

WHAT'S NEW GUIDE

National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. Digital LTL Council Electronic Bill of Lading (eBOL) API Standard What's New Guide Version 2.1

Designed and developed by National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. (NMFTA).

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Preface

About this Guide

This What's New Guide details the new functionality for version 2.1 of the Electronic Bill of Lading (eBOL) API Standard, which includes:

- Title and Description Enhancements
- Update and Delete Enhancements
- BOL_Request Schema Enhancements
- BOL_Response Schema Enhancements
- Documentation Enhancements

About this Version

Minor version 2.1 is specified due to significant enhancements to the prior version. These enhancements are backwards compatible with the previous version (i.e., version 2.0).

Understanding Version Definitions

The following definitions help differentiate between major, minor, and patch releases:

- **Major Version:** Includes changes that are incompatible with prior versions. Updates are required to use a new major version. The identifier of a major version iteration is represented in the first value of a version number.

Major Version Example = 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, etc.

- **Minor Version:** Includes changes that are compatible with all iterations of a major version (i.e., backwards compatible). Updates are optional to use a new minor version. The identifier of a minor version iteration is represented in the second value of a version number.

Minor Version Example = 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, etc.

NOTE:

A value of zero (e.g., 2.0) represents the major version iteration.

- **Patch:** Includes changes that are compatible with all iterations of a major version (i.e., backwards compatible) and that are usually released to fix bugs or security issues. Updates are not needed to use a patch version.

Patch Example = 2.0.1, 2.0.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, etc.

1. Title and Description Enhancements

Description

Added a description after the title (see screenshot below), providing the reader with a summary explanation of the purpose and value of the API specification.

Figure 1-1 Example of the Description.



2. Update and Delete Enhancements

Update

Added an **Update an Electronic Bill of Lading PUT schema** with request and response examples for updating an existing eBOL using PRO Number as the key identifier. This adds the ability to update existing eBOL data that was already transmitted using the POST method.

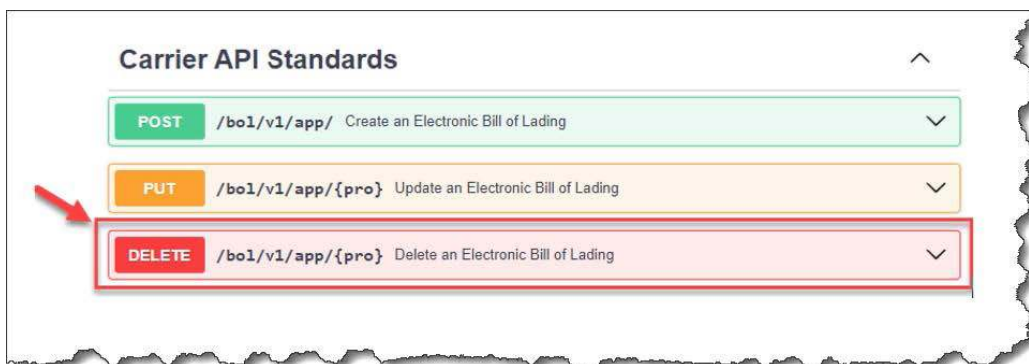
Figure 2-1 Example of the Update Method



Delete

Added a Delete an Electronic Bill of Lading DELETE schema with request and response examples for deleting an existing eBOL using PRO Number as the key identifier. This adds the ability to delete existing eBOL data that was already transmitted using the POST method.

Figure 2-2 Example of the Delete Method



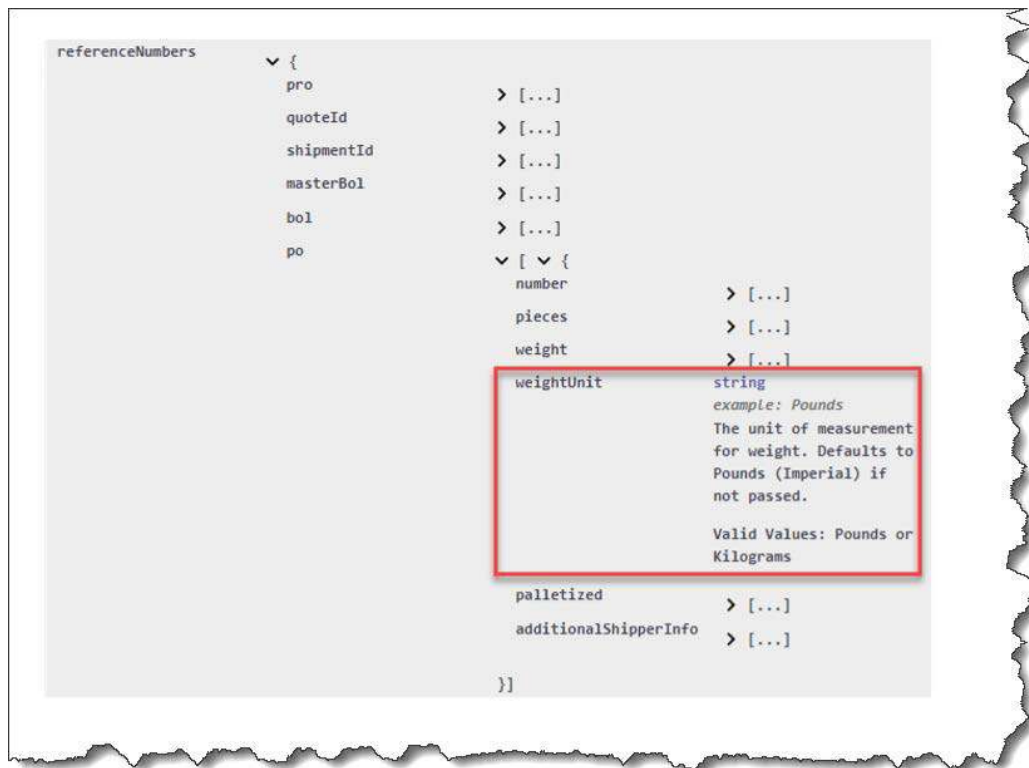
3. BOL_Request Schema Enhancements

weightUnit

Added additional attributes to **weightUnit**, which is used to specify the weight unit of measurement in pounds or kilograms to objects that were missing them.

Example: `referenceNumbers.po`

Figure 3-1 Example of the BOL Request Schema: weightUnit

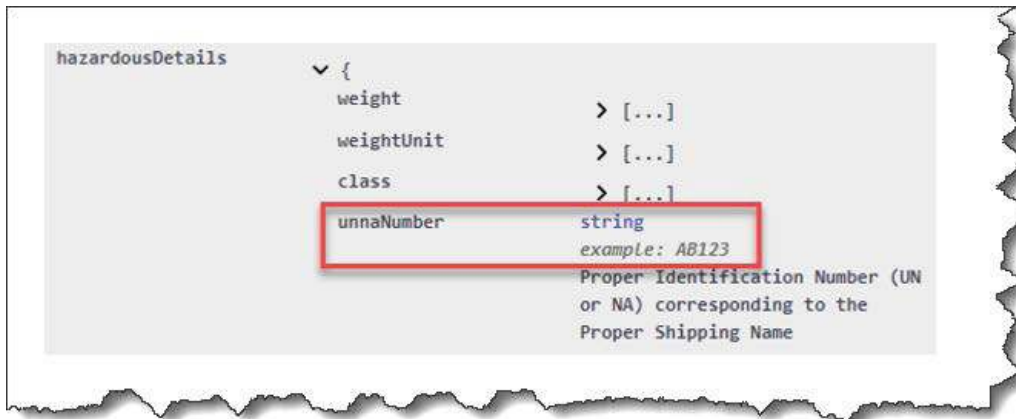


unnaNumber

Revised the example value for the following so it's more practical and realistic:

`commodities.handlingUnits.lineItems.hazardousDetails.unnaNumber`

Figure 3-2 Example of the BOL Request Schema: `unnaNumber`

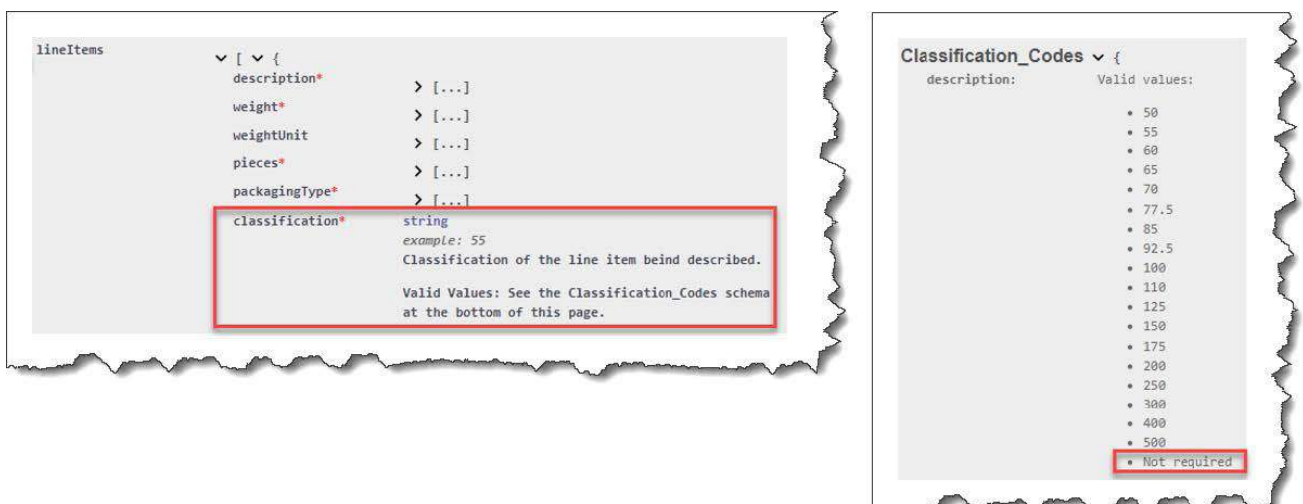


classification

Added a **Not required** valid value to `Classification_Codes` used when passing a value to `commodities.handlingUnits.lineItems.classification`.

The `classification` attribute remains a required attribute but now allows shippers the flexibility to identify when Class is not applicable to their shipment, such as for pallet pricing agreements.

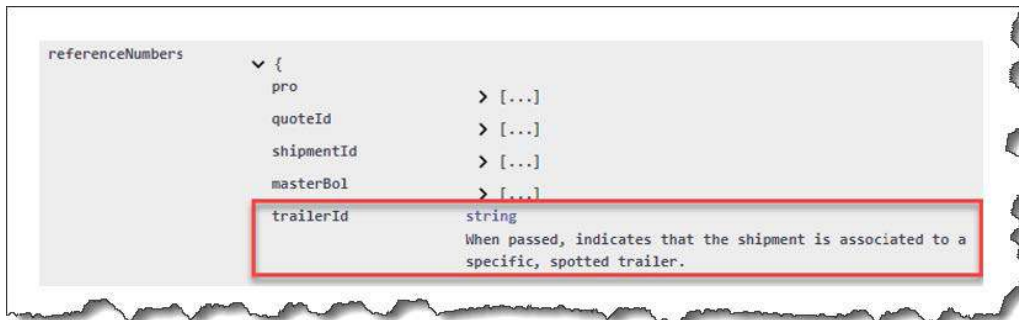
Figure 3-3 Example of the BOL Request Schema: `classification`



trailerId

Added the optional attribute **trailerId** to **referenceNumbers**. When passed, this indicates that the shipment is associated to a specific, spotted trailer.

Figure 3-4 Example of the BOL Request Schema: trailerId

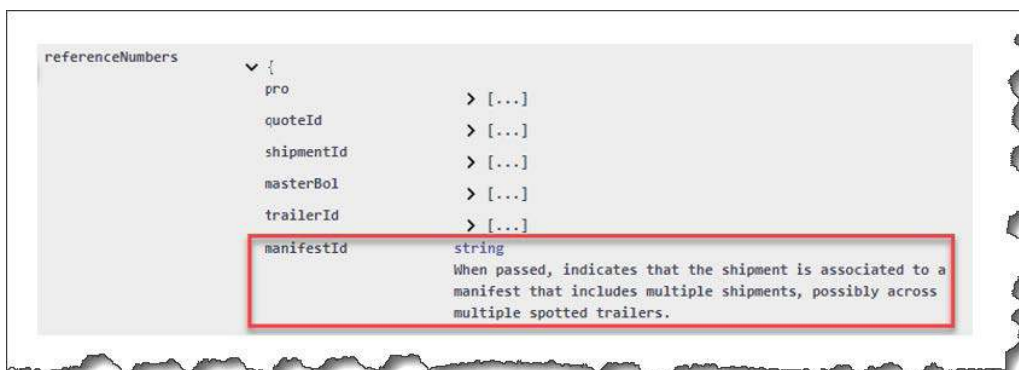


referenceNumbers	▼ {
pro	> [...]
quoteId	> [...]
shipmentId	> [...]
masterBol	> [...]
trailerId	string When passed, indicates that the shipment is associated to a specific, spotted trailer.

manifestId

Added the optional attribute **manifestId** to **referenceNumbers**. When passed, this indicates that the shipment is associated to a manifest that includes multiple shipments, possibly across multiple spotted trailers.

Figure 3-5 Example of the BOL Request Schema: manifestId



referenceNumbers	▼ {
pro	> [...]
quoteId	> [...]
shipmentId	> [...]
masterBol	> [...]
trailerId	> [...]
manifestId	string When passed, indicates that the shipment is associated to a manifest that includes multiple shipments, possibly across multiple spotted trailers.

limitedAccessType

Enhanced the existing **Limited_Access_Types** list with additional Limited Access Type codes. This allows greater flexibility for carriers to use more granular limited access types that they may need to support, such as when it's associated to a specific charge identified in their tariff.

Figure 3-6 Example of the BOL Request Schema: *limitedAccessType*

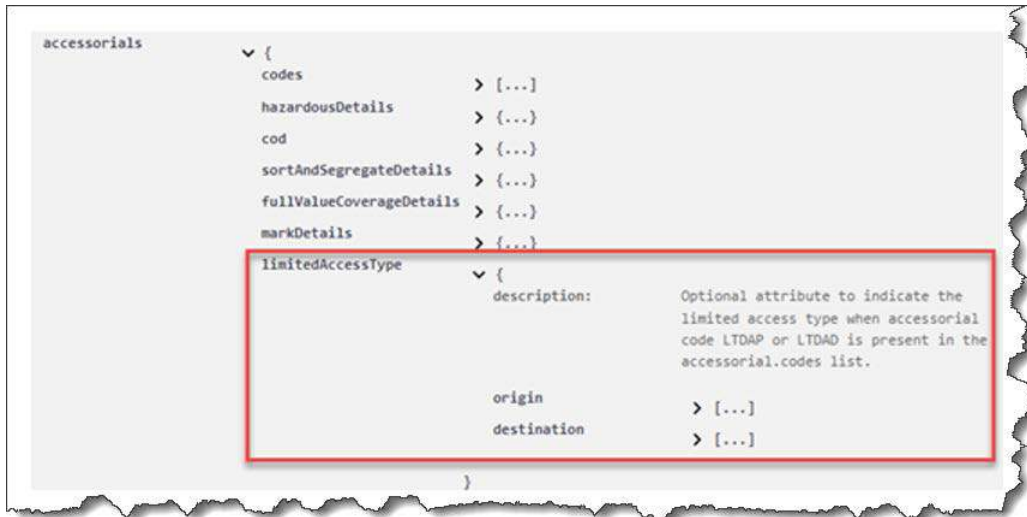
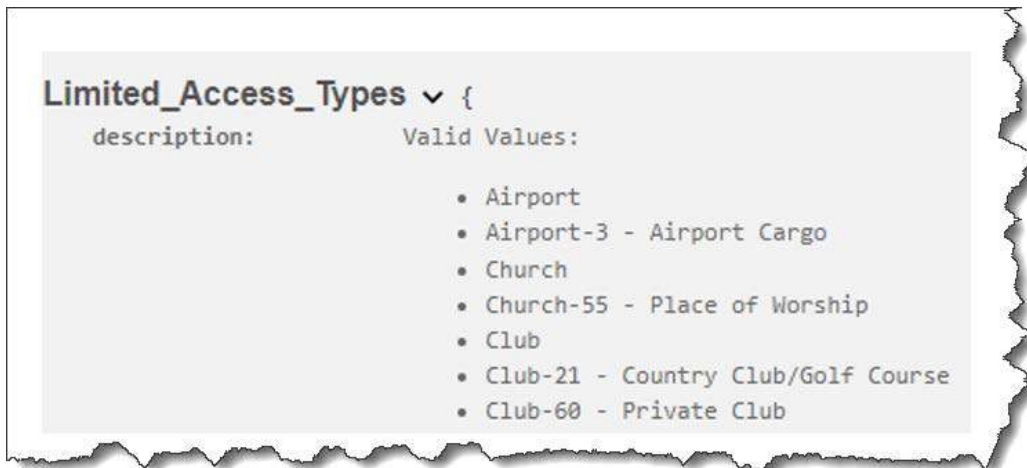


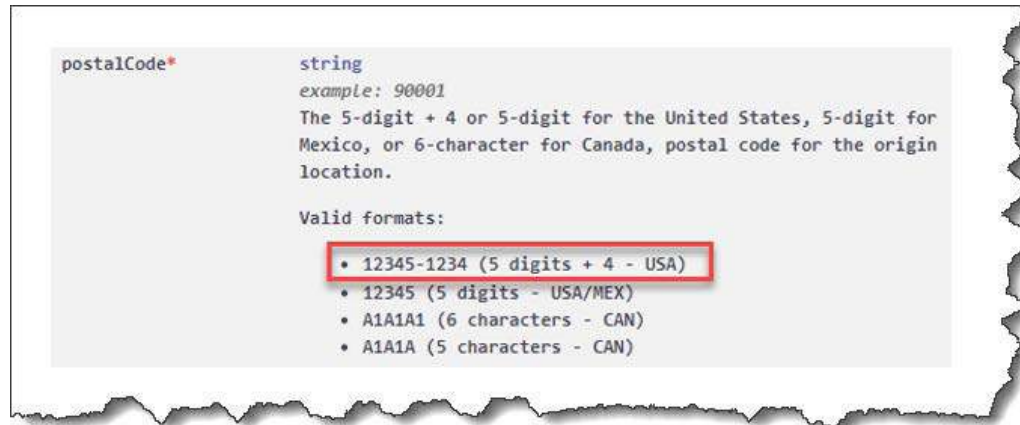
Figure 3-7 Example snippet of new list of codes



postalCode

Added the USA postal code standard definition of 5 digits + 4 as a valid format. This gives carriers added flexibility when deciding to support one or both USA postal code formats (i.e., a 5-digit postal code and/or a 5-digit postal code + 4).

Figure 3-8 Example of the BOL Request Schema: postalCode

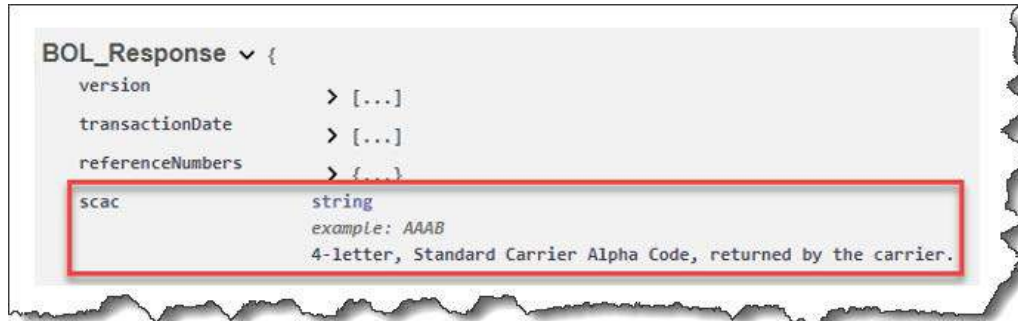


4. BOL_Response Schema Enhancements

scac

Added the new **scac** attribute, which is used to return a 4-letter Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC). This adds a carrier identifier in the response that may be valuable to, and/or required by, some API-consuming systems to associate a carrier to the data received.

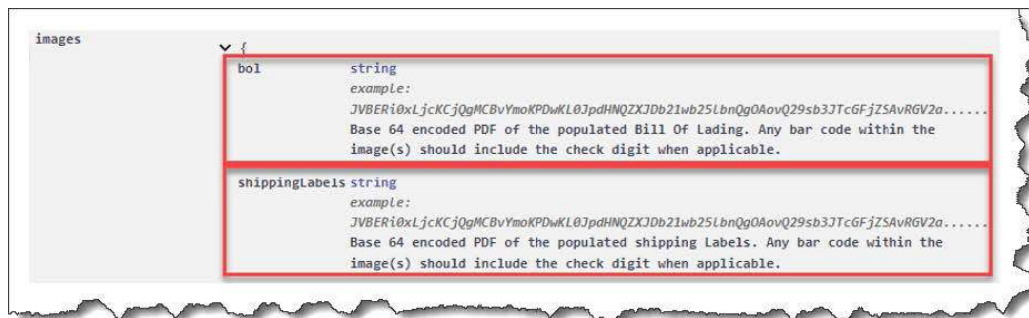
Figure 4-1 Example of the BOL Response Schema: scac



images

Updated the descriptions for **images.bol** and **images.shippingLabels**, requiring carriers to include the check digit in any PRO Number or bar code image returned in the response when applicable. This adds clarity to carrier expectations when returning bar codes in BOL or Shipping Label images.

Figure 4-1 Example of the BOL Response Schema: images



termsAndConditions

Added a new **termsAndConditions** attribute used to return a carrier's terms and conditions in eBOL responses, either as a URL link to their website or as text within the API response body. This adds the ability for carriers to provide their terms and conditions to customers with each eBOL response.

Figure 4-3 Example of the BOL Response Schema: termsAndConditions

```
termsAndConditions    string
                      example: Terms and Conditions text available for download at www.myurl-nmfta.org
                      Add terms and conditions here if desired, or a link to your terms and conditions.
```

resultStatusCodes

Added a new **resultStatusCodes** attribute in the response used to return a standardized, numerical code that describes any logical outcome. This adds consistent, standardized API transaction result codes that apply to eBOL and future Digital LTL Council API specifications as they get created.

Figure 4-4 Example of the BOL Response Schema: resultStatusCodes

```
resultStatusCodes
  {
    Error response

    Result_Status_Codes {
      description: Numerical codes describing any logical status outcomes. Not all
                  codes apply to this API, but are included to encourage adoption of
                  these standards across API specifications.

      Valid Values:
        • 100 - Informational General Information {{addl_info}}
        • 200 - Warning Non-Critical Error {{addl_info}}
        • 300 - Failure Data Error {{addl_info}}
        • 400 - Failure Formatting Error {{addl_info}}
        • 500 - Failure Business Logic Error {{addl_info}}
        • 600 - Failure Carrier Specific Error {{addl_info}}
        • 700 - Failure Outside Ship Window {{addl_info}}
        • 800 - Failure No Freight - Will be re-attempted {{addl_info}}
        • 900 - Failure No Freight - Pick UP Closed {{addl_info}}
        • 1000 - Failure Freight Not ready {{addl_info}}
        • 1100 - Failure Packaging Problem {{addl_info}}
        • 1200 - Failure Bol PDF Image Not Created {{addl_info}}
        • 1300 - Failure Label PDF Image not Created {{addl_info}}
        • 1400 - Failure Duplicate Pro {{addl_info}}
        • 1500 - Failure Unknown Reason {{addl_info}}
        • 1600 - Failure Shipper Closed {{addl_info}}
        • 1700 - Failure Duplicate PO {{addl_info}}

    }
  }
```

5. Documentation Enhancements

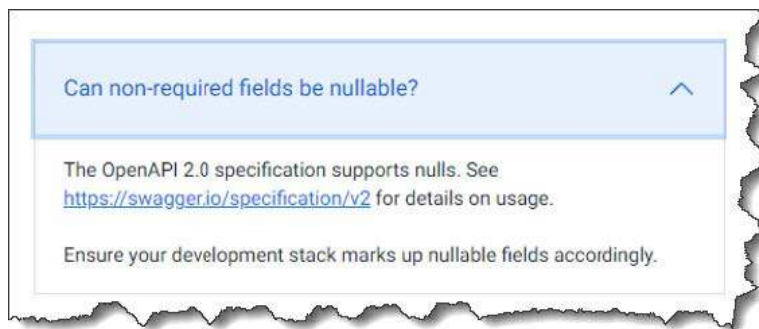
FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Added FAQs to provide instant access to information and answers to common or frequently asked questions from eBOL specification users. FAQs are considered a living document, which means they are regularly maintained and updated.

To access the FAQs:

- Go to <https://digitaltltl.nmfta.org/faq>; or,
- Go to the Digital Standards Development Download Portal, <https://digitaltltl.nmfta.org/>, and click **Frequently Asked Questions** in the header

Figure 5-1 Example FAQscacweightUnit



Swagger Documentation

Swagger documentation is now available for each eBOL version on the Digital Standards Development Download Portal, located at <https://digitaltltl.nmfta.org/>.

To access, click the API Documentation (Swagger) button and select the version you'd like to view.

Figure 5-1 Example FAQscacweightUnit

