

# Dates in Deals are being phased out (in favour of datetimes)

ERN-3 as well as ERN-4 contains a number of fields that can communicate dates or date-times. Some of these are to communicate “historic” information: when was “Hey Jude” recorded? When was it released? These fields are typically dates and support a variety of flags to indicate precision (e.g. IsBeforeand IsApproximate).

Other dates/date-times have a direct legal consequence in the context of an ERN message: the start and end dates of the validity period of a commercial deal, for instance.

These periods can currently be provided in several forms:

- Just a start date;
- Just an end date (from ERN onwards 4.2 this will be impossible);
- A start and an end date;
- Just a start date-time;
- Just an end date-time (from ERN onwards 4.2 this will be impossible); and
- A start and an end date-time.<sup>(1)</sup>

DDEX has agreed to phase-out the “dates only” means of communicating such information over time. DDEX therefore recommends that implementers only use date-times.

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(1) Note, it is **technically** also possible to have a period tag with no start and no end. This approach is, however, not acceptable; from ERN 4.2 onwards this will be impossible.