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1 Introduction

The Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE) Online web site is a resource that provides support to implementers of SDSFIE standards, particularly the SDSIFE Vector (SDSFIE-V). According to Installation Geographic Information & Services (IGI&S) Governance Group (IGG) policy, each Component may adapt the SDSFIE-V Gold model according to currently in-force implementation guidance to form new models called “Headquarters Adaptations”. Additionally, some components allow adaptation of their Headquarters Adaptation to form new models called “subordinate” adaptations. According to Component policy, some or all of these models are stored on the SDSFIE Online web site in a database called the SDSFIE Registry. The SDSFIE Registry contains models of SDSFIE from all Components and versions since 2.61.

The SDSFIE Validation workflow allows you, as a user of SDSFIE Online, to perform a comparison of a single model to its parent model, or to perform a comparison of two single models against each other, and to create an Excel formatted document with a listing of the differences. If you want to check the source model for compliance with the SDSFIE-V implementation guidance, then you should select that option using the checkbox on the initial screen of the validation workflow.

The SDSFIE Validation workflow also allows you to import a Geodatabase XML (or Workspace XML)\(^1\) document to create a draft model as a starter step in the validation/comparison process. These draft models are also visible, in the SDSFIE Browse/Generate and Model Builder workflows, to you as the owner of the model and to an approval authority (which varies by Component).

2 Getting Started
In order to access the Validation workflow, you will need to navigate to the SDSFIE Online website home page.

Figure 1: SDSFIE Online home page
2.1 Login

If you have previously registered for access to the SDSFIE Online website, you should login by:

Entering your Username
Entering your Password
Then, select Login to advance to the next screen.

Site Registration
If you have not previously registered for access to the SDSFIE Online website, you’ll need to select ‘Register’ to access the registration page.

Forgotten Password
To retrieve a forgotten password, you should select ‘Reset My Password’.

Forgotten Username
To recover a forgotten username, you should select ‘Recover My Username’.

Figure 2: Login Page
2.2 Launching the Application

Once the login process has been completed, click on the ‘Models & Workflows’ tab and navigate to the Validation link in the drop down menu. After clicking on the “Validation” item from the Models & Workflows menu, you will be taken to the Validation Workflow page.

![Figure 3: The Browse/Generate Tab](image)

2.3 How to use Validation Workflow

The Validation Workflow allows you to compare a child model to its parent model, compare two different unrelated models, and report the differences found in a tabbed Excel spreadsheet. Additionally, the Validation Workflow will allow you to check the source model for compliance with the SDSFIE V Implementation Guidance.²

The following sections provide a walk-through of how to use the Validation Workflow compare the models and get a report of the differences found between the two models.

2.3 My Model Is Not In SDSFIE!

In order to compare two models, they must exist in SDSFIE Registry. If a model does not exist in SDSFIE, you will need to get the model into the SDSFIE Registry. Models can be created into the SDSFIE Registry using either Model Builder or the Validation Workflow.

Model Builder provides three methods to create a model:

1. Build from scratch as a child of an approved parent model
2. Import an Esri XML Workspace document
3. Importing an Adaptation Template

² “SDSFIE Vector (SDSFIE-V): Implementation Guidance, Version 4.0, Revision 1,” ASD(EI&E), 20 AUG 2015
The above methods are explained in the Model Builder User Manual. The Validation Tool can only import an XML Workspace document and provides a button for that purpose.

### 2.4 Importing an Esri XML Workspace Document

You must first input a model name and a model definition for the new model that you will create in order to enable the “Import XML Workspace” button. Then you may import an Esri XML Workspace document by clicking on the “Import XML Workspace” button on the Validation Workflow page. Of course, this assumes that you have previously exported an XML Workspace document from ArcGIS or have received such a file from another source. See Appendix A for instructions on exporting an XML Workspace document from ArcGIS. You will select either a “zipped” or regular XML Workspace document that contains your model. The remainder of the XML Workspace Import process is detailed in Appendix B.

![Image of the Validation Page displaying Import XML Workspace Buttons](https://us.sdfeeonline.org/Validate/index.html)
2.5 Select Type of Validation

You need to select the type of validation that you wish to perform. There are two types of validation available, “Child to Parent” or “Differences”. Differences is the default option.

![Validate page displaying the available validation options.](https://uat.sdsfieonline.org/Validate/index.html)

2.5.2 Child to Parent Validation

If you select Child to Parent validation, then the validation will perform a child to parent validation. If you imported a model without selecting a parent model, the “Against” dropdown menu will not be populated if you select Child to Parent validation.

2.5.3 Differences Validation

If you select Differences validation, then the validation will perform a difference between two models.
2.6  Select Parent Model Status

You need to select the “Approval Status” of the parent models that you wish displayed in the dropdown. There are three options available. You may choose Approved, Draft, or Approved/Draft. Approved is the default option.

If you select the Child to Parent type of validation, the parent model status filter will be overridden. The ‘against’ dropdown will be filtered to parent model of model selected in the validate dropdown and selected.

2.6.2 Approved Status

If Approved is checked, then only approved models will be eligible to be validated against.

2.6.3 Draft Status

If Draft is checked, then only draft models will be eligible to be validated against.

2.6.4 Approved/Draft Status

If Approved/Draft is checked, then approved and draft models will be eligible to be validated against.
2.7 Select Source Model Status

You need to select the “Approval Status” of the source models that you wish to display in the dropdown. There are two options available. You may choose ‘Approved’ or ‘Draft Owned by Me’. If you have either the “Component Manager” or “Adaptation Approver” role, you will also be provided the choice of ‘Draft Owned By’. Approved is the default option.

2.7.1 Approved Status

If “Approved” is checked, then only approved models will be available to validate.
2.7.2 **Draft Owned By Me Status**

If “Draft Owned By Me” is checked, then only draft models that are owned by the current logged in user will be available to validate.

2.7.3 **Draft Owned By Status**

If the current (logged-in) user has either the role of “Component Manager” or “Adaptation Approver”, the “Draft Owned By” radio button and dropdown becomes visible. If “Draft Owned By” is checked, then a dropdown populated with the First and Last Names of users that own Draft Models for the components that the logged in user has the “Component Manager” or Adaptation” role for.

Figure 9: Validate page with the owner list expanded.
2.8 Select Source Model

If the model you want to validate is imported from the XML Workspace import and the type of validation is “Differences”, then the “Validate” dropdown is populated and selected with the imported item.

If the model is in the SDSFIE database, select the model you want to validate from the “Validate” dropdown.

Figure 10: Validate page after closing Import XML Workspace Form.
If the “Child to Parent” type of validation is checked, the “Against” dropdown will display the parent for the model checked in the “Validate” dropdown.

Figure 5: Validate page when Child to Parent checked.
2.9 Select Parent Model

Select the model you want to validate against if the validation type selected is “Differences”.

Figure 6: Validate page when Differences checked with parent expanded.

Figure 7: Validate page with parent value selected.
2.10 Force Conformance Check

If the “Force Conformance check with SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance” checkbox is checked, the two models will be checked for conformance to the SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance rules.

![Figure 8: Validate page displaying Force Conformance checkbox.](image-url)
2.11 View SDSFIE-V Guidance Link

If you desire to view the “SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance”, click the link on the “Validation” page.

![Figure 9: Validate page displaying SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance Link.](image-url)
2.11.1 SDSFIE V Implementation Guidance

Figure 10: SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance window displaying document.
2.12 **Generate the Validation Report**

Click the “Validate” button once all of the options are selected.

![Validation Form displaying the “Validate” button.](image)

**Figure 11: Validation Form displaying the “Validate” button.**
2.13 Validation Process Form

Clicking on the "Close" button takes you back to the "Validation" page and resets the page values.
3 Validation Report
This is an Excel tabbed report with seven (7) sheets containing information about the differences.

3.1 Summary Sheet

![Figure 13: Validation Report Summary Sheet.](image)

3.2 Entity Sheet

![Figure 14: Validation Report Entity Sheet.](image)
3.3 **Attribute Sheet**

Figure 15: Validation Report Attribute Sheet.

3.4 **Enumeration Sheet**

Figure 16: Validation Report Enumeration Sheet.
3.5 **Enumerant Sheet**

![Enumerant Sheet](image1)

*Figure 17: Validation Report Enumerant Sheet.*

3.6 **Association Sheet**

![Association Sheet](image2)

*Figure 18: Validation Report Association Sheet.*
3.7 Validation Errors Sheet

Figure 19: Validation Report Validation Errors Sheet.
Appendix A  Exporting an XML Workspace from ArcGIS

To export an XML Workspace document for import into the SDSFIE Registry, you may use ArcCatalog or the Catalog view in ArcMap.

The steps are as follows:

1. In the Catalog tree, of either application, right-click the geodatabase, feature dataset, feature class, or table you want to export; select the ‘Export’ item from the dropdown menu; then select XML Workspace Document option.

   ![Figure 20: ArcCatalog with the Export→XML Workspace Document menu exposed](image)

2. To export the schema without any records from the feature classes and tables, click the ‘Schema Only’ option. Specify the path and name of the new XML file you will create (see Figure 26, next page).
   a. You can save the document as an XML file or as a compressed ZIP file. To specify the file type, give the file an .xml, .zip, or .z extension when you type the path and name into the text box.
   b. If you specify the path and name by browsing to a folder from the ‘Save As’ dialog box, specify the file type in the ‘Save As’ dialog box.
   c. If the data you’re exporting has metadata, then you want to export it, so check the ‘Export Metadata’ check box.
3. Click ‘Next>’ to preview the contents of the schema information to be copied.
   a. This panel (Figure 27, below) lists all the data items for which schema information will be copied.
   b. Uncheck the ‘Include’ check boxes for the feature classes, tables, or relationship classes whose schemas you don't want to export.

4. Click Summary to review a summary of the extraction contents and other optional settings. When you are ready, click Finish to export the schema.
Appendix B XML Workspace Import

Once you have selected the “Import Workspace File” button, you will be presented with the Import XML Workspace form interface (see Figure 23). This will be your point of interface until the XML Workspace has been completed imported into the SDSFIE Registry.

Figure 23: Import XML Workspace Form displaying “Browse Files” button location

- **Select Steps to Perform and Related Options**

The seven major steps in the import process are depicted in Figure 24:

Figure 24: The steps in the Import XML Workspace process
• **Step 1: Transform XML Workspace (Mandatory)**

Step 1 transforms the XML Workspace into a Structured Query Language (SQL) procedure that will be used in the next step. The transformation process extracts information from the metadata of the XML Workspace document to add into the registry. The information extracted includes model names, alias names, definitions, descriptions, notes, justifications, and much more. Using the SDSFIE-M Metadata Style for ArcGIS\(^3\) enables you to add this kind of information directly into the metadata. The Browse/Generate Workflow also exports all of this kind of information into the metadata of the XML Workspace documents that it generates from models stored in the SDSFIE Registry.

**Best Practice:** Use the SDSFIE-M Metadata Style for ArcGIS to input entity and attribute documentation metadata so that 1) it is available in ArcGIS, 2) it is available in any metadata file or XML Workspace document exported from ArcGIS, and 3) it can be imported into SDSFIE Online.

If you have generated your model using SDSFIE Online (and the Browse/Generate tool) or have added model names to your metadata using the SDSFIE-M Metadata Style for ArcGIS, XML Workspace Import tool will transform the names from the XML Workspace into the model names provided. **The tool will store the names that are replaced in this manner as alternate names.** This functionality can be turned off by unchecking the “Replace feature and object class names with model names” check box in the XML Workspace form (see Figure 25).

**Best Practice:** Alternate names can be created by providing an XML Workspace input file that has a) `<ModelName>` tags or b) metadata containing model names. The former can be accomplished by either generating from Browse/Generate or by editing the XML Workspace directly. The latter can be accomplished using the SDSFIE-M Metadata Style for ArcGIS.

The content of the `<Name>` tags will be used for the alternate names. Alternate names can also be created by using Model Builder’s “Import Adaption Excel” functionality.

This step is not optional and is executed no matter what file the user selects for import. It is therefore not mentioned in the user interface. You will, however, see progress messages from this step as the XML Workspace is validated and processed using an XML Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT) process; thus, you can keep track of where it is in the file by noticing the progress messages preceded by the word “XSLT”.

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\(^3\) Available at [https://metadata.ces.mil/dse/ns/DISDI/sdsfiemetadatastyle](https://metadata.ces.mil/dse/ns/DISDI/sdsfiemetadatastyle)
• Step 2: Create Initial Model (Mandatory)

Step 2 executes the SQL procedure created in Step 1 and creates a draft model in the SDSFIE Registry. At this point the model is almost exactly like the model in ArcGIS. This step is mandatory and is executed no matter what file the user selects for import. It is, therefore, not mentioned in the user interface. You will see progress messages from this step preceded by the word “SQL”.

• Step 3: Conflate Geometry (Optional)

Step 3 performs the process of “conflating geometries”. This optional process will combine all feature classes in the XML Workspace document that are the same concept except for differing geometry (and in some cases, attribution).

This step is necessary because in ArcGIS a feature class can only have a single allowable geometry type, while in an SDSFIE logical data model (LDM), an entity can have multiple allowable geometries. This is why we may see “Entity_P”, “Entity_L”, and “Entity_A” to represent that same concept with three different geometries in ArcGIS. In the case of the example just provided, the Conflate Geometry step will create a single entity named “Entity” in the LDM in the SDSFIE Registry.

The Conflate Geometry step is smart enough to locate geometry conflation candidates by a) examining metadata generated by SDSFIE Online or b) examining names and taking into account default suffixes used to indicate geometry. You can specify what your “geometry suffixes” are, to inform the XML Workspace Import tool, so that it can take advantage of that information when locating geometry conflation candidates. Using the default geometry suffixes (“_P”, “_L”, and “_A”), the Validation Workflow would identify the candidate in the previous paragraph for example.

Best Practice: Make sure that you name (or rename) feature classes that represent the same concept using a standard set of geometry suffixes so that the Validation Workflow can correctly identify conflation candidates.

This step is optional, but is turned “on” by default, which is why there is a check mark by the phrase “Conflate Geometry” in the user interface (see Figure 25). The interface allows you supply your geometry suffixes, as well, with a default of “_P”, “_L”, and “_A”.
Step 4: Conform to Parent Model (Optional)

Step 4 performs a matching of entities in the XML Workspace document with names in a “parent model” selected by the user and then conforms matched entities in the XML Workspace to those matched in the parent. When you select a model to serve as the parent model for the imported XML Workspace, you are claiming that your XML Workspace represents an adaptation of that parent model. The intention of “selecting a parent model” is to specify the particular SDSFIE-V LDM that is the parent of the imported feature and object classes.

The matching is done by comparing the Name and the ModelName elements in the XML Workspace for the feature or object class with the “Model Name” in SDSFIE. The metadata can also contain a “Model Name” field and, if present, the Validation Workflow will use that name in matching. Note that, if the “Replace feature and object class names with model names”\(^4\) check box is checked, then replacement will occur BEFORE step 4 and the Name elements will be stored as alternate names.

\(^4\) This check box is located near the top left of the window, just under Status Bar.
When the Validation Tool is conforming the model to the parent, it does a number of conforming tasks to the elements in the model. It only does these conforming tasks if there is a “Model Name” match between the imported feature or object class and the parent model. The tasks are:

1) Update the entity properties to match the entity properties from the parent. See the SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance to see all of the entity properties. This task will always import any superclass of the entity matched in the parent into the imported model. A sub-option tells the Validation Workflow to profile that superclass so that it is not included in generation output.

2) For the matched entity, add any attributes in the parent that are not in the imported entity. A sub-option tells the Validation Workflow to profile any added attributes so that they are not included in generation output.

3) For the matched entity, update the attribute properties to match the attribute properties from the parent. This task will update the properties of all attributes in the imported entity that match the attributes of the parent entity to be like those in the parent. See the SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance to see all of the entity properties.

4) For the matched entity and any matching attributes, update the constraining enumeration, if there is one, to be the same as that in the parent. If this is off, then the constraining enumeration will be as imported.

This step is optional, but is turned “on” by default, which is why there is a check mark by the phrase “Match Parent Model” in the user interface (see Figure 25). The interface allows you select the parent model from a dropdown list of approved models (see Figure 26 and Figure 27). Options that provide for the cases above are also include on the interface.

The parent model will not be selectable from the “Additional Models” pulldown in the “Replace Missing Definitions with Definitions from Other Models” step because it is the model used under the “Replace Missing Definitions with Definitions from Parent Model” step.
Figure 26: Import XML Workspace Form displaying “Parent Model” dropdown and all options.
Step 5: Define Conceptual Matches (Optional)

Step 5 provides for the cases in which, for a feature or object class that is identical to a concept in the parent model, you have used a different name than that used in the parent model, and would like to conform it to the parent entity as in step 4. For example, you may have a feature class in your imported model named “ControlledAccess” and you consider it to be the same concept as “AccessControl” in the parent model. By making the match for the Validation Workflow, you identify them as a conceptual match.

The Validation Workflow will present to you a list of extended entities as potential conceptual match candidates, and allow you to select a profiled entity (those entities in the parent model that did not match anything in the imported model) that is a conceptual match. Once all matching is complete, the Validation Workflow will conform the model using the exact options specified in step 4.

Step 5 is optional, but is turned “on” by default, which is why there is a check mark by the phrase “Define Conceptual Matches” in the user interface (see Figure 25).

---

5 “Extended entities are feature types and object classes in the imported model that have “Model Names” that do not match any entity in the parent model.”
- **Step 6: Replace Missing Definitions (Optional)**

Step 6 extracts definitions from matched entities (and their attributes and so on) in the parent and replaces anything in the imported model (Step 6a). Step 6 can also try to find definitions from other models (Step 6b). Finally, the user is consulted to supply definitions and can do so interactively.

Best Practice: Users should provide definitions for all entities and attributes in the metadata (using a Metadata Style such as the SDSFIE-M Metadata Style for ArcGIS) before exporting the XML Workspace document.

- **Step 6A: Replace Missing Definitions From Parent Model (Optional)**

When replacing missing definitions with definitions from the parent model, XML Workspace Import will determine if there is a match between the names of the elements in the import and the names of the elements in the model. If it finds a match, then it will populate the definition from the parent model into the imported element.

This step is optional, but is turned “on” by default, which is why there is a check mark by the phrase “Replace Missing Definitions From Parent Model” in the user interface (see Figure 25).

- **Step 6B: Replace Missing Definitions From Other Model (Optional)**

When replacing missing definitions with definitions from other models, XML Workspace Import will cycle through the Selected Models, in order, and, perform match and replace as in the parent model case. The order that the models appear in the Selected Model list is the order in which they are processed, so be sure to select them in the order you want them processed.

The selection of models is done using two dropdowns (depicted in Figure 28). The available models are in the left dropdown. Once selected, the model is moved into the right pulldown and is thus added to the selected list. When a model is selected in the right pulldown it is moved into the left pulldown thus removing it from the selected list.

This step is optional, but is turned “on” by default, which is why there is a check mark by the phrase “Replace Missing Definitions From Other Model” in the user interface (see Figure 25).
Step 7: Finalize (Mandatory)

Step 7 is a mandatory step that adds or updates any missing standard attributes and real property attributes, and also performs other model cleanup procedures. The following sub-steps (depicted in Figure 29) within the Finalize step are optional:

- **Add Missing Standard Attributes** — If selected, XML Workspace Import will add any SDSFIE Standard Attributes that are missing. These attributes will conform to parent model version. If the Match Parent Model step is not included, the user is prompted to provide the version of standard attributes to include (as in Figure 30).

- **Add Missing Standard Attributes at Latest Version** — If selected, XML Workspace Import will add any SDSFIE Standard Attributes that are missing. These attributes will conform to SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance, version 4.0.

- **Update Standard Attributes** — If selected, XML Workspace Import will update any SDSFIE Standard Attributes found in the imported entities to conform to parent model version. If the Match Parent Model step is not included, the user is prompted to provide the version of standard attributes to update (as in Figure 30).
• Update Standard Attributes at Latest Version—If selected, XML Workspace Import will update any SDSFIE Standard Attributes found in the imported entities to conform to SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance, version 4.0.

• Update Real Property Attributes—If selected, XML Workspace Import will update any SDSFIE Real Property Attributes found in the imported entities to conform to parent model version. If the Match Parent Model step is not included, the user is prompted to provide the version of real property attributes to include (as in Figure 30).

• Update Real Property Attributes at Latest Version—If selected, XML Workspace Import will update any SDSFIE Real Property Attributes found in the imported entities to SDSFIE-V Implementation Guidance, version 4.0.

Figure 29: Import XML Workspace Form displaying “Finalize Options” defaults
Starting the Import Process

Once the optional steps to perform and the related options have been selected, clicking the “Import” button begins the import process (see Figure 31). If the import button is disabled, then one of two things need to occur:

1) Select the XML file to import
   OR
2) Select the parent model to match
Interaction During the Import Process

Once the import process begins, the interface will provide visual feedback about what is going on. Depending on the optional steps collected, you may also need to provide further feedback to the process via user interaction. These cases are explained in the following sections.

- Accept Geometry Conflation Step

If you have selected to execute the Conflate Geometry step AND one or more candidates are detected (the candidate recordset), you will have the opportunity to adjust and approve each candidate in the recordset.

There are three inputs required per conflation candidate:

1) What is the model name of the resulting conflated entity? This is provided in the “Model Name” text box.

2) What is the default geometry? This is indicated by clicking on the “Make Default” check box by the appropriate geometry.

3) Is the candidate approved? This is indicated by clicking on the “Approve?” checkbox and will have the effect of advancing to the next candidate.
Best Practice: It is assumed that because a geometry is in the imported model, it should be made permissible in the corresponding SDSFIE LDM in the Registry. Therefore, to not include a geometry, you need to remove the corresponding feature class from the XML Workspace by not including it when exporting from ArcGIS (see Figure 22: Export XML Workspace Document Wizard, Last Page). Once all of the correct items have been approved, click the “Accept Geometry Conflations” button.

Once all geometry conflation candidates have been visited (and approved or not), you will need to confirm your decision to perform the conflations approved in the previous step (as in Figure 32).

![Figure 17: Import XML Workspace Form at “Geometry Conflation” step](image-url)
- **Provide Conceptual Matches**

  If you have selected to execute the Define Conceptual Matches step AND one or more entity extensions are detected in the import (the candidate recordset) AND one or more entities in the parent model have been profiled (do not exist in the imported model), then you will have the opportunity to make a conceptual match to the parent model for each match candidate in the recordset.

  A pulldown is provided that contains all profiled entities from the parent model (see Figure 33). If you have a conceptual match, find the conceptual match in the pulldown and select it. This will result in an assignment of the concept as a match (see Figure 34).

  Once all match candidates have been visited and assigned (or not assigned), clicking “Make Concepts Match” button will perform the updates to the imported model after a confirmation step (see Figure 35).
Figure 33: Import XML Workspace Form at “Make Concepts Match” step

Figure 34: Import XML Workspace Form at “Make Concepts Match” step with a match made
Replace Missing Definitions

If you have selected to execute the Replace Missing Definitions step AND one or more elements exist where definitions are not found in either the parent or other models (the candidate recordset), you will have the opportunity to provide a definition for each candidate in the recordset.

For each candidate, a text area is provided where you may enter the definition and a check box that must be checked to make the actual definition assignment (see Figure 36). If you are wondering about the context of the element (you cannot remember the details about the entity or attribute), a “View Context…” button is provided that contains the details of the entity (for which the definition is missing) to remind you of the structure of the feature or object class (see Figure 37).

Once all match candidates have been visited and assigned or not, clicking “Make Concepts Match” button will perform the updates to the imported model after a confirmation step (see Figure 38).
Figure 36: Import XML Workspace Form at “Missing Definitions” step
Figure 37: Import XML Workspace Form after clicking “View in Context” for missing definitions step
Figure 38: Import XML Workspace Form after clicking “Accept All” for missing definitions step

- **Go Back in XML Workspace Import**
Figure 24: Import XML Workspace Form at completion of Import process.

- **Close XML Workspace import**
Figure 25: Import XML Workspace Form displaying “Close” button.