HM Revenue & Customs

Stamp Taxes Online (SDLT)

How to use the Test Services

Contents

Introduction

This document is a guide to using the testing services, provided to assist with the production of software for the submission of Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) returns over the internet.

To get started you'll need to [register as a software developer](#). The Software Developers support team (SDST) will register your details and allocate a 4 digit vendor ID and issue the relevant credentials required to access the test services.

Test services

1.1. 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 to TPVS should be made to the following URL:

https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/SDLT/post.slt

Responses are returned on the outcome of your submission indicating whether it has passed or failed validation.

Submissions sent direct to the TPVS site will not have the GovTalkHeader fully validated.

1.2. External Test Service (ETS)

This allows software developers to make test submissions through the Transaction Engine test site to TPVS, mirroring the 'Live' internet service. 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 are returned based on the outcome. When you submit a return to the Transaction Engine, whether to the 'live' service or to ETS, a 'conversation' should take place between your application and the Transaction Engine. This is covered in detail in the [Transaction Engine: Document Submission Protocol](#).

Please ensure you use the correct Namespace, and in the XML you are submitting. You must use the unique credentials provided by the SDS Team when submitting test messages through ETS. 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>
```

Test submissions to ETS should be made to the following URL:

https://test-transactionengine.tax.service.gov.uk/submission

Live submission URL

Live submissions should be made to the following URL:

https://transactionengine.tax.service.gov.uk/submission

Recognition

Once you've successfully completed your own testing you can apply for HMRC 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 Transaction Engine Submission Protocol.

Please refer to the SDLT recognition process document for full details.

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

Additional Information

1. IRmark	If you are using the VB Injector to test your files, please remove all the whitespace from the of your XML. If whitespace is present, the VB Injector adds whitespace to your XML and will cause your submission to fail with 2021 error, 'The supplied IRmark is incorrect'.
2. Address Extension	Xpath /IRenvelope/SDLT/LandDetail/AddressExtension. This element cannot be **yes**. The maximum amount of characters for the address field is 4 lines of 35 characters.
3. Attributes for Canonicalisation	If there are more than one attribute per attribute then these must be in alphabetical order for canonicalisation purposes or the IRmark calculation will fail.
4. £ sign	The £ sign is not an allowable character in an SDLT submission. Inclusion of this character may cause the submission to 'constantly' poll at the Transaction Engine.
5. Correlation ID	In accordance with the Transaction Engine Submission Protocol, your software must store the <CorrelationID> for use by your client until either the success_response or error response has been returned.
6. Duplicate Submissions	Online duplicate submissions cause extra work for Stamp Taxes. It may be worthwhile adding extra validation to certain fields and displaying a cautionary message to your users if information is duplicated within a submission.
7. ETS URL	Do not include a trailing / at the end of the URL as this will prevent you from testing and you will receive a 403 error.
8. Namespaces	Do not include any other namespaces within the <IRheader> other than xmlns=https://www.govtalk.gov.uk/taxation/SDLT/4, as inclusion will prevent successful submissions being passed to Stamp Office.
9. Test Case Data	Test case data should not be submitted to the 'Live' Transaction Engine, as this will generate genuine records. It may also result in a compliance review for your client.
10. SDLT1 Q27	If more than 1 property is declared for online submissions, customers cannot submit a certificate for each property. This is because the IRmark is used as the certificate number. Please include additional titles on the SDLT5 continuation sheet.