

Agent Authorisation Online

How to use the Test Services

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1. Introduction

This document provides information for Software Developers who want to test their submissions to the Agent Authorisation Online test service.

It should be used in conjunction with the Government Gateway Document Submission Protocol. This document describes the mechanics of sending a message through the Government gateway and is available in the Online Agent Authorisation Technical pack.

2. Test Credentials and Contacting the Software Developers Support Team

Contact the SDS Team and provide the following details:

- Company Name & Address
- Contact Name(s), Telephone Number(s) & Email Address(es)

These will be registered and you will be given a unique 'Vendor ID' and the credentials, which are necessary to access the test services. Including your Vendor ID in XML messages for Live and Test submissions in the <URI> tag, will allow us to provide you with support and feedback. Please specify in your communication which service(s) you wish to develop for i.e CT, PAYE or SA.

3. Submitting Test Messages

When you are ready to test your product, you should arrange to upload your XML message to one of the Test Sites detailed below. A sample VB Injector Tool is available. Please email us at sdsteam@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk to obtain a copy.

This tool demonstrates how an application should interact with the Government Gateway to send and receive messages over the Internet.

4. Third Party Validation Service (TPVS)

This performs validation of the 'Body' of the Agent Authorisation submission against the Agent Authorisation Schema and Business Rules.

Test submissions should be made to the following URL:

- <https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/OAA/post.slt>

Responses will be returned based on the outcome of your submission indicating if it has passed or failed validation. **Please note that submissions sent direct to the TPVS site will not have the GovTalkHeader fully validated.**

5. Vendor Single Integrated Proving Service (VSIPS)

This allows Software Developers to make test submissions through the Government Gateway Test Site to TPVS, mirroring the 'Live' Internet service.

Test submissions should be made to the following URL:

- <https://secure.dev.gateway.gov.uk/submission>

You must use the unique credentials provided by the SDS Team when submitting test messages through VSIPS. These should be included within the submission as follows:

```
<SenderID>as advised by the SDS Team</SenderID>  
<Value>as advised by the SDS Team</Value>  
<Key Type="IRAgentReference"/>  
<URI>your 4 digit vendor ID</URI>
```

This service first validates the GovTalk Header against the GovTalk Schema. The test submission is then automatically routed to the TPVS service where the 'Body' of the submission is validated against the Agent Authorisation Schema and the business rules. Response messages will be returned based on the outcome.

You must use this test service if you wish to apply for recognition for your product.

6. Applying for Recognition

Once you've successfully completed your own testing you can apply for H M Revenue & Customs recognition.

To gain recognition for your product, you must:

- Ensure that your product incorporates the '**POLLING**', '**LIST REQUEST**' and '**DELETE REQUEST**' facilities as described in the Government Gateway Submission Protocol.
- Contact the SDS Team for full details of the 'Recognition' process. This will include submitting a number of 'Recognition' test cases, provided by the SDS Team which you must submit successfully to VSIPS. You will also need to email the XML output from your product for these test cases to the SDS Team.

Application for recognition is optional, but if successful, your company details and the name of your product can be listed on our web site.

7. Other useful information

- **Live Service URL**

The URL for live submissions to Agent Authorisation Online is:

<https://secure.gateway.gov.uk/submission>

- **Digital Certificates**

The Agent Authorisation Online service does not support digital certificates.

- **IRmark**

The Online Agent Authorisation service does not support IRmark

- **Technical pack updates**

All Developers who have registered with the SDS Team will be advised by email of any updates to the Technical Pack. However, please check the website regularly to ensure that you are working to the most up to date version available.

- **XML Tools**

To assist with your development, we strongly recommend that you use a XML Editing and Validation tool which is commercially available.