returns authorisation, and perhaps other supplier functions in the future. Prior to 3.0.4, only a single contact could be listed per supplier (presumed to be a generic 'customer service' contact).

The addition of <SupplyContact> ensures that the data structures used for contacts at the sender and addressee for the ONIX message, contacts for various Publisher and Publisher representative roles, and contacts for various supplier roles are consistent. <SupplyContact> uses a new codelist (List 239) for <SupplyContactRole>, which allows the roles available for suppliers to be distinct from those available for publishers and their market representatives. Initial values for List 239 were included in Codelists Issue 39.

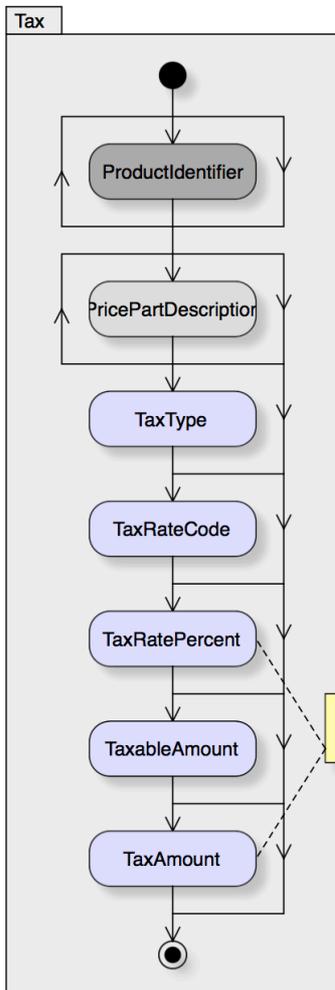
Allied to this addition of <SupplyContact> is deprecation of the 'old' supplier contact details in P.26.6–P.26.8. These could carry only a single set of telephone, fax and e-mail details.

¹ <http://www.editeur.org/14/code-lists> and <https://ns.editeur.org/onix>



Diagrams from the ONIX 3.0 Implementation and Best Practice Guide

2. Addition of <PricePartDescription> element within <Tax>



In France, various eco-levies may be added to the base price of certain types of product, and then VAT is charged on both the base price and the eco-levy. The VAT rates – standard or reduced – are not necessarily the same on the levies and on the product itself. There is a requirement to specify the levies, and the VAT on the levies, in detail.

For products that have more than one component, and where the components are taxed at different rates (common examples include a book and a toy, or a book/e-book bundle), multiple <Tax> composites are used to list the various components of the price and the taxes upon each component. Where necessary, for example under German tax rules, an identifier within <Tax> can unambiguously link each price component to a physical or digital component of the product listed in <ProductPart>.

For the levies, each <Tax> composite does not refer to a distinct component of the product itself – the base price and the levy apply to the same component. The new free text <PricePartDescription> element can be used to identify the levy – or since there is more than one, the *type* of levy.

Note that although the various <TaxType>, <TaxRateCode>, <TaxableAmount> elements are all optional, it is best practice to include them all as this improves clarity and transparency of the tax calculations.

The (unrealistic) example below shows a product subject to reduced rate French VAT, and also subject to both the French *DEEE* and *eco-mobilier* levies, with standard rate VAT on those levies:

```

<PriceType>02</PriceType>
<PriceAmount>19.95</PriceAmount>
<Tax>
  <TaxType>01</TaxType>
  <TaxRateCode>R</TaxRateCode>
  <TaxRatePercent>5.5</TaxRatePercent>
  <TaxableAmount>17.20</TaxableAmount> <!-- the base price of the product -->
  <TaxAmount>0.95</TaxAmount>.      <!-- VAT on the base price -->
</Tax>
<Tax>
  <PricePartDescription>Eco-mobilier</PricePartDescription>
  <TaxType>01</TaxType>
  <TaxRateCode>S</TaxRateCode>
  <TaxRatePercent>20</TaxRatePercent>
  <TaxableAmount>1.30</TaxableAmount> <!-- the eco-mobilier levy -->
  <TaxAmount>0.26</TaxAmount>      <!-- VAT on the eco-mobilier levy -->
</Tax>
<Tax>
  <PricePartDescription>DEEE</PricePartDescription>
  <TaxType>01</TaxType>
  <TaxRateCode>S</TaxRateCode>
  <TaxRatePercent>20</TaxRatePercent>
  <TaxableAmount>0.20</TaxableAmount> <!-- the electronic waste levy -->
  <TaxAmount>0.04</TaxAmount>      <!-- VAT on the electronic waste levy -->
</Tax>
<CurrencyCode>EUR</CurrencyCode>

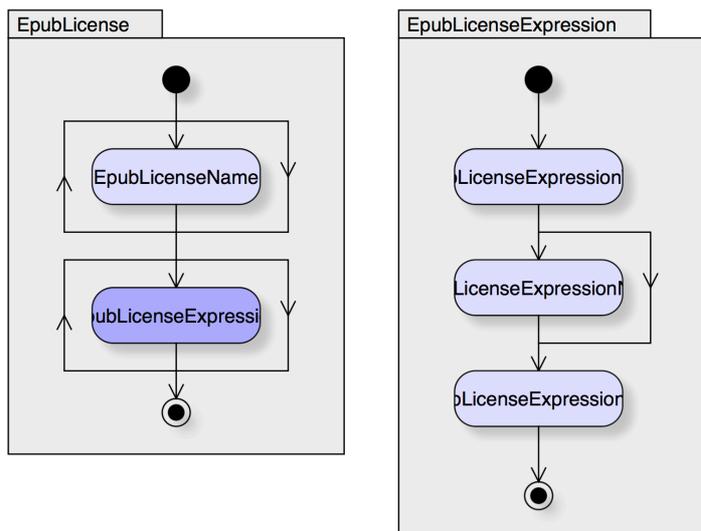
```

Note that the <PriceAmount> includes all components of the recommended retail price that the consumer will be charged – the base price, the levies, the VAT on the base price and the VAT on the levies. The price amount is (as always) the sum of the various taxable amounts and tax amounts – this is consistent with the treatment of products with multiple components with differing tax rates. Note that the Taxable amount in the first Tax composite is the ‘base price’ of the product and does not include either of the two levies. The other Tax composites list the levies in <TaxableAmount> and the amount of VAT applicable to the levy amounts in <TaxAmount>. And finally, note the <TaxType> is VAT in all cases – the Eco tax type is not used, because the tax amounts described (the 26¢ and the 4¢) represent conventional VAT.

<PricePartDescription> can easily be combined with other elements within <Tax>, including <ProductIdentifier> (which is not shown above because it is not required in the French context), so if necessary, levies could be properly specified for multi-component products too.

3. Addition of <EpubLicense> composite within <Price>

Since <PriceConstraint> was added in revision 3.0.3, it has become apparent that where one digital product is for sale at different prices, the licence itself may also be different – rather than a single licence covering all options for the various commercial offers. So just as the ‘product-level’ constraints can be added to or overridden by ‘price-level’ constraints within the individual price structures, the product-level licence links in <EpubLicense> should be accompanied by a similar <EpubLicense> structure within <Price>.



An <EpubTechnicalProtection> element has also been added into <Price>, since it could be the case that among a range of price constraints and licences, some are enforced via DRM and some are not, or the presence or absence of DRM could be the sole difference between two commercial offers.

4. Use of <NameAsSubject> to name fictional characters

Prior to ONIX 3.0.4, <NameAsSubject> carried the name of *real* people or organisations which are the ‘subject’ of a book. It’s used primarily with biographies or histories. From ONIX 3.0.4, the definition of <NameAsSubject> has been broadened to include fictionalised versions of real people or organisations, and entirely fictional entities who may for example be the ‘subject’ – protagonist, antagonist or other major character – of a novel or of a fiction companion.

Note that there is a method to list fictional character names as a ‘special’ form of keyword using <SubjectHeadingText> with <SubjectSchemeIdentifier> B4 (where ordinary keywords are subject scheme 20). This use is retained for more minor character names – <NameAsSubject> should be strictly limited to the primary characters. Also note that fictional characters or organisations may be assigned ISNIs – one of the main benefits of using <NameAsSubject> is that standard identifiers can be included.

Data recipients may want to highlight the main characters in fiction, or weight them much more heavily in search results than ordinary keywords, and having the names in data elements separate from minor characters and other keywords makes this possible.

5. Extension of <CollectionSequenceNumber>

<CollectionSequenceNumber> is used to highlight or clarify the ordinal position of a product within a collection. A single collection may have several distinct orders – publication order, order of the numbering on the products themselves, or a suggested reading order (the most widely-known example where these three sequences are quite different is the Star Wars films).

<CollectionSequenceNumber> carries a ‘multi-level number’, such as ‘3.14’ – numbers separated by period characters. This should be interpreted as ‘this book is number 14 in a sub-collection, which is itself number 3 in a larger collection’. This causes problems in two specific cases – when this book is number 14 in a sub-collection that is an *unnumbered* part of a collection, or when the book is at the same time also number 37 in the collection as a whole (irrespective of any sub-collections).

From ONIX 3.0.4, <CollectionSequenceNumber> carries an *extended* multi-level number that allows unnumbered levels in the hierarchy of collection, sub-collection, sub-subcollection to be represented by a hyphen – so the example could be ‘-.14’ (*ie* number 14 in a sub-collection which is an unnumbered part of a larger collection).

```
<CollectionSequence>      <!-- 14th book in sub-collection, where sub-collection
                             is unnumbered part of larger collection -->
    <CollectionSequenceType>02</CollectionSequenceType>
    <CollectionSequenceNumber>-.14</CollectionSequenceNumber>
</CollectionSequence>
<CollectionSequence>      <!-- 37th book in collection as a whole -->
    <CollectionSequenceType>02</CollectionSequenceType>
    <CollectionSequenceNumber>37</CollectionSequenceNumber>
</CollectionSequence>
```

Note that <PartNumber> at <TitleElementLevel> 01 in the metadata – and the number on the book itself – could be either 14 or 37, or both. Collection sequence number is used for confirmation and clarification. There would be no <PartNumber> at <TitleElementLevel> 03, and <PartNumber> cannot logically occur at <TitleElementLevel> 02.

NB An error in the XSD and RNG schemas issued prior to October 2017 that prevented three-level sequence numbers such as ‘3.7.4’ from validating was corrected with the 3.0.3 schema files bundled with Codelist Issue 39, and of course in the 3.0.4 schema files. (3.7.4 would indicate the 4th book in the 7th sub-subcollection within the 3rd subcollection within the collection. Understandably, it took a long time for this issue to come to light....)

6. Addition of stock quantity for reserved stock

In ONIX 3.0.3 and earlier, stock on hand and available to fulfill orders, and stock on order, can be specified in the <Stock> composite. (<Stock> can be repeated for suppliers that hold stock at more than a single location.) The new ONIX 3.0.4 adds a data element for stock on hand but *not* available to fulfil orders (*ie* so-called ‘reserved’ or ‘frozen’ stock), as well as its accompanying <Proximity> element. (See diagram overleaf)

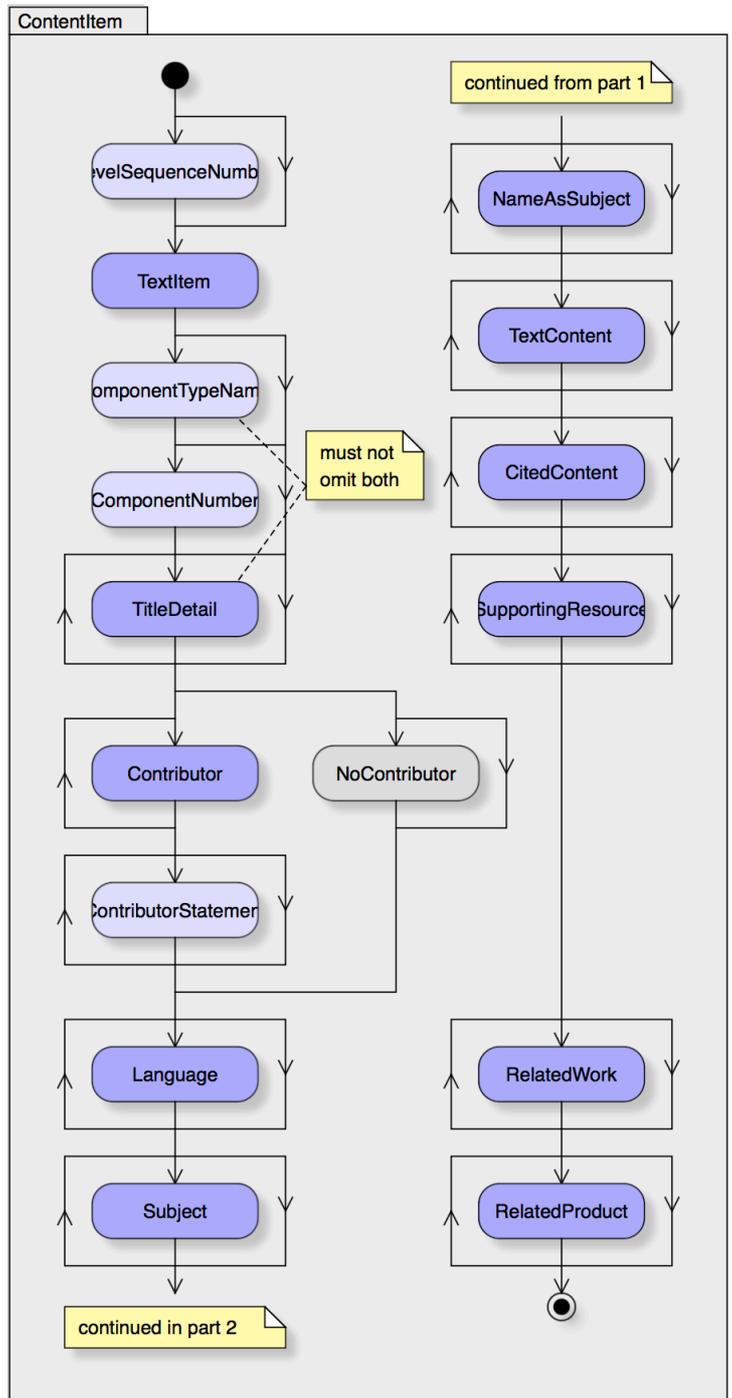
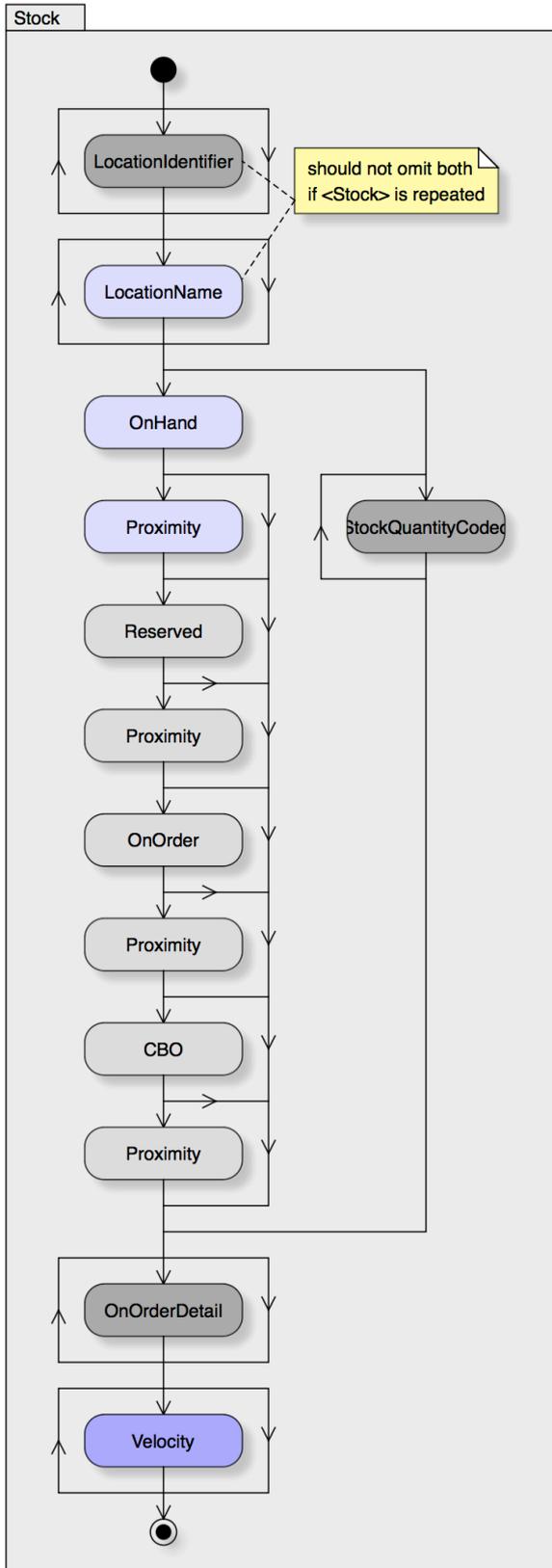
This will primarily be of interest for ONIX-based communication between publishers, distributors and wholesalers – since the frozen stock cannot be used to meet orders from retailers.

7. Addition of <Language> within <ContentItem>

Block 3 of ONIX 3.0 can contain multiple ‘miniature product records’ within the <ContentItem> composite. Each <ContentItem> applies to just one chapter or section of a book, so that individual chapters may have distinct contributors of their own, or distinct marketing collateral. With the growth of ‘chapterisation’ (selling individual chapters as – in effect – very small books), there is growing potential for use for Block 3, because the full ONIX record for the chapter-sized product contains the same data as the miniature record within Block 3 for the full-book product.

Note that <ContentItem> can be used simply to enhance the metadata available – it is not limited to cases where individual chapters are also available as distinct products. The most common use case is for chapters in a *Proceedings of*, a compilation of short stories, poetry *etc* or an omnibus edition.

ONIX 3.0.4 fills one clear gap in this: a <Language> composite is added within <ContentItem>, because books divided into sections by language is another likely use case for <ContentItem>.



8. Other minor changes

There are two other minor additions within <ContentItem>, as shown above, to allow an explicit <NoContributor/> flag and a <ContributorStatement> element. These additions ensure the Contributor section of <ContentItem> closely mirrors the contributor section of the main part of a <Product> record (Group P.7).

A <NoContributor/> flag has similarly been introduced within <Collection>, so that the Contributor section of <Collection> also mirrors the structure of Group P.7.

9. New documentation and future work

The updated *Specification* for ONIX 3.0 revision 4 is now available from the EDItEUR website, together with an updated *ONIX 3.0 Implementation and Best Practice Guide*, the necessary XML schemas and Issue 39 of the ONIX Codelists.²

EDItEUR and a technical working group will continue to develop a range of proposals for ONIX release 3.0.5, to be considered by the International Steering Committee in 2018.

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² <http://www.editeur.org/93/Release-3.0-Downloads/>