

## 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++*
  - a. 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)
  - b. Download the 32-bit version if you have a 32-bit operating system
2. Install Notepad++
3. Download the Notepad++ plugin, *XML Tools*
  - a. 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)
  - b. Download the 32-bit version if you have a 32-bit operating system
  - c. Unzip the files
  - d. Read the Install.txt file for how to install the plug-in
4. 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
5. Download the ePermits.xsd files to your local drive/computer
  - a. Go to [https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML\\_SCHEMA/permit.html](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)
  - b. Go to [https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/ePermits/XML\\_SCHEMA/index.html](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)
  - c. 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:
    - i. Planting Report - *PlantingReport.xsd*
    - ii. Volunteer Monitoring Report - *VolunteerMonitoringReport.xsd*
    - iii. Field Test Report - *FieldTestDataReport.xsd*(rename the file extension from *.XML* to *.XSD* if necessary)
6. 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)