

Product Feed Specifications: XML



This product catalog/feed type is deprecated in the platform. To avoid any potential complications, consider altering your catalog file to match the updated [product catalog specification](#). Contact your Client Success Manager for more information.

The quickest way to get the Product Recommendations add-on up and running is to follow Monetate's product feed specifications. Custom feeds require more lead time and are prone to processing inconsistencies. If you have any questions about your feed or any custom requirements, submit a support ticket using the Kibo Technical Support portal (kibotechsupport.zendesk.com).



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 TSV 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.



Monetate natively supports UTF-8 characters up to the Specials Unicode block. To encode characters beyond this type, you should use HTML encoding. See [The Unicode Consortium \(unicode.org\)](http://unicode.org) for more information about the [Specials block](#).

Fields

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



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

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

Multiple category example

```
<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_image_url>http://www.monetate.com/images/products/123.jpg</product_image_url>`
- `<product_image_url>http://www.monetate.com/images/house.png</product_image_url>`
- `<product_image_url>http://www.monetate.com/example.gif>`

Product Description

Header

`product_description`

Required

No

Specifications

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

Examples

- `<product_description>A lovely example of modern elegance and style</product_description>`
- `<product_description>Red</product_description>`
- `<product_description>The latest electronics craze—this stereo is all the rage!</product_description>`

Alternate Price

Header

`alt_price`

Required

No

Specifications

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

Examples

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

Category ID

Header

`category_id`

Required

No



If you don't intend to include or exclude product categories from Visual Search results or if you don't intend to use Visual Search at all, you can remove `category_id` from product feeds. If you have questions, submit a support ticket using the Kibo Technical Support portal (kibotechsupport.zendesk.com).

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

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

Multiple category example

```
<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>
```

Availability

Header

availability

Required

No

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

category_id	category_name
c1	chair
f3	furniture
w99	wood

catalog_product_category

product_id	category_id
AA329	c1
AA329	f3
AA329	w99

Product IDs and SKU

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

```

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

```


product_id_sku

product_id	sku
xyz888	1135813
xyz888	223234

product_category

product_id	category_id
xyz888	f1
xyz888	f3

Example with Minimum Required Fields

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<catalog>
  <product>
    <product_id>33435</product_id>
    <product_name>High Back Lounge Chair</product_name>
    <categories>
      <category>
        <category_name>chair</category_name>
      </category>
    </categories>
    <price>299.99</price>
    <url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123</url>
    <product_image_url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123.png</product_image_url>
  </product>
</catalog>
```

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_id>1234</category_id>
      </category>
    </categories>
    <price>299.99</price>
    <alt_price>280.11</alt_price>
    <url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123</url>
    <product_image_url>http://www.monetate.com/products/123.png</product_image_url>
    <availability>In Stock</availability>
  </product>
</catalog>
```

