

Online Service for Corporation Tax

How to use the Test Services

This is a guide on how to use the testing services available and to provide assistance in the production of software for the submission of Corporation Tax (CT) Returns over the internet.

1. Getting Started

Familiarise yourself with the contents of the CT technical pack.

Contact the Software Developers Support Team (SDS Team) on telephone number 01274 539666 or <mailto:sdsteam@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk>. You will need to provide the following details:

- Company name
- Address
- Contact name(s)
- Telephone number(s)
- Email address(es)

Your details will be registered and you will be provided with a unique 'Vendor ID' and also the credentials necessary to access the test services. In order for us to provide you with feedback, statistics and support, you will need to include the 'Vendor ID' within the <URI> element in your XML messages. Can you please also use the <Product> and <Version> tags to identify different products provided.

When you are ready to test your product, you should arrange to upload your XML messages to the test services detailed below.

2. What test services are available?

Local Test Service (LTS)

This is a locally installed application which performs validation on the Tax Return or 'Body' of the submission against the CT schema and business rules. The application and full user guide are available for download from the CT technical pack.

Responses will be returned based on the outcome of your submission indicating if the file has passed or failed validation. The application **will not** perform a full validation on the GovTalkHeader. Please ensure you include the correct Namespace in your submission.

Note: When downloading the LTS please use your 4 digit Vendor ID so we can provide support.

Third Party Validation Service (TPVS)

This performs validation of the Tax Return or 'Body' of the submission against the CT schema, business rules and XBRL Taxonomy. Test submissions to TPVS should be made to URL - <https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/HMRC/CT600>. Please ensure you use the correct Namespace and <Class> in the XML you are submitting.

Responses will be returned based on the outcome of your submission indicating if the file has passed or failed validation. TPVS **will not** perform a full validation on the GovTalkHeader.

For information, presently IRmark for CT is mandatory in TPVS and LTS but optional in Live. It will become mandatory for Live submissions from April 2011.

Vendor Single Integrated Proving Service (VSIPS)

This allows Software Developers to submit test cases through the Government Gateway Test Site to the HMRC TPVS site, mirroring the 'Live' Internet service. Test submissions to VSIPS should be made to URL - <https://secure.dev.gateway.gov.uk/submission>. Please ensure you use the correct Namespace, <Class> and <GatewayTest> in the XML you are submitting.

You must use the unique credentials supplied by the SDS Team when submitting tests to VSIPS. These are issued when you apply for a vendor ID as detailed above and should be included as follows:

```
<SenderID>as advised by SDS team</SenderID>  
<Value>as advised by SDS team</Value>  
<Key Type="UTR">as advised by SDS team</Key>  
<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 Tax Return or 'Body' of the submission will be validated against the CT schema, business rules and XBRL Taxonomy. 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.

When you submit a return to the Government Gateway, whether to the 'Live' service or to VSIPS, a 'conversation' should take place between your application and the Gateway. This is covered in the Government Gateway Document Submission Protocol which can be found at - http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/schemas/GatewayDocumentSubmissionProtocol_V3.1.pdf

3. Applying for Recognition

Once you have successfully completed your own testing you can apply for HMRC Software Recognition for the updated CT filing service including iXBRL. If you wish your software to be assessed for HMRC recognition please contact the SDST for copy of the scenarios and details of the process to be followed.

Application for recognition is optional but if successful, your company details and product name can be listed on our website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/efiling/ctsoft_dev.htm.

4. Other useful information

Sending attached files with the CT Return

TPVS will now accept Accounts and Computations in iXBRL. Other supporting documents should be in PDF.

For the Live service:

- **Presently** Accounts must be in PDF format however the Computations can be in either XBRL or PDF format.
- **From October 2009** both Accounts and Computations can be submitted in either PDF or iXBRL.
- **From April 2011** all new submissions with an AP date ending on or after 31 March 2010 will require the Accounts and Computations to be submitted in iXBRL. Other supporting documents can still be submitted as PDF attachments.

Please be aware that attachments entering the Department will be virus checked and if a virus is found the whole Return will be rejected.

Live Service URL

The URL for submissions to the Live Internet Corporation Tax Service is:
<https://secure.gateway.gov.uk/submission>.

To send a 'Test in Live' submission you should use the appropriate <Class> - HMRC-CT-CT600-TIL. This will perform a validation check on the Return including the users Live Credentials but no data will be sent to the HMRC back-end systems.

Digital Certificates

Although the test services do not provide the facility to test for Digital Certificates, these can be incorporated into your products for use in the Live service. Full details can be found on the Govtalk Website at www.govtalk.gov.uk. This includes the Government Gateway Protocol, the XMLdsig-core-schema.xsd and other relevant information.

Technical Pack Updates

All Developers who have registered with the SDS Team will be advised by email of any updates to the technical pack. Where possible the version numbers and version dates are shown on each document, however, please check the website regularly to ensure that you are working to the most up to date versions.

XML Validation

To assist in your development we strongly recommend that you use a commercially available XML Editing and Validation tool.

5. Contact Points and Level of Support Provided

The SDS Team is your main point of contact within HM Revenue and Customs during the development and testing of your product. We provide the following services to software developers:

- issuing vendor ID's and testing credentials
- dealing with enquiries relating to the schema and validation rules
- provide feedback/advice during testing
- assistance with product recognition

We can be contacted Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5.00 pm on telephone number 01274 539666, or via e-mail sdsteam@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk.

If your customer experiences issues with the 'Live' Service, in the first instance they should contact the Online Services Helpdesk. This is particularly important as this initial report forms a key part of the problem resolution process, giving a way of successfully escalating problems.

The Helpdesk can be contacted on telephone number 0845 60 55 999 or via e-mail helpdesk@ir-efile.gov.uk

**Open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, seven days a week.
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**