

## CFPS 44

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# Proposal to support the Julian calendar similarly to CFPS 17

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Description: Proposal for a Julian calendar with years starting on 1 Jan

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## Abstract

This paper contains a short proposal to support the Julian calendar using a representation identical to that specified in CFPS 17 for the Gregorian calendar.

## 1 Proposal

The Gregorian and Julian calendars only differ in their algorithms for determining which years are leap years, and then the difference is small, resulting in a slip of 3 days in every 400 years. In countries that have used both calendars, neither the names of the months nor the way of writing days changed when the calendar change happened. In the English-speaking world, for example, there were days called ‘19 April’ before the change, and there days called that afterwards.

In light of this similarity, this paper proposes that precisely the same syntax is adopted to represent dates in the Julian calendar as is proposed in CFPS 17 for Gregorian dates [1]. If CFPS 17’s syntax for quarters is adopted, then this paper proposes it is used in the Julian calendar also; likewise for the alternative syntax proposed in CFPS 40 [2]. The only exceptions needed are that: (i) the dates XX00–02–29, where the Xs represent digits, are always valid (reflecting the Julian calendar’s different leap years); and (ii) all years back to 0001 (representing 1 AD) are valid. (Support for years prior to the Gregorian calendar’s introduction in 1582 is only required by ISO 8601 with ‘mutual agreement of the partners in information interchange’ [4], and CFPS 17 is silent as to whether they are supported.)

The calendar proposed in this paper is one in which the representation of the year is incremented on 1 January. In much of the world, the year was reckoned to start on 1 January from well before the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, and this calendar has clear use in such countries. The United Kingdom (except Scotland) and its colonies (including what became the United States) were anomalous in continuing the mediæval practice of reckoning years from Lady Day (25 March) right up to their introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1752. The question of how to represent years reckoned from Lady Day is addressed in a CFPS 43 [5], and this proposal is independent of how such dates are represented. Nevertheless, if the proposal in CFPS 43 is adopted, the calendar proposed here would also be used to represent years starting on Lady Day.

If a short calendar ID is required to identify this calendar, similar to the use of ‘GR’ in CFPS 13 to identify the Gregorian calendar [3], this paper proposes ‘JU’. If a longer form of ID is preferred, this paper suggests ‘Julian’. These IDs are consistent with this being the FHSO’s principle Julian calendar (even if additional calendars are required to handle the likes of years reckoned from Lady Day).

## References

- [1] Tony Proctor, 2013, *Proposal to Accommodate Gregorian Dates using a Modified ISO 8601* (CFPS 17), <http://fhiso.org/files/cfp/cfps17.pdf>
- [2] Luther A Tychonievich, 2013, *Sortable, Versatile CFPS 17* (CFPS 40), <http://fhiso.org/files/cfp/cfps40.pdf>
- [3] Tony Proctor, 2013, *Proposal to Accommodate Alternative World Calendar Systems* (CFPS 13), <http://fhiso.org/files/cfp/cfps13.pdf>
- [4] International Organization for Standardization, 2004, *Data elements and interchange formats – Information interchange – Representation of dates and times* (ISO 8601:2004)
- [5] Richard Smith, 2013, *Proposal to add style to the wholly-numeric representation of dates in CFPS 13* (CFPS 43), <http://fhiso.org/files/cfp/cfps43.pdf>