Legacy Product Feed Specification: XML

⚠️ This product catalog/feed type is deprecated. Unless you are a Monetate client still using the legacy product specification, refer to the current product catalog specification.

If you have any questions about your product feed or any custom requirements, submit a support ticket using the Kibo Technical Support portal (kibotechsupport.zendesk.com).

ℹ️ See Receiving Feed-Parsing Error Notifications in Upload a Product Feed for the steps to receive emails from Monetate informing you of feed-parsing errors.

Format Requirements

The specifications in this document are only relevant for feeds formatted as XML files. For feeds formatted as CSV files, see Product Feed Specifications: CSV. For feeds formatted as TSV files, see Product Feed Specifications: TSV.

If you adhere to these guidelines for XML product feeds, you can validate a feed using the feed validator available in Monetate. Once the feed passes, you can upload it for processing. If you have any questions about product feeds and any custom requirements, submit a support ticket using the Kibo Technical Support portal (kibotechsupport.zendesk.com).

All XML feed files should adhere to the following requirements:

- XML files must be version 1.0.
- Character encoding must be UTF-8 without HTML escaping.
- Every product in a feed must be surrounded by an opening `<product>` tag and a closing `</product>` tag.

ℹ️ Monetate natively supports UTF-8 characters up to the Specials Unicode block. To encode characters beyond this type, you should use HTML encoding. For more information about the Specials block, refer to the Specials PDF from The Unicode Consortium (unicode.org).

Fields

The information in this section describes the required and optional fields for a product feed file.

ℹ️ Any information that you include in a product feed must match the values that you collect on your site through the `addCartRows`, `addPurchaseRows`, `addProducts`, and `addProductDetails` method calls.
**Product ID**

**Header**

product_id

**Required**

Yes

**Specifications**

- Must match what Monetate collects on product detail and search pages
- Typically not a SKU but a higher-level identifier that identifies groups of products before further refinement based on size or color
- Maximum length of 32 characters
- Only alphanumeric (a–z, A–Z, or 0–9), forward slash (/), underscore (_), dash (-), and period (.) characters are acceptable

**Examples**

- `<product_id>1135813</product_id>`
- `<product_id>AAABBCCDD</product_id>`
- `<product_id>AbZ190-430_mm/89.pid</product_id>`

**Product Name**

**Header**

product_name

**Required**

Yes

**Specifications**

Maximum length of 128 characters

**Examples**

- `<product_name>Deluxe Stereo Headphones</product_name>`
- `<product_name>Portable Music Player</product_name>`
- `<product_name>Electric Shaving Kit</product_name>`

**Category Name**
**Header**

*category_name*

**Required**

Yes

**Specifications**

- Used for targeting product categories in experiences
- No predetermined categories set by Monetate, so each category is defined within its own container
- Maximum length of 128 characters per individual category name
- Unlimited number of categories per product
- Multiple names must be separated with a pipe (|) without a space before and after the pipe

**Examples**

**Single category example**

```xml
<categories>
  <category>
    <category_id>cid1</category_id>
    <category_name>category 1</category_name>
  </category>
</categories>
```

**Multiple category example**

```xml
<categories>
  <category>
    <category_id>cid1</category_id>
    <category_name>category 1</category_name>
  </category>
  <category>
    <category_id>cid2</category_id>
    <category_name>category 2</category_name>
  </category>
</categories>
```

**Price**

**Header**

*price*

**Required**

Yes
Specifications

- Current price of the product in decimal format
- For retail or strikethrough price, use `alt_price`
- No support for pricing beyond active price and alternate price

Examples

- `<price>33.50</price>`
- `<price>100.00</price>`
- `<price>0.50</price>`

Product URL

Header

`url`

Required

Yes

Specifications

- Full URL to the product detail page
- Should include both the scheme and host portions of the URL

Examples

- `<url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123</url>`
- `<url>http://www.monetate.com/running_shoe.html</url>`
- `<url>http://www.monetate.com/products/diving_watch.htm</url>`

Product Image URL

Header

`product_image_url`

Required

Yes

Specifications

- Full URL to a product image
- Should include both the scheme and host portions of the URL

Examples

Product Description

Header

product_description

Required

No

Specifications

Description of the product with a maximum length of 1,024 characters

Examples

- &lt;product_description&gt;A lovely example of modern elegance and style&lt;/product_description&gt;
- &lt;product_description&gt;Red&lt;/product_description&gt;
- &lt;product_description&gt;The latest electronics craze—this stereo is all the rage!&lt;/product_description&gt;

Alternate Price

Header

alt_price

Required

No

Specifications

An alternate price for display purposes only
Must be in decimal format

Examples

- &lt;alt_price&gt;33.50&lt;/alt_price&gt;
- &lt;alt_price&gt;100.00&lt;/alt_price&gt;
- &lt;alt_price&gt;0.50&lt;/alt_price&gt;

Category ID

Header

category_id
Required
No

Specifications
- Maximum length of 128 characters
- Only alphanumeric (a–z, A–Z, or 0–9) characters are acceptable
- Category ID must be unique per category name

Examples
Single category example

```xml
<categories>
  <category>
    <category_id>c1</category_id>
    <category_name>category 1</category_name>
  </category>
</categories>
```

Multiple category example

```xml
<categories>
  <category>
    <category_id>c1</category_id>
    <category_name>category 1</category_name>
  </category>
  <category>
    <category_id>c2</category_id>
    <category_name>category 2</category_name>
  </category>
</categories>
```

Availability
Header
availability

Required
Specifications

- Denotes whether an item is in stock or out of stock
- Out-of-stock items are excluded from endcaps
- Acceptable values include `In Stock` and `Out of Stock`
- Other values such as `Presale` may be used but are equivalent to `Out of Stock`

Examples

- `<availability>In Stock</availability>`
- `<availability>Out of Stock</availability>`
- `<availability>Presale</availability>`

Category Names and Category IDs

The way that `category_name` and `category_id` work together is as follows.

```
<product>
  <product_id>AA329</product_id>
  <categories>
    <category>
      <category_id>c1</category_id>
      <category_name>chair</category_name>
    </category>
    <category>
      <category_id>f3</category_id>
      <category_name>furniture</category_name>
    </category>
    <category>
      <category_id>w99</category_id>
      <category_name>wood</category_name>
    </category>
  </categories>
</product>
```

catalog_category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>category_id</th>
<th>category_name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c1</td>
<td>chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f3</td>
<td>furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w99</td>
<td>wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

catalog_product_category
### Product IDs and SKU

The way that `product_id` and `sku` work together is as follows.

```xml
<product>
  <product_id>xyz888</product_id>
  <categories>
    <category>
      <category_id>f1</category_id>
    </category>
    <category>
      <category_id>f3</category_id>
    </category>
  </categories>
  <skus>
    <sku>1135813</sku>
    <sku>223234</sku>
  </skus>
</product>
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>product_id</th>
<th>category_id</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA329</td>
<td>c1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA329</td>
<td>f3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA329</td>
<td>w99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>product_id</th>
<th>sku</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xyz888</td>
<td>1135813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xyz888</td>
<td>223234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example with Minimum Required Fields

```xml
<product>
  <product_id>xyz888</product_id>
  <categories>
    <category>
      <category_id>f1</category_id>
    </category>
    <category>
      <category_id>f3</category_id>
    </category>
  </categories>
</product>
```
Example with Minimum Required Fields and Optional Fields

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<catalog>
  <product> 
    <product_id>33435</product_id>
    <product_name>High Back Lounge Chair</product_name>
    <product_description>Durable chair with added lumbar support and cup holder</product_description>
    <brand_name>MoneChair</brand_name>
    <categories>
      <category>
        <category_name>chair</category_name>
      </category>
      <category_id>1234</category_id>
    </categories>
    <price>299.99</price>
    <alt_price>280.11</alt_price>
    <url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123</url>
    <availability>In Stock</availability>
  </product>
</catalog>