



ETIM
International

ETIM dynamic release

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1. Introduction

The time between official international ETIM (EC) releases is now around two years. This period is determined by factors like implementation time, version stability and development time. A standard needs version stability, which can be seen as an advantage of a standard. This means that it cannot be expected that a standard will adapt 'real-time' to changes in the market or in the delivered products. This will also still apply to the official ETIM version, the version that everyone in the market is supposed to support.

On the other hand, the market more and more demands ETIM to offer a more flexible solution, a solution that enables to anticipate on the next official release. For countries that are interested in offering a more dynamic solution to their members to release changes, ETIM will support so called dynamic releases.

Every country organization participating in ETIM International chooses if they want to support this dynamic release for their country and if so, with what frequency they want to offer this (daily, weekly, ...).

ETIM International exports a new dynamic release every day, containing the changed or new classes to that day (compared to the current official release version). It is up to the member countries and/or the users to choose their own frequency of processing, which can be each day, each week, etc. From the point of view of stability (of the own system), it may be desirable not to do this processing too frequently.

2. Dynamic release

2.1. What is a dynamic ETIM release?

A dynamic or intermediate ETIM release contains all classes that are already published or have the status 'ready to publish' at the time of export. These can be new classes, but also changed existing classes. From a format technical point of view, a dynamic publication is equivalent to a normal ETIM publication, the notation in the header of the file indicates that it concerns a dynamic release. Change codes are used to indicate the differences to the current official ETIM release. For a more detailed explanation on this see later in this guideline.

2.2. Advantages and conditions

Dynamic ETIM release means that you can already use new classes, features or values for internal applications like an online web shop. It means making it possible to already exchange this information bilaterally between two trading partners, if they both support this information. Finally, it also means making it possible to spread the internal work, that comes with adapting classified product information to a new ETIM release. Users can update the data in their own system the moment a new class or change is made available. That enables them to spread the workload associated with classification, and it is then easier to have this work done by people that often have other primary tasks. Condition of course is that the implemented software (PIM) system enables the use of dynamic releases.

But clearly there also restrictions to a dynamic release. Everyone is supposed to support the current official ETIM release; dynamic releases are optional for those who wish to apply these and are limited usable for just an internal application or bilateral exchange. Besides, changes in classes that have the status 'ready for publication' can still be revoked until the moment of official release, depending on the arguments. ETIM will take care that this will be limited to a minimum.

We strongly advise software solutions that are using the dynamic release to visualize the upcoming changes, additions and to be deleted elements. This way both the manufacturer as the user of the data can determine as best as possible which features and values to fill in or to use.

2.3 Release format

The dynamic ETIM release will be offered via the ETIM API and as file in the international standard (XML) format ETIM IXF (current format version IXF3.1).

- For the ETIM API documentation see <https://etimapi.etim-international.com/swagger/index.html>
- For the complete documentation on the IXF format including XSD, please go to the download section at www.etim-international.com in the folder "Classification and format".

A dynamic or intermediate release is identified in the IXF format by the header element "Prerelease" and always displays the changes compared to the current official release. These changes are displayed using changes codes as explained in more detail below.

The dynamic release exports (as file) will be generated automatically from the online ETIM management tool CMT and can be requested by webservice via the following URLs (replace YYYYMMDD by the actual date requested, at least one day before the current date):

For the basic **METRIC** version, without added imperial units:

https://cdn.etim-international.com/exports/ETIMIXF3_1_YYYYMMDD.xml

Or as zip file:

https://cdn.etim-international.com/exports/ETIMIXF3_1_YYYYMMDD.zip

For the **IMPERIAL** version (for the North American market) with added imperial units where relevant (see the IXF 3.1 format description for more explanation):

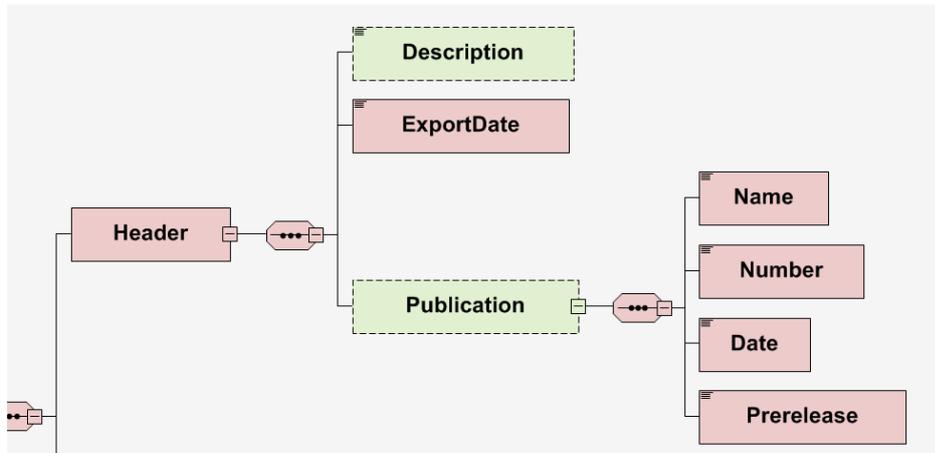
https://cdn.etim-international.com/exports/ETIMIXF3_1_Imperial_YYYYMMDD.xml

Or as zip file:

https://cdn.etim-international.com/exports/ETIMIXF3_1_Imperial_YYYYMMDD.zip

Please note that links to dynamic release files are only valid for 15 days and then expire. More clearly, you can only access a dynamic release max. 15 days back from today, this since these are actual files that have to be stored and are deleted again after 15 days to free storage space.

In the header section general information is given on the release. The “Prerelease” element is a Boolean field (true/false), that indicates if the file is a dynamic (intermediate) release or not.



See below for an example of how this indication is used in an actual ETIM IXF file.

```

<Header>
  <Description>Dynamic release - all sectors</Description>
  <ExportDate>2018-11-08T22:10:11.2027801Z</ExportDate>
  <Publication>
    <Name>DYNAMIC</Name>
    <Number>8</Number>
    <Date>2015-06-29T00:00:00</Date>
    <Prerelease>true</Prerelease>
  </Publication>
</Header>
  
```

Finally, the dynamic release will include classes for all sectors, with all translations (as far as available) that are available publicly without (members only) restrictions. ETIM English is always complete for all sectors at any time.

2.4. Process and procedures change requests

Change requests can originate from all participating countries, from individual members or as a result of expert group meetings. Per country the local ETIM organisation is responsible for the intake and first assessment of local requests for change. If a request is deemed admissible, this will be entered in the international classification management tool ETIM CMT, and then follows a workflow for the decision process. Final approval of a request for change is formally given by the ETIM TC, the international technical committee. After approval the class concerned is set to the status ‘ready for publication’ and the changes at hand will be available in the next dynamic release.

For the complete documentation on handing in and approval of change requests see the document ‘ETIM International guidelines’, also in the download section at www.etim-international.com in the folder “Classification and format”.

3. Change codes

With the export of a dynamic release this is automatically compared to the current official release. All differences are indicated with change codes. Classes, features, values and units can be new, changed, unchanged or deleted. See illustration below for the changes codes that are defined in the IXF format.

```
<xs:simpleType name="ChangeCodeType">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:token">
    <xs:enumeration value="New"/>
    <xs:enumeration value="Changed"/>
    <xs:enumeration value="Will be changed in next official release"/>
    <xs:enumeration value="Unchanged"/>
    <xs:enumeration value="Deleted"/>
    <xs:enumeration value="Will be deleted in next official release"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
```

This is an import nuance difference between a dynamic and an official release: 'Deleted' in an official release indicates that the element IS deleted, in a dynamic release 'Will be deleted in next official release' indicates that with the next official release the element WILL BE deleted (but is not deleted yet, since still part of the current official version).

See below for an example of how the change codes are used in an actual ETIM IXF file.

```
<Feature changeCode="Unchanged">
  <FeatureCode>EF011980</FeatureCode>
  <UnitCode>EU570193</UnitCode>
  <OrderNumber>6</OrderNumber>
</Feature>
<Feature changeCode="Will be changed in next official release">
  <FeatureCode>EF000003</FeatureCode>
  <OrderNumber>7</OrderNumber>
  <Values>
    <Value changeCode="Will be deleted in next official release">
      <ValueCode>EV000071</ValueCode>
      <OrderNumber>1</OrderNumber>
    </Value>
    <Value changeCode="New">
      <ValueCode>EV000945</ValueCode>
      <OrderNumber>1</OrderNumber>
    </Value>
  </Values>
</Feature>
```

4. Data exchange

For the exchange of product data, that are based on the dynamic release, in principle the common formats can be used, like the ETIM BMEcat format or other local formats.

Whether the receiver of the dynamic release-based product data is able to process these, depends on the one hand of course on the technical possibilities his software offers for this and on the other hand on the date at which he has last imported the dynamic release. This will usually be a case of mutual alignment between involved parties.

Suppose the system of the data receiver is NOT specifically equipped to receive data according to the dynamic release. That does not by itself mean that the product data file cannot be processed, depending on the software of the data receiver. In many solutions not recognized classes, features, etc. will simply be ignored, without the application jamming on that. All data that are still according to the current official release can still be imported. Point of attention with that is that the class version (not the same as the release version!) is increased, certain software solutions might validate on that.

In many cases a central product database is being used as distribution channel for the data exchange between parties. These central databases are often already prepared to work with dynamic releases and can support you in offering an appropriate solution for all your customers. For more information about the possibilities, we gladly refer you to the concerning (local) organisation itself.

5. Finally

As mentioned in the introduction, with this dynamic release ETIM International wants to meet with the market's wish for a more flexible standard, that can respond faster to new developments.

On the other hand, dynamic release has a significant impact on the systems of product data suppliers and receivers. The near future will have to prove if the market is sufficiently capable of adapting her systems to working with dynamic releases, where the strategic importance will have to justify investments in time and money.

Again, dynamic ETIM release is optional, each local ETIM organisation decides if they want to use it or not. We will continue to evaluate the solution, technically as well as in terms of implementation, and introduce improvements where necessary.