HM Revenue & Customs

Construction Industry Scheme (CIS) Online Internet filing enabled software

"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 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 Construction Industry Scheme (CIS) Forms and Returns over the Internet.

1. Download the technical pack that covers the forms you are developing. Each pack is available as a zipped file for easy download.

2. Contact the Software Developers Support Team (SDS Team) at the Electronic Business Unit (EBU) on Tel no 01274 534666 or sdsteam@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk who will register your details and provide a 'Vendor ID' and other credentials you will need to access the test services. You will need to include the 'Vendor ID' within the <URI> element of the XML message for both the live and test services as this will enable us to provide support and feedback.

3. When you are ready to test your product, there are two separate test services available which mirror the 'Live' service. These are TPVS and VSIPS.

Third Party Validation Service (TPVS)

This performs validation on the 'Form' or 'Body' of the submission against the CIS Schemas and the business rules. Test submissions should be made to:

CIS Verification Request	https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/new-cis/verify
CIS Monthly Return	https://www.tpvs.hmrc.gov.uk/new-cis/monthly_return

You must ensure that any XML documents you are submitting have been prepared using the most up to date schema and relate to the latest tax year supported by the TPVS service. Further information can be obtained from the SDS Team.

You should submit to TPVS using the credentials that are provided by the SDS Team when you applied for a vendor ID as detailed at point 2. For details on which elements should be populated with your credentials please see the hintsandtips.pdf contained in this techpack.

Response messages will be returned based on the outcome. Please remember that if you send submissions direct to the TPVS site, the service **will not** do a full validation on the GovTalkHeader.

<u>**Vendor Single Integrated Proving Service (VSIPS)**</u>

This allows Software Developers to submit test cases through the Government Gateway Test Site to the Inland Revenue TPVS site, mirroring the 'live' citizen Internet service. Submissions to VSIPS should go to https://secure.dev.gateway.gov.uk/submission

You must include the unique credentials provided by the SDS Team in the submissions to VSIPS. For details on which elements should be populated with your credentials please see the hintsandtips.pdf contained in this techpack.

This service first tests the Govtalk Header against the Govtalk Schema. The test submission will then be automatically routed to the TPVS service where the 'Form' or 'Body' of the submission will be validated against the appropriate CIS Schema and have the business rules applied. Response messages will be returned based on the outcome. **NB.** You must use **this** test service if you wish to apply for Internet Recognition (see point 4 below).

- Document Submission Protocol

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:

(1) You send the submission to the Gateway using the **submit_request** message
(2) 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.
(3) You then use the CorrelationID to enquire to the Gateway about the status of the submission using a **submit_poll** message
(4) 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 file is large or if the system is busy.
(5) 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.
(6) If the submission is rejected a **submit_error** message will be generated, advising of the reason for the rejection
(7) 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 re-starting at a later time using the same CorrelationID
(8) 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

4. Once you've successfully completed your own testing you can apply to the SDS Team for HMRC recognition.

In order to gain Internet Recognition for your software product, you must:

- ensure that your product incorporates the **'POLLING'**, **'DELETE REQUEST'** and **'LIST REQUEST'** facilities as described in the Government Gateway submission protocol

- Each technical pack provides full details of the 'Recognition' process. The process involves 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 recommended. If you achieve recognition, your contact details and the name of your product will be listed on our web site.

Other useful 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. However, please check the Web site regularly to ensure that you are working to the most up to date versions. Where possible, the version numbers and version dates are shown on each document.

Please note - To assist in 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 within HMRC 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 and
- provide feedback/advice during testing

We can be contacted Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 on Tel 01274 534666, or by e-mail sdsteam@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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, e-mail helpdesk@ir-efile.gov.uk
Helpdesk Opening Hours:
Weekdays between 08:00am and 10:00pm
Weekends and Bank Holidays 10:00am - 6:00pm
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day