

Stamp Taxes Online

How to use the Test Services

Development of your Internet product is in two stages. The first is developing the XML in line with the relevant schema and business rules. This is covered in more detail in the technical pack. The second stage is submitting the file to the Government Gateway.

The following is a step by step guide to using the testing services, provided to assist with the production of Software for the submission of Stamp Duty Land Tax returns over the Internet.

1. Introduction

This document provides information for Software Developers who want to make test submissions to the Stamp Taxes Online test services. Each pack is available as a zipped file for easy download.

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 from http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/schemas/GatewayDocumentSubmissionProtocol_V2.1.pdf

2. Contact the Software Developers Support Team

Contact the Software Developer Support Team (SDST) – our contact details are given below. 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 necessary to access the test services. Including your Vendor ID in the <URI> element of your XML messages for both Live and Test submissions will allow us to provide you with support and feedback.

3. Submitting Test Messages

When you are ready to test your product, you should arrange to upload your XML messages to one of the Test Sites detailed below. A sample VB Injector Tool is currently available. Please email SDST 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 Land Transaction Return or 'Body' of the submission against the SDLT Schema and Business Rules.

Test submissions should be made to the following URL:

- <https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/SDLT/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="STORN">as advised by the 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 SDLT Return or 'Body' of the submission is validated against the SDLT 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.

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 detail in the UK Online Document Submission Protocol.

The steps in this process are as follows:

- You send the submission to the Gateway using the **submit_request** message
- The Gateway issues a **submit_acknowledgement** message containing a unique CorrelationID, this is confirmation that your submission was received and accepted by the Gateway. The Gateway then automatically forwards the submission to HMRC to be validated.
- You then use the CorrelationID to enquire to the Gateway about the status of the submission using a **submit_poll** message.
- You should continue to issue **submit_poll** messages to the Gateway until the Gateway is able to generate either a **submit_response** or **submit_error** message. You may have to send this message a number of times before you receive a reply if the system is busy.
- If the return is successfully validated you will receive an XML **submit_response** message – it is important that you view and understand the information in this message.

- If the submission is rejected a **submit_error** message will be generated, advising of the reason for the rejection.
- If a **submit_response** or **submit_error** message is not received after a reasonable length of time, you should consider temporarily ending the conversation and restarting at a later time using the same CorrelationID.
- Once a **submit_response** or **submit_error** message has been returned, a **delete_request** message should be issued to confirm that the Gateway 'conversation' can be closed. Issuing a **delete_request** does NOT prevent the original submission from being sent to the HMRC system.

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.
- The Stamp Duty Land Tax technical pack provides full details of the 'Recognition' process. This will include the submission of a number of 'Recognition' test cases, provided by the SDS Team, that you must submit successfully to VSIPS. You will also need to send XML output from your product for these test cases.

Application for recognition is optional, but if successful, your company details and the name of your product can be listed on our web site at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/efiling/sdlsoft-dev.htm>

7. Other useful information

- **Live Service URL**

The URL for live submissions to Stamp Taxes Online is:
<https://secure.gateway.gov.uk/submission>

- **Digital Certificates**

The Stamp Taxes Online service does not support digital certificates.

- **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 versions available.

- **XML Tools**

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

Contact points and level of support provided.

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

- Issuing vendor IDs and testing credentials
- Dealing with enquiries relating to the schema and validation rules and
- Provide feedback / advice during testing

You can contact SDST by email or telephone: details are on our website at [Software Developer Support Team Contact Details](#)

General customer and user enquiries relating to the live internet services should be directed to the Online Services Helpdesk on telephone number 0845 60 55 999, email helpdesk@ir-efile.gov.uk

Helpdesk Opening Hours

Weekdays between 08:00 – 22:00

Weekends and Bank Holidays 10:00 – 18:00

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day