

Are ResourceGroups mandatory?

All resources are referenced from a Release in the `ReleaseResourceReferenceList`. This list is, however, only a "bill of material" it does not state *how* the resources make up the release. This is done in the `ResourceGroup` structure. It is therefore mandatory to include all resources into the `ResourceGroup`, together with the indicator whether a resource is "primary" or a "secondary"

Therefore the answer to the question is "yes" – even for "flat" Releases such as singles.

Even if a sender or recipient cannot handle hierarchies as their internal (and consumer-facing systems), they need help in mapping hierarchical information to a flat structure. The same applies to the ability to express releases with multiple levels of `ResourceGroups`. The table below lists the number of `ResourceGroup` typical releases may have:

| Type of Release | Number of <code>ResourceGroup</code> levels for Main Releases | Number of <code>ResourceGroup</code> levels for Component Releases |
|--|--|--|
| Single | 2 (Release level + Resource Level) | 1 |
| Album | 2 (Release level + Resource Level) | 1 |
| Album with multiple Disks | 3 (Release level + Disk Level + Resource Level) | 1 |
| Album with multiple Disks of two sides | 4 (Release level + Disk Level + Side Level + Resource Level) | 1 |
| Classical Album | 2+ (the exact number depends on the hierarchy of works contained in the release (see Table 3 in Clause 5.2.5 Classical Album of the Release Profile Standard)) | 1 |

Details can be found in the Release Profile Standard in Clauses [5.1.1 Release Structures for Main Releases](#) and [5.1.2 Release Structures for Component Releases](#)