

Nlets XML Frequently Asked Questions

Weren't Nlets specifications already available in NIEM?

Yes, Nlets released NIEM-based XML specifications back in 2011. The NIEM Conversion effort upgraded the GJXDM-based XML specifications to use the more modern NIEM model. At that time, only the queries and a few other message types (criminal history, DMV, etc.) offered a fully tagged, standard format. The Nlets Message Standardization project completed in 2015 created standardized formats for most remaining response message types. For queries and other message types that cannot have additional standardization added, the 2011 specifications represent the current NIEM XML specifications.

If we implemented NIEM XML a few years ago, are we all set?

The Nlets Board of Directors (BOD) motion sunsets legacy, non-standard text formats and requires that all message types be sent in fully tagged, standardized XML format. This means that the previously accepted 'text wrapped in CDATA' formats are no longer acceptable and that the fully tagged format must be sent for any messages that it is available for.

Where can I get the specifications?

The written documentation is all available on the [Nlets User Guide](#). Schemas and technical documents were provided to Nlets representatives upon completion of the Nlets Message Standardization project and are also available on N-Gage. If needed, the files can be requested directly from Kate Silhol via email (ksilhol@nlets.org).

What message types are standardized? (What message types do I need to upgrade?)

Messages included in the Nlets Message Standardization project are: Amber Alert (AA), Boat Registration (BR), Sex Offender (SON, SOR), Concealed Weapons (CWR), Wildlife License and Violation (WLR), Snowmobile (SR), Parole, Probation, Corrections (PAR, PBR, PCR, PPR), State Warrant (SWR), Hit Confirmation (YR). The existing standards for Criminal History, Driver, and Vehicle message types have not been changed so if the JTF XML RAP Sheet or CANDLER-formatted DRs and RRs were already implemented in your state, those do not need to be upgraded.

How do I send 'Not On File/No Hit' responses?

The response message formats will continue to offer a ResponseText element for this purpose. Non-standardized record data should not be communicated in this element, but rather any textual data relating to the non-hit status of a query may be returned in this.

What about the other message types?

The previously listed message types represent all message types that states send, and that contain data which can be standardized. The only messages not addressed by the standardization project are those which are inherently free form (i.e., AM or LQ/LR), Canadian transactions (Canada is working on this and will provide us the standard soon), and a few from sources that presented challenges to guarantee the format such as websites that Nlets scrapes. For these message types, the existing XML format is still appropriate.

When can I start sending the standardized XML formats?

Now! If you're ready to test, please give the Nlets Service Center a call at 800-528-4020.

What format of XML will I receive?

Once states begin sending the updated standardized XML formats, XML users receiving NIEM will begin receiving these standardized formats as well. Nlets has created presentation stylesheets that will transform these new standards and are available for your use. They can be downloaded from N-Gage. Users receiving GJXDM will receive the presentation format (text) wrapped in CDATA until they upgrade to NIEM. As always, users may set up their routes based on ORI and message key, so migration does not need to be done at one time.

Can you explain these files? Where do I start?

Within the Nlets User Guide, there are folders named for every message key. Within each folder, there is a schema titled 'NIEM Examples' and 'Downloads'. These areas of the Nlets User Guide provide the primary schema for each message type. NIEM is the schema that XML must be valid against and contain the actual standards that are referenced. They're structured in this way to maximize the reusability. Please also ensure that the business rules on the Nlets wiki are consulted (including also JTF Rapsheet or CANDLE documents).

For more information, contact the Nlets Service Center at 800-528-4020 or service@nlets.org