

Data Content Requirement

Date of birth

Purpose of a Data Content Requirement

Data Content Requirements provide a reliable and consistent basis for New Zealand data system organisations to share the same expectations about a data concept to:

- *maximise the value of data*
- *create a more complete view to inform government policy and investment decisions*
- *enable information sharing and reconciling the data faster and more efficiently.*

The purpose of this document is to:

Mandate [ISO 8601 - 1:2019](#), Date and time — Representations for information interchange — Part 1: Basic rules, to be used to format date of birth for sharing purposes.

This Data Content Requirement applies to data being shared between organisations.

This Data Content Requirement does not mandate the collection or storage of date of birth. These may vary depending on the needs of the organisation.

Definition

Date of birth is the localised year, month, and day a natural person was born.

Compliance

The minimum required format for compliance when sharing date of birth information is YYYY-MM-DD (or YYYYMMDD).

Further information

ISO 8601 Date representation and format examples:

- ‘2018-08-01’ is a date and time expression that indicates the first day of August of 2018 in the Gregorian calendar.
- [date] is a date and time representation that can be expanded as [year][month][day], which itself can be expanded into [YYYY][MM][DD]; ‘20180801’ is a date and time expression that conforms to this representation.

While this requirement does not mandate how date of birth data is collected or stored in databases, guidance on the collection of date of birth can be found in the [Statistical Standard for Age](#).

Guidance

Localised date

The date at the location of birth is to be used and not adjusted for any time zone offsets.

Absence of data of birth

When a date of birth is not recorded a default date should not be used to indicate this. Instead do not supply any date.

Verification

The Data Content Requirement does not require date of birth to be verified, but if it is this may be useful information to be noted when shared.

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Attribution and use

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