

SMS VENDOR FACT SHEET

Alternative ('A') AVETMISS files: what are they?

This fact sheet provides further information on the alternative ('A') file specifications outlined in the **National VET Collection supplement for non-Training.gov.au (TGA) information** section of the [National VET Provider Collection Specifications: release 8.0](#).

Registered training organisations (RTOs) cannot use these files if they report directly to NCVER.

What is the National VET Collection supplement for non-TGA information?

AVETMISS release 8.0 has been developed with a focus on reducing RTO reporting burden. The **National VET Collection supplement for non-TGA information** is an addition to the [National VET Provider Collection specifications: release 8.0](#), catering for the state/territory-specific requirement to allow reporting by non-registered training organisations and of government-funded training not listed on [Training.gov.au](#) (delivered by both registered and non-registered training organisations).

There are two alternative AVETMISS files detailed in the national VET collection supplement:

- *NAT00010A – Training organisation file*
- *NAT00030A – Program file.*

What is the purpose of the alternative AVETMISS files?

The alternative files include the fields removed from the primary versions of the NAT files which could be derived from TGA (for example, *Training organisation type identifier* and *Program level of education identifier*). This ensures that these data can still be reported to NCVER by government submitters when they cannot be derived from TGA.

Alternative files can contain a combination of data listed, and not listed, on TGA, and as such an alternative file should be used in place of a primary file where both types of data must be reported.

Why do the alternative AVETMISS files have the same file length?

The NAT00010 and the NAT00010A files have the same file length (268 characters), despite the NAT00010A having more fields. The same applies to the NAT00030 and the NAT00030A (file length of 130 characters).

These files are specified at the same length so that systems didn't need to be redeveloped to produce and accept two different NAT file lengths. The exported NAT00010 and the NAT00030 files should be padded out with spaces to the specified lengths following the fields listed in the field table. For details please see the [National VET Provider Collection Specifications: release 8.0](#).

A reminder that although the same length, the alternative files have extra fields and additional validation rules from the primary versions of the NAT files.

What happens if fields from an alternative AVETMISS file are included in the NAT00010 or NAT00030 files?

If the records with extra data reported in the NAT00010 or NAT00030 file are listed on TGA they will validate, and any extra data, such as a field of education, will be ignored. However, if a NAT00010 or NAT00030 file contains a record that isn't on TGA, the AVETMISS validation software (AVS) will identify that record as an error.

On *Export* or *Submission* from AVS, any extra data included in a NAT00010 or NAT00030 file will be overwritten with blanks.

What if the alternative AVETMISS file contains a TGA-listed record?

Records with TGA identifiers (for example, nationally recognised program identifiers) reported in an alternative file only need information for the fields required in the primary version of the files as they can still be derived from TGA.

If a TGA-listed record is reported in an alternative file, information in the additional fields will be ignored by AVS and data overwritten with blanks on *Export* or *Submission* from AVS.

Who requires or accepts alternative AVETMISS files?

The following table – current as at November 2018 – provides advice on where alternative files are: Required (R), Accepted (A) or Not accepted (blank), based on who the data are being submitted to.

Where a file is required, its substitute cannot be reported to that body, for example, if a NAT10 is 'Required', a NAT10A cannot be reported. Where the file is 'Accepted', then either the primary or alternative file can be reported.

Submitting to		NAT00010	NAT00010A	NAT00030	NAT00030A
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research	R		R	
NSW	Training Services NSW (Dept. of Industry)	R		A	A
Vic	Higher Education and Skills (Dept. of Education and Training)		R		R
Qld	Training and Skills (Dept. of Employment, Small Business and Training)	R		A	A
SA	Skills and Employment (Dept. of Industry & Skills)	A	A	A	A
WA	Department of Training and Workforce Development	R			R
Tas	Skills Tasmania (Dept. of State Growth)	R		A	A
NT	Workforce NT (Dept. of Trade, Business and Innovation)	A	A	A	A
ACT	Skills Canberra (Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate)	R			R

Legend: R-Required, A-Accepted, (blank)-Not accepted

Current as at **9 November 2018**, confirm accuracy with the relevant jurisdiction [contact](#).

What submission types can use alternative AVETMISS files?

The following table outlines the submission conditions under which a submission may contain alternative files. For submissions to an STA, it is dependent on whether they require or accept alternative files.

Organisation type	Submitter type	Yes/No	
Registered training organisations (RTOs)	Fee-for-service (FFS) direct to NCVER	No	cannot submit 'A' files to NCVER
Registered training organisations (RTOs)	State/territory funded (can include FFS) validating in AVS but submitting to STA	Yes	can validate and then export data to report to STA(s)
Registered training organisations (RTOs)	State/territory funded reporting directly to STA	Yes	report directly to STA as normal
Non-registered training organisations	State/territory funded validating in AVS but submitting to STA	Yes	can validate and then export data to report to STA(s)
Non-registered training organisations	State/territory funded reporting directly to STA	Yes	report directly to STA as normal
School-based RTOs In Victoria (VET in Schools)	Fee-for-service direct to NCVER (to capture USI)	No	no need to use 'A' files as all VET in Schools activity should be nationally recognised

When should I use an alternative AVETMISS file?

A NAT00010A file must be used if the reported data contains at least one *Training organisation identifier* which is not on TGA (non-registered training organisations).

A NAT00030A file must be used if the data being reported contains at least one *Program identifier* which is not on TGA (locally recognised training).

When the data provided is a combination of TGA and non-TGA data, it must all go into an alternative file; it **must not** be separated out into different files. For example: training organisations are **not** to report both a NAT00030 and a NAT00030A.

The following table outlines valid primary and alternative file combinations for reporting.

Valid combinations of NAT files that can be submitted together			
NAT00010	NAT00030A	VALID	RTOs can deliver locally recognised training
NAT00030	NAT00030A	INVALID	Cannot submit two <i>Program</i> files
NAT00010A	NAT00030	INVALID	Non-registered training organisation cannot deliver nationally recognised activity
NAT00010A	NAT00030A	VALID	Non-registered training organisations can deliver locally recognised training
NAT00010	NAT00010A	INVALID	Cannot submit two <i>Training organisation</i> files

Contacting the AVETMISS support team			
Fill out our contact form	Email: support@ncver.edu.au	Phone: 08 8230 8400	Toll free: 1800 649 452