



INTERSOFT

Intelligent Shipper

Containerisation API
Specification Document

Version 1.7.2

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3. Introduction

This document describes the Intelligent Shipper Containerisation APIs, which allow shipments to be grouped into containers. This is so that the shipments in the container are grouped together in Intelligent Shipper, and the shipments can all be manifested at once by closing the container.

3.1. Implementation of the Service

The service is implemented using XML messaging. The customer is responsible for sending an XML message in the format displayed in the document **"Intelligent Shipper Containerisation API - XML Examples"**. The customer is responsible for maintaining the capability of receiving XML messages in the format displayed in the example XML responses.

XSDs are not required, so do not exist. Communication to Intelligent Shipper endpoints will only utilise HTTPS. TLS version 1.2 (In affect from March 31st, 2020) only will be enabled. TLS cipher suites utilised on the Intelligent Shipper solution can be found via the below link for the Sandbox environment:

<https://www.ssllabs.com/ssltest/analyze.html?d=test.intelligentshipper.net&latest>

XMLs will be processed via Post actions. XMLs will be secured by data passed in the Integration Header portions of the XMLs provided. Intersoft will provide the required credentials via email as part of the onboarding process.

3.2. Fair Usage Policy

In order to maintain optimal performance of our API and ensure that all partners and customers have a good experience, we urge all developers to consider and optimize their calls and flows. Fair use is defined as 20,000 API calls per 24-hour period per agreement.

If an application creates an excessive load on the API, Intersoft is at liberty, without warning, to restrict the integration's access to our APIs. Intersoft will offer help and guidance on how to optimise the technical implementation.

4. API Services

The Intelligent Shipper Containerisation API contains the following services:

Service Name	Description	Mandatory / Optional	Allowed Methods	URL
createContainer	To create a new container and allocate shipments to the container	Mandatory	Post	/api/v1.7/containers/createContainerRequest
updateContainer	To update or finalise an open container	Mandatory	Post	/api/v1.7/containers/updateContainerRequest
getContainer	To retrieve the tracking numbers allocated to a container along with the current status of the container	Optional	Post	/api/v1.7/containers/getContainerRequest
getContainers	To retrieve the list of either open containers or containers closed out over a requested date range.	Optional	Post	/api/v1.7/containers/getContainersRequest

The document contains a separate section for each of these services, which describes the service in more detail including the request and response XML content.

5. Integration Header and Footer

The request and response header and response footer use the same format across each API service. The purpose and XML content of these header and footer sections is described below. Content unique to each service is described in the section for that service.

5.1. Request Header

The request header confirms the version number being used and denotes the UTF-8 encoding used in the service. The header confirms who the request is coming from and verifies the credentials used in the request.

The request header contains the following elements:

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional / Optional	Notes
serviceNameRequest/integrationHeader			
<dateTimeStamp>	D-19	O	YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS Date/Time Stamp of the request.
<transactionId>	C-32	M	ID preserved throughout the lifespan of the transaction, unique when combined with the applicationId and intermediaryId (if applicable)
<applicationId>	C-10	M	The ID of the Service Requester calling the service. This will be provided by Intersoft.
<userId>	C-10	M	User ID for system access. This will be provided by Intersoft.
<password>	C-10	M	Password for system access. This will be provided by Intersoft.

5.2. Response Header

The response header contains the following elements:

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional / Optional	Notes
serviceNameResponse/integrationHeader			
<dateTimeStamp>	D-16	O	YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM Date/Time Stamp of the response.
<transactionId>	C-32	M	ID preserved throughout the lifespan of the transaction, unique when combined with the applicationId.
<applicationId>	C-10	M	The ID of the Service Provider, unique when combined with the TransactionId.

5.3. Response Footer

If the data in the request generated any errors, the response XML will include a footer element containing details of these.

The response footer contains the following elements:

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional / Optional	Notes
<i>serviceNameResponse/errors/errorDetail</i>			
<errorCode>	C-5	C	Error Code. Code associated with the error condition
<errorDescription>	C-32	C	Description of the error condition
<errorCause>	C-4	C	Cause of the business error (if known)
<errorResolution>	C-50	C	Description of the resolution and action required to correct the error
<errorContext>	C-50	C	Context of the business error, e.g. client or server

This section will only be present if any errors were generated.

6. createContainer

The createContainer service is used to create a new container and allocate shipments to the container. There are two ways available to use this service -

Option 1: Create a new container with minimum information. This will return a container Barcode Number and a Base64 encoded string containing the container label image. Allocate shipments to the container by using the **updateContainerRequest**. Close out the container and the shipments allocated to the container by sending an **updateContainerRequest** with the **<action>** element set to **"FINALISE"**. This will manifest all shipments in the container, close the container and return a Base64 encoded string containing the container label image.

Option 2: Create a container and finalise it in a single request. For this option you should include any required fields along with the tracking numbers of all shipments to be allocated to the container. For this option it is important to ensure the **<action>** element is set to **"FINALISE"**. This will create the container and close out the container and all shipments allocated to it in the request. It will not be possible to make any further updates to the container or the shipments allocated to it, or to add any more shipments to the container. The **createContainerResponse** will return a Base64 encoded string containing the container label image.

6.1. createContainerRequest Format

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerReference>	C-50	O	Your reference for the container. This will be returned in the response.
<containerBarcode>	C-32	O	For containers with a container type set to "RMIA" this field must be left empty. If not supplied the system will create a barcode for the container and return it in the response.
<destinationCountryCode>	C-2	M	2 Digit ISO Country Code, per ISO 3166 Standard
<exportDate>	D-10	O	The date the container is being shipped. This will be automatically set when a container is finalised. Format YYYY-MM-DD
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number. Mandatory only when finalising a Container with a container type set to "RMIA". Must be provided in the format nnn-nnnnnnnn. E.g: 123-12345678
<carrierCode>	C-4	M	Intelligent Shipper Carrier Code. Only Shipments with the same carrier code will be accepted into the container. Royal Mail is currently the only carrier supported.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<type>	C-4	M	Container Type: RMIA – Royal Mail International Arrivals DOM – Domestic INTL – International
<rmService>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Service applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. If not supplied the system will apply the default value. Accepted values are: P = Priority (Default) E = Economy S = Surface
<rmProduct>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Product applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. If not supplied the system will apply the default value. Accepted values are: T = International Tracked (Default) R = International Tracked & Signed R = International Signed O = International Max Sort
<rmContentFormat>	C-1	C	Royal Mail Content Format applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. If not supplied with a container of type RMIA, the system will return an error. Accepted values are: G = Large P = Small
<rmOECode>	C-3	O	Royal Mail Office of Exchange Code. Defaulted to GBR.
<action>	C-8	O	Leave blank if you want to create the container and finalise it at a later date. Set Action to “FINALISE” if you want to create a container and finalise it in one request. Finalising the container will closeout all shipments in the container, prevent any further updates from being made to the container and the shipments allocated to it and prevent any more shipments from being allocated to the container.
createContainerRequest/container/trackingNumbers			

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<trackingNumber>	C-32	O	Tracking Numbers of shipments to allocate to the container. Occurs Min=0 Max=10,000. If finalising a container on creation, at least one valid Tracking Number must be supplied.

6.2. createContainerResponse Format

If the createContainer request is successful, the createContainer response will return a Base64 encoded string containing the container label image.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerReference>	C-50	M	Your reference for the container.
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	If containerBarcode was provided in the request, that barcode will be returned in the response. If containerBarcode was not provided in the request, this field will contain the container barcode number generated by Intelligent Shipper.
<destinationCountryCode>	C-2	M	2 Digit ISO Country Code, per ISO 3166 Standard
<exportDate>	D-10	C	The date the container is being shipped. Only returned if container is finalised in the createContainer request.
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number sent in the request.
<carrierCode>	C-4	M	Intelligent Shipper Carrier Code the container is for.
<type>	C-4	M	Container Type: RMIA – Royal Mail International Arrivals DOM – Domestic INTL – International
<rmService>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Service applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: P = Priority (Default) E = Economy S = Surface

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<rmProduct>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Product applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: T = International Tracked (Default) R = International Tracked & Signed R = International Signed O = International Max Sort
<rmContentFormat>	C-1	C	Royal Mail Content Format applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: G = Large P = Small
<rmOECode>	C-3	O	Royal Mail Office of Exchange Code.
<status>	C-8	M	Valid values are OPEN or FINALISED. 'FINALISED' when <action> element set to 'FINALISE' in createContainer request.
<shipmentCount>	N-5	M	Returns the number of shipments allocated to the container.
<containerLabel>	Base 64 String	M	Base64-encoded string of the container label image.

7. updateContainer

This service should be used to allocate shipments to an existing “OPEN” container. It should also be used to finalise open containers. Finalising the container will close the container and also close out all shipments allocated to it. Once a container has been finalised, no more shipments can be allocated to it. The **updateContainerResponse** will return a Base64 encoded string containing the container label image.

Note:

- If a container is being finalised, at least one shipment must be allocated to it, or an error will be returned.
- If an updateContainer request attempts to add shipments to a container that has already been finalised an error will be returned in the response
- If an updateContainer request attempts to finalise a container that has already been finalised an error will be returned in the response.

7.1. UpdateContainerRequest Format

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	The container barcode returned in the createContainerResponse when the container was created.
<exportDate>	D-10	O	The date the container is being shipped. This will be automatically set when a container is finalised. Format YYYY-MM-DD
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number. Mandatory only when finalising a Container with a container type set to “RMIA”. Must be provided in the format nnn-nnnnnnnn. E.g: 123-12345678
<action>	C-8	O	Set Action to “FINALISE” if you want to update and finalise the container. Finalising the container will closeout all shipments in the container, prevent any further updates from being made to the container and the shipments allocated to it and prevent any more shipments being allocated to the container.
createContainerRequest/container/trackingNumbers			
<trackingNumber>	C-32	O	Tracking Numbers of shipments to allocate to the container. Occurs Min=0 Max=10,000 If finalising a container, at least one shipment must be allocated to the container otherwise an error will be returned

7.2. updateContainerResponse Format

If the updateContainer request is successful, the updateContainer response will confirm the number of shipments allocated to the container and return a Base64-encoded string containing the container label image.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerReference>	C-50	M	Your reference for the container.
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	The container barcode number that was provided in the request.
<destinationCountryCode>	C-2	M	2 Digit ISO Country Code, per ISO 3166 Standard
<exportDate>	D-10	M	The date the container is being shipped.
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number provided in the request.
<carrierCode>	C-4	M	Intelligent Shipper Carrier Code the container is for.
<type>	C-4	M	Container Type: RMIA – Royal Mail International Arrivals DOM – Domestic INTL – International
<rmService>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Service applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: P = Priority (Default) E = Economy S = Surface
<rmProduct>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Product applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: T = International Tracked (Default) R = International Tracked & Signed R = International Signed O = International Max Sort

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<rmContentFormat>	C-1	C	Royal Mail Content Format applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: G = Large P = Small
<rmOECode>	C-3	O	Royal Mail Office of Exchange Code.
<status>	C-8	M	Valid values are OPEN or FINALISED. 'FINALISED' when <action> element set to 'FINALISE' in updateContainer request.
<shipmentCount>	N-5	M	Returns the number of shipments allocated to the container
<containerLabel>	Base 64 String	M	Base64 -encoded string of the container label image

8. getContainer

This service is used to retrieve a list of the shipment tracking numbers allocated to a container along with the current status of the container. If the container has been finalised, a list of manifest numbers relating to the shipments allocated to the container will also be returned.

Note: The manifest images can then be retrieved by calling the printManifestRequest service with the manifest numbers in the getContainerResponse. Manifest information can also be retrieved by calling the manifestHistoryRequest service. The printManifest and manifestHistory APIs are detailed in the document “Intelligent Shipper API – Multipiece Shipment Bookings”.

8.1. getContainerRequest Format

The container barcode number is used to retrieve a list of the shipment tracking numbers allocated to a container, along with the current status of the container.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	The container barcode returned in the createContainerResponse when the container was created.

8.2. getContainerResponseFormat

The response returns the list of shipment tracking numbers allocated to the container barcode number sent in the request. If the container is finalised, the response will return a list of the manifest numbers for the shipments allocated to the container.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerReference>	C-50	M	Your reference for the container.
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	The container barcode number that was provided in the request.
<destinationCountryCode>	C-2	M	2 Digit ISO Country Code, per ISO 3166 Standard
<exportDate>	D-10	M	The date the container is being shipped.
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number provided in the request.
<carrierCode>	C-4	M	Intelligent Shipper Carrier Code the container is for.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<type>	C-4	M	Container Type: RMIA – Royal Mail International Arrivals DOM – Domestic INTL – International
<rmService>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Service applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: P = Priority (Default) E = Economy S = Surface
<rmProduct>	C-1	O	Royal Mail Product applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: T = International Tracked (Default) R = International Tracked & Signed R = International Signed O = International Max Sort
<rmContentFormat>	C-1	C	Royal Mail Content Format applicable to the container. Only used with RMIA container type. Possible values are: G = Large P = Small
<rmOECode>	C-3	O	Royal Mail Office of Exchange Code.
<status>	C-8	C	‘FINALISED’ if the requested container is finalised, else this field will be blank.
<trackingNumber>	C-32	M	Returns a list of the shipment tracking numbers allocated to the requested container.
<manifest>	C-12	C	Returns the manifest details of the container. Mandatory when the requested container is finalised.
<shipmentCount>	N-5	M	Returns the number of shipments allocated to the container.
<containerLabel>	Base 64 String	M	Base64 -encoded string of the container label image.

9. getContainers

This service should be used to return a list of either all OPEN containers, or Containers finalised over a requested date range. The information returned in the response includes the list of containers in either 'OPEN' or 'FINALISED' state over the requested date range, along with the container barcode number and the shipments allocated to each container.

Note: When status is provided as OPEN, any date ranges provided in the request will be ignored and the response will return all containers with status as OPEN. When the status is provided as FINALISED, the response will return all Finalised containers with an export date within the date range provided.

9.1. getContainersRequest Format

Element Name	Data Type	M/C/O	Notes
<status>	C-6	M	This is the status of the containers to return. Accepted values are: OPEN or FINALISED
<fromDate>	D-10	C	Required if requesting CLOSED containers. Format: YYYY-MM-DD
<toDate>	D-10	C	Required if requesting CLOSED containers. Format: YYYY-MM-DD

9.2. getContainersResponse Format

A successful response returns the list of all open containers, or a list of finalised containers over the requested date range.

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
<containerReference>	C-50	M	Your reference for the container.
<containerBarcode>	C-32	M	The container barcode number.
<destinationCountryCode>	C-2	M	2 Digit ISO Country Code, per ISO 3166 Standard
<exportDate>	D-10	M	The date the container is being shipped.
<MAWB>	C-12	C	Master Airway Bill number. Mandatory only when the requested container is finalised.
<carrierCode>	C-4	M	Intelligent Shipper Carrier Code the container is for.
<type>	C-4	M	Container Type: RMIA – Royal Mail International Arrivals DOM – Domestic

Element Name	Data Type	Mandatory /Conditional /Optional	Notes
			INTL – International
<status>	C-8	C	'FINALISED' if the requested container is finalised, else this field will be blank.
<shipmentCount>	N-5	M	Returns the number of shipments allocated to the container.

10. Appendix 1 - Container Barcode and Label Format

10.1. Barcode Format for RMIA Container Type

For containers with the Container Type RMIA, the container barcode is a 12 alphanumeric sequence in the format AANNNNNNNGB, where:

- AAN refers to the Royal Mail Product Prefix
- NNNNNNN refers to Item Identifier. This will be generated sequentially from the number range configured in the Intelligent Shipper screen UK Arrivals Container Settings.
- GB refers to Country Code. This is static and will always be GB.

10.2. Barcode Format for International and Domestic Container Type

For International and Domestic container types, if the container barcode is provided in the createContainer request then that value will be used as the container barcode. If a container barcode is not provided in the createContainer request, then Intelligent Shipper will generate a container barcode in the following format:

<Prefix><ContainerSequence><CreationDate><DestinationCountryCode> where:

- Prefix - 3-letter code for the container type, either "INT" or "DOM"
- ContainerSequence – System Container Sequence padded on the right with zeros to maintain 8 characters e.g. "00000078". When the limit of the sequence is met (99999999) it will restart from 1 (00000001).
- CreationDate – The Date the Container is created. Formatted YYYYMMDD e.g. "20230510" (10th May 2023)
- DestinationCountryCode – Taken from the container DestinationCountryCode = e.g. "FR"

Examples:

DOM0000001220230510FR - Domestic Container created on 10th May 2023, destination France, # 12 in the sequence.

INT0000003520230510US - International Container created on 10th May 2023, destination USA, # 35 in the sequence

10.3. Container Label Example

Below is an example of the container barcode label that will be returned in the createContainer, updateContainer and getContainer response as a Base-64 string:



11. Appendix 2 – Error Codes List

The sections below list the error codes that could potentially be returned in an unsuccessful response for each service.

10.1 createContainer Error Codes

Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
transactionId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
userId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
userId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
password	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
password	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
RMIA Not Enabled	N	Y	E6001	You do not have access to create UK arrival containers. Please contact your system administrator
containerReference	N	Y	E1890	The field containerReference exceeds the maximum allowable length of 50
containerReference	N	Y	E1890	The field containerReference exceeds the maximum allowable length of 50
containerBarcode	N	Y	E1890	The field containerReference exceeds the maximum allowable length of 32
containerBarcode	N	Y	E3423	Container barcode has already been used
containerBarcode	N	Y	E1890	Invalid container barcode
destinationCountryCode	Y	N	E1890	The field destinationCountryCode is required

Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
destinationCountryCode	N	Y	E1890	The field destinationCountryCode exceeds the maximum allowable length of 2
exportDate	N	Y	E1890	Invalid export date format
MAWB	N	Y	E1890	The field MAWB exceeds the maximum allowable length of 12
carrierCode	Y	N	E1890	Carrier code is required
carrierCode	N	Y	E1890	The field carrierCode exceeds the maximum allowable length of 4
carrierCode	N	Y	E1890	Invalid RoyalMail carrier code
type	Y	N	E1890	The field type is required
type	N	Y	E1890	Invalid container type
rmService	N	Y	E1890	The field rmService exceeds the maximum allowable length of 1
rmProduct	N	Y	E1890	The field rmProduct exceeds the maximum allowable length of 1
rmContentFormat	Y	N	E1111	rmContentFormat is required
rmContentFormat	N	Y	E1890	The field rmContentFormat exceeds the maximum allowable length of 1
rmOECode	N	Y	E1890	The field rmOECode exceeds the maximum allowable length of 3
action	N	Y	E1890	Invalid action
trackingNumber	N	Y	E8000	Tracking Number not on file
trackingNumber	N	Y	E1205	You have reached a maximum of 10,000 tracking numbers allowed per container. Please finalise instead

10.2 updateContainer Error Codes

Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
transactionId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation

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Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
applicationId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
userId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
userId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
password	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
password	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
containerBarcode	Y	N	E1890	Container barcode is required
containerBarcode	N	Y	E1890	Invalid container barcode format
exportDate	N	Y	E1891	Export date cannot be in the past
exportDate	N	Y	E1890	Invalid export date format
MAWB	N	Y	E1890	The field MAWB exceeds the maximum allowable length of 12
Action	N	Y	E1890	Invalid Action
trackingNumber	N	Y	E8000	Tracking Number not on file
trackingNumber	N	Y	E1205	You have reached a maximum of 10,000 tracking numbers allowed per container. Please finalise instead

10.3 getContainer Error Codes

Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
transactionId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
userId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
userId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
password	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
password	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
containerBarcode	Y	N	E1890	Container barcode is required
containerBarcode	N	Y	E1232	Container not found

10.4 getContainers Error Codes

Field	Blank?	Invalid?	Error Code	Error Description
transactionId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
applicationId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
userId	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
userId	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
password	Y	N	E3333	Error deserializing XML message. Check your XML complies with the API documentation
password	N	Y	E6001	Access Denied
status	Y	N	E1890	Status is required
status	N	Y	E1890	Invalid status
fromDate	Y	N	E1890	From date is required
fromDate	N	Y	E1890	Invalid from date format
toDate	Y	N	E1890	To date is required
toDate	N	Y	E1890	Invalid to date format

12. Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Base64	A standard binary-to-text encoding scheme that is used to represent binary data in an ASCII string format. Used to include binary data with an XML structure
IP	Internet Protocol
Closed Out	Close Out or RMG Customer Collection Receipt has been created and Customer Collection Receipt has been printed
PDF	Portable Document Format
UI	User Interface
WSDL	Web Service Description Language
XML	eXtensible Markup Language, a flexible standard for data inside a hierarchical structure of named data items
XSD	XSD is XML Schema Definition – this defines a specific template for the XML used by particular systems

