How-To Library

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Address Verification 5.x Best Practices for the United Kingdom

Abstract

This document provides you a high-level overview of the Informatica Address Verification, powered by AddressDoctor, support for the United Kingdom address verification. This document also contains information about best practices that you can implement to optimize the United Kingdom address verification.

Supported Versions

- Informatica Address Verification 2.0 and later
- Informatica Address Verification (On-Premises) 5.7.0 and later

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Language and Character Set

Because the United Kingdom reference address databases are in English, the United Kingdom addresses are available only in English.

The default character set for the United Kingdom addresses is Latin 1 - Western European.

Enrichments for United Kingdom Addresses

You can configure Informatica Address Verification to add enrichments to verified United Kingdom addresses.

The following table lists the types of enrichments that you can add to a United Kingdom address:

Enrichment Type	Description
CAMEO	You can retrieve CAMEO profiles as enrichments for valid United Kingdom addresses. CAMEO profiles are consumer classification systems that provide socio-economic and demographic indicators about the residents at the address.
Country-Specific Address Enrichments	You can retrieve the following enrichments for valid United Kingdom addresses: - ADDRESS_KEY. An eight-digit numeric code that maps to an address in the Postcode Address File (PAF) from the Royal Mail. - DELIVERY_POINT_SUFFIXES. A two-character suffix that the Royal Mail assigns to a mailbox in a United Kingdom post code area. - DELIVERY_POINT_TYPE. A single-character code that indicates whether the address points to a residence (R), a small organization (O), or a large organization (L). - ORGANIZATION_KEY. A unique eight-digit numeric code that Royal Mail assigns to small organizations. - UDPRN. An eight-character code that uniquely identifies each postal address in the Royal Mail PAF database. - UPRN. A numeric code that uniquely identifies a land or property unit in the United Kingdom.
Standard Geocoding	You can retrieve standard, interpolated geocoordinates for valid United Kingdom addresses.
Arrival Point Geocoding	You can retrieve arrival point geocoordinates for valid United Kingdom addresses. Arrival point is the default geocoding type.

Process Modes

Informatica Address Verification supports the following process modes for validating United Kingdom addresses:

- ADDRESSCODELOOKUP
  You can enter the UDPRN code and receive the corresponding address data.

- BATCH

- COUNTRYRECOGNITION

- FAST COMPLETION

  Note: You can also use the single-line address verification feature of the fast completion mode to validate United Kingdom addresses. To use the single-line address verification feature, you need a separate unlock code of type SINGLE_LINE_VALIDATION.

- INTERACTIVE

- PARSE

Address Verification verifies addresses in the batch, fast completion, and interactive modes.

Address Format and Address Examples

A typical United Kingdom address contains the following elements in the following order:

```
RECIPIENT
[SUBBUILDING]
[BUILDING]
[HOUSE_NUMBER] STREET_NAME
[DEPENDENT_LOCALITY]
LOCALITY
POSTAL_CODE
UNITED KINGDOM
```

Note that some of the elements, such as subbuilding and dependent locality, are optional. A valid address must have the building name or house number or both.

The following table lists the address elements and examples for those elements.

Address Elements	Example 1	Example 2
[RECIPIENT]	John Doe	Informatica
[FLOOR] [APARTMENT]	-	1st Floor
[BUILDING]	Waltham Park	-
[HOUSE_NUMBER] STREET_NAME	6 Waltham Road	10 Arthur Street
[DEPENDENT_LOCALITY]	White Waltham	-
LOCALITY	Maidenhead	London
POSTAL_CODE	SL6 3TN	EC4R 9AY
COUNTRY	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Complete Address	John Doe WALTHAM PARK 6 WALTHAM ROAD WHITE WALTHAM MAIDENHEAD SL6 3TN UNITED KINGDOM	Informatica 1ST FLOOR 10 ARTHUR STREET LONDON EC4R 9AY UNITED KINGDOM

Key Address Elements

The following elements in United Kingdom addresses are very important for address verification:

House number or building name

Street Name

Locality

Postal Code

Note: Informatica Address Verification verifies United Kingdom addresses up to the subbuilding level.

The following table shows the common address elements in different types of United Kingdom addresses:

Note: The elements that are marked Optional in the following table are not mandatory for address verification. However, if the input address contains these elements, you might receive better results or address suggestions. The elements that are marked Not Applicable in the following table are typically not available for the corresponding address type and are not required for address verification.

Address Elements	S (street) Type Address	L (large volume receiver) Type Addresses	P (post box) Type Addresses
Organization, Department, Contact	Optional	Optional	Not Applicable
Subbuilding (Floor or Apartment)	Optional	Optional	Not Applicable
Building	Required (if the input does not contain a house number)	Required (if the input does not contain a house number)	Not Applicable
House Number	Required (if the input does not contain a building name)	Required (if the input does not contain a building name)	Not Applicable
Street Name	Required	Required	Not Applicable
Dependent Street	Optional	Optional	Not Applicable
Post Box Number	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Required
Dependent Locality	Optional	Optional	Not Applicable
Locality	Required	Required	Required
Postal Code	Required	Required	Required

If an address contains multiple levels of locality, Address Verification returns the largest locality in the Locality 1 field. Address Verification returns the dependent or sub localities in fields such as Locality 2 and Locality 3. Similarly, Address Verification returns the main street in Street 1 and the dependent street in Street 2.

Address Verification Tips and Best Practices

Note the following points when you verify United Kingdom addresses:

- To verify complex addresses, use AddressLine elements such as `DeliveryAddressLines` (DAL) and `FormattedAddressLines` (FAL). Note that the fast completion mode does not support AddressLine elements. You can either use a combination of DAL elements and address elements or use FAL elements.

    The following example shows an input that contains both DAL elements and fielded address elements:

    ```
    <Contact>John Doe</Contact>
    <DeliveryAddressLine 1>6 Waltham Park</DeliveryAddressLine 1>
    <DeliveryAddressLine 2>Waltham Road</DeliveryAddressLine 2>
    <Locality 1>Maidenhead</Locality 1>
    <Locality 2>White Waltham</Locality 2>
    <PostalCode>SL6 3TN</PostalCode>
    ```

The following example shows an input that contains FAL elements:

```
<FormattedAddressLine 1>John Doe</FormattedAddressLine 1>
<FormattedAddressLine 2>6 Waltham Park</FormattedAddressLine 2>
<FormattedAddressLine 3>Waltham Road</FormattedAddressLine 3>
<FormattedAddressLine 4>Maidenhead</FormattedAddressLine 4>
<FormattedAddressLine 5>White Waltham</FormattedAddressLine 5>
<FormattedAddressLine 6>SL6 3TN</FormattedAddressLine 6>
```

- To receive quick results with minimum input, use the single line address verification. You can set the process mode to FASTCOMPLETION, and enter the house number or building name and the postal code in the `AddressComplete` element. Informatica Address Verification returns address suggestions that match the input. Similarly, in the INTERACTIVE mode, you can enter the house number or building name along with the postal code and receive complete address suggestions. You can enter the house number or building name and the postal code as either `FormattedAddress` or `AddressComplete` input.

- To receive better results for addresses that do not have postal code information, enter the dependent street information if the address contains a dependent street.

- To identify an address type, validate the postal code in the Interactive process mode. Based on the address type results you receive for the postal code, choose which address elements you need to verify.
  For example, if the postal code maps to an S (street) type address, input the following elements:

    Subbuilding information such as the floor or apartment number

    Building name

    House number

  If the postal code maps to an L (large volume receive) type address, input the following elements:

    Organization, if results for the postal code validation do not contain the organization name

    Department

    Function

    Contact

  If the postal code maps to a P (Post Box) type address, input the PO Box number.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the maximum number of AddressLines in a United Kingdom address?

According to the Universal Postal Union specifications, the maximum number of address lines in a United Kingdom address is six. However, this does not include the country information.

Is province information available for United Kingdom addresses?

Yes. In United Kingdom addresses, province information equates to county information. If a Postal County is available for the address, Informatica Address Verification returns the Postal County name in the Province 1 field. If the address does not have an associated Postal County, Address Verification leaves the Province 1 field blank.

How does Address Verification handle county names in United Kingdom addresses?

Address Verification returns the postal, administrative, and traditional county names from the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF) in Province address elements. Address Verification can return the county names regardless of whether an address requires county information.

For example, the following address is valid without the county name:

```
Unit 1
Anderson Road
Woodford Green
```

```
IG8 8ET
United Kingdom
```

The following table lists the county names that Address Verification returns for the address and the Province elements that contain the values:

County Information Type	County Name	Address Element
Postal	ESSEX	Province_1
Administrative	REDBRIDGE	Province_2
Traditional	ESSEX	Province_3

What is a dependent street in a United Kingdom address?

A dependent street in a United Kingdom address identifies a second-level street. Dependent street information depends on a main street information. The address element Street 2 maps to a dependent street.

How important is house number information in a United Kingdom address?

A valid United Kingdom address contains a house number or a building name or both. House number information is not required if the address contains a building name. Similarly, the building name is not required if the address contains a house number.

Reference Address Databases

Informatica updates the reference address databases for United Kingdom every month. You can download the latest database packages from the Informatica Database Download portal. For news about reference address databases and software updates for Address Verification, subscribe to the newsletter from Informatica.

Informatica Address Verification supports the following reference databases for United Kingdom addresses:

- `GBR5AC.MD`. Address code lookup data.
- `GBR5BI.MD`. Batch and interactive data.
- `GBR5CA.MD`. CAMEO data.
- `GBR5E1.MD`. Supplementary data.
- `GBR5FC.MD`. Fast completion data.
- `GBR5GC.MD`. Standard geocoding data.
- `GBR5GCAP.MD`. Arrival point geocoding data.

Selecting the Batch and Interactive Files for Your Installation

Informatica delivers the current versions of the `GBR5BI.MD` and `GBR5FC.MD` files in zip files named `GBR5BI_02.zip` and `GBR5FC_02.zip` respectively. The files are compatible with Address Verification version 5.7.0 and later. The database files in `GBR5BI_02.zip` and `GBR5FC_02.zip` include sub-building descriptor data.

Informatica also supports versions of the `GBR5BI.MD` and `GBR5FC.MD` files that do not include sub-building descriptor data. The files are compatible with Address Verification version 5.6.0 and later. Informatica provides the files in zip files named `GBR5BI_01.zip` and `GBR5FC_01.zip` respectively.

Note: Prior to November 2017, Informatica provided versions of the `GBR5BI.MD` and `GBR5FC.MD` files that included data on any business presence at an address. Informatica delivered the files in zip files named `GBR5BI_03.zip` and `GBR5FC_03.zip`. Informatica no longer provides business data in UK reference data files.

Additional Documentation Resources

For more information about Informatica Address Verification features and configuration, see the latest Address Verification documentation at:

https://network.informatica.com/community/informatica-network/products/data_quality/data-as-a-service/places

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