

CB Webinar Q&A

Webinar Info: QPX XML Transaction System technical discussion with EPA and the QPX Development Team

Date: November 18th, 2011

Below is a transcript of the Question & Answer session hosted by EPA, this transcript also contains questions that were asked throughout the webinar. For more information on the QPX XML Transaction system, please visit the [XML Web-services page](#).

1. Q: Is a single token provided per submittal even if the submittal is a batch?

A: Yes. The token must be stored in order to use later in the status request service to determine whether the submitted product(s) passed backend validations (eg, that the manufacturer ID provided matches one found in the database). The status request service returns an XML document enumerating any quality assurance check failures for each product in the submission.

2. Q: How will all the existing products be submitted via XML if additional data is required?

A: All existing products will need to be resubmitted via XML along with the additional data.

3. Q: Does each product type have its own web-service?

A: No. There is a single WSDL with all of the services inside it. Each product will have its own service (SOAP action). The data requirements for each product are detailed on the technical resources page (www.energystar.gov/cbresources). When new templates are being developed, there will be a review period for CBs to provide feedback on data requirements before the template is integrated into the WSDL.

4. Q: Is there versioning of the product categories?

A: During the transition from one specification version to the next, it will be possible to submit information on models qualified to both specifications. Each specification version will have its own service.

5. Q: When are we required to implement the XML solution?

A: EPA would like to transition completely to the new XML system for a product as soon as the service is ready and CBs have configured and tested their systems against the service.

6. Q: Is there a timeline for retiring the excel template?

A: The excel templates will no longer be available for submitting data for a specific product category as soon as the new XML system is in use. CBs will have time during the testing phase to make sure product information is ready for submitting via XML.

7. Q: Can you provide a timeline for the additional categories for testing of the XML service?

A: Our goal is to transition to the XML solution over the next year starting now. There will be about two weeks for CBs to review data requirements. Requirements will then be finalized, added to the service, and made available for test submissions. Live submissions will start after testing is complete. The transition will be on a product-by-product basis and the timeframe for each product will be announced in advance on the technical resources webpage. EPA anticipates about a 2-month timeframe initially for each new XML product service.

8. Q: Do you have a sandbox server (for test) to test out the submissions?

A: There is only one server for all submissions, a flag can be set in the submission to have the submission treated as testing only.

9. Q: Is there any sample test data available?

A: EPA is providing sample XMLs on the technical resources page (www.energystar.gov/cbresources).

10. Q: How can CBs get information from systems into the correct format?

A: Data requirements are all included in the schemas found in the WSDL, which facilitates automated extraction of these requirements.

11. Q: What is the style of web-service document / RPC / literal / encoded?

A: The style is `doc:literal` SOAP 1.1

12. Q: Why is EPA given the impression that this is really easy to be done, when in reality we need to build our solution to support your system?

A: EPA is trying to make the transmission process as simple as possible by using industry standard protocols such as SOAP, XML and XSD in the QPX web-service. All of the product categories will be contained in one WSDL file, which will allow anyone to dynamically generate a web-service client based off of that file, which contains all of the data requirements for all product categories. Any users with the correct tools can generate a functioning client in a very short-period of time.

13. Q: Will EPA be providing a sample client tool?

A: Some possible design options for building client systems are available on the web resources page (www.energystar.gov/qpx). Since each CB's system is different, CBs will need to build a client tool that is appropriate and compatible with their system. There are a number of open source solutions for this.

14. Q: What is the purpose of the family and certification ID?

A: This is a way to facilitate reporting multiple products under the same certification, such that they will appear on multiple rows of the Qualified Products List even though they belong to the same certification or family of products. If the multiple models are all identical in terms of their attributes, they could alternatively be reported as "additional models". This latter technique is analogous to the comma separated lists which were used in the interim (excel based) system.

15. Q: Does EPA have anyone using this service yet? Is EPA planning on a pilot or a big bang launch?

A: EPA has made the Geothermal Heat Pump service available for testing and will transition only to the XML-based system as soon as CBs are ready. EPA is planning on phasing in the new services in a way that makes sense for all parties.

16. Q: Can CBs make test submissions now if they don't certify geothermal products?

A: EPA is creating and integrating the templates one at a time. GHP is available for testing. CBs associated with other product types will be permitted to test when their templates come online. (In response to this question, EPA has made changes internally to allow all CB's, regardless of products they certify, to submit test files against the GHP service).

17. Q: For the date format in the identifier elements: <MMDDYYYYH24MISS> = Date time string MM= Month number, DD - Day number, YYYY = Year number, H24 hours (0-23), MI minute number, SS seconds, what is this date/time based on? Does it change per submittal/transaction? Does it have to be the same for ES, CER and FAM ID? When can it change?

A: This is assigned when the product is certified. It is used to facilitate tracking of a unique product identifier. In general there is no logic built into the date string in the identifier itself, but rather only on the identifier string as a whole. It remains the same for a unique product and shall remain the same throughout the product's life cycle.

18. Q: Is the Run_Realtime_Service up? I keep getting errors when I try to ping test?

A: It should be up and running now. Some of the services exposed are turned off even though they are visible in the WSDL file. These services are not part of our core system. Currently only the submit_Geothermal_Heat_Pumps and the submit_Status_Request services are active.

19. Q: Can EPA build a web form for CBs to submit in the interim to test out the process?

A: EPA will not be providing any web forms.

20. Q: Why didn't the EPA just add SOAP transfer process to existing Excel docs since all current data is already in Excel?

A: The data requirements are different in the XML system. For example, the structure of reporting additional models, identifiers, and other fields have changed. One of the major reasons we are moving to an XML based system is to increase data quality and allow for historical tracking of qualified models.

21. Q: Who should we approach for technical consultation?

A: certification@energystar.gov and the technical resources page (<http://www.energystar.gov/qpx>).

22. Q: Should all CB's temporarily be added to the geothermal category to start developing/testing?

A: All CBs, regardless of product category association, will be allowed to make test submissions for any product that is in the test phase in order to practice using the web service. However, once the testing phase ends, only those CBs associated with the particular product will be able to authenticate and make submissions.

23. Q: Can EPA provide an access database that includes all the data requirements so CBs can use that?

A: No, but the schema definitions (XSDs) found in the WSDL may be used to generate such data structures, and those schema definitions contain all the data requirements and constraints.