**How to validate an XML file**

**Note that there are many ways to do this – this is one suggested approach.**

1. Download the software, *Notepad++*
   1. Download the 64-bit version if you have a 64-bit operating system *npp.7.5.4.Installer.x64.exe* (latest version as of Feb, 2018)
   2. Download the 32-bit version if you have a 32-bit operating system
2. Install Notepad++
3. Download the Notepad++ plugin, *XML Tools*
   1. Download the 64-bit version if you have a 64-bit operating system

*Xml Tools 2.4.9.2 x64 Unicode.zip* (latest version as of Feb, 2018)

* 1. Download the 32-bit version if you have a 32-bit operating system
  2. Unzip the files
  3. Read the Install.txt file for how to install the plug-in

1. See <http://when-others-then-null.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/Validate-XML-against-an-XSD-using-npp.html> for instructions on using Notepad++ to validate XML
2. Download the ePermits.xsd files to your local drive/computer
   1. Go to <https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML_SCHEMA/permit.html> to download the Permit xsd file: *BRS\_Permit\_V2.0.xsd (rename the file extension from .XML to .XSD if necessary)*
   2. Go to <https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML_SCHEMA/index.html> to download the Notification xsd file: *BRS\_Notification\_V2.0.xsd (rename the file extension from .XML to .XSD if necessary)*
   3. Go [to https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML\_SCHEMA/reports.html](https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML_SCHEMA/reports.html) to download the files for reports:
      1. Planting Report - *PlantingReport.xsd*
      2. Volunteer Monitoring Report - *VolunteerMonitoringReport.xsd*
      3. Field Test Report - *FieldTestDataReport.xsd*

*(rename the file extension from .XML to .XSD if necessary)*

1. In addition to validating your XML against the ePermits.xsd files, you should also confirm that your file does not contain non-ASCII characters. In Notepad ++, select: Search | Find characters in range | Non-ASCII Characters (128-255)