Data Content Standard

Date of birth

Purpose of standard

Standards establish consistent ways for describing and recording data across agencies. Consistency ensures there's only one way of talking about each different piece of information, helping 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:

- introduce the ISO 8601 date and time format standard which should be used to format date of birth data for sharing purposes
- endorse and mandate the use of the ISO 8601 standard as the standard across government for data exchange of date of birth data
- provide guidance on when and how to use the ISO 8601 standard for sharing date of birth.

Definition

The date of birth is the year, month, and day an individual was born.

Guidance

The data content standard for date of birth is the ISO 8601 date and time format standard.

Date of birth is derived from three flat classifications: date of birth year, date of birth month, and date of birth day. Year has single categories consisting of century, decade, and year. Month has single categories 01 to 12.

The minimum required format for compliance with this standard is YYYY-MM-DD. Use this standard if you are sharing date of birth data across agencies.

While this standard does not mandate how date of birth data is collected or stored in databases, it is implicit that these must be of sufficient quality to meet this data content standard.

Approval date
Review date