

Dutch Exam Profile v4.0

Documentation Reading Guide

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1. Introduction

This document is part of the technical documentation set for the *Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 (DEP)*. The DEP is a generic standard for specifying and transferring exams between parts of a computer based exam system (originally developed for the Dutch computer based exam system Facet). A common introduction and an overview of the available documentation and other source of information can be found in [DEP-FO]. The main goal of this technical documentation set is to supply content and software developers with enough information to implement the DEP.

This part of the documentation set is the reading guide to the rest of the documentation. It explains what information to find where. This is done for two target groups:

- Users that are interested in the DEP on an overview level and not in the technical details, please refer to chapter 2 on page 3.
- Users that are interested in the technical details, please refer to chapter 3 on page 4.

Important remark: References to documents of the DEP documentation set are always in square brackets, e.g. [DEP-FO]. You can find a complete list of available documents in the next section.

1.1. DEP Documentation Overview

The DEP v4.0 June 2, 2015 documentation set consist of several documents. References to other documents are always in square brackets, e.g. [DEP-MER]. The following table provides an overview:

Document:	Title:
[DEP-DRG]	Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 - Documentation Reading Guide
[DEP-FO]	Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 - Functional Overview
[DEP-MER]	Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 - Manifest Extensions Reference
[DEP-EDR]	Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 - Extension Documents Reference
[DEP-QAR]	Dutch Exam Profile v4.0 - QTI Adaptations Reference

1.2. Copyright Notice

This document contains extracts from or derivatives of the IMS Global Learning Consortium specifications listed below and are available from the IMS Global Learning Consortium at <http://www.imsglobal.org>:

- IMS Question and Test Interoperability Specification, Version 2.1

<http://www.imsglobal.org/question/>

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- IMS Content Packaging Specification, Version 1.2

<http://www.imsglobal.org/content/packaging/>

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2. Reading guide non-technical users

For readers that are interested in the DEP on an overview level and do not need or want to know the technical details, the following parts of the documentation are of interest:

Non-technical users are advised to read at least chapter 1 and 2 of the *Functional overview* document [DEP-FO]. This document was written as a general introduction to the DEP. It starts on a conceptual level (what is the DEP, its context). Later chapters provide more technical background information.

The following table outlines where to find the answers to more specific questions:

Question	Document	Section
What is the DEP? Why is it there? How does it relate to the originating computer based exam system Facet?	Functional overview [DEP-FO]	Chapter 2
What underlying standards are used for the DEP?	Functional overview [DEP-FO]	Section 3.1
What is QTI?	Functional overview [DEP-FO]	Section 3.1.1
What is Content Packaging (CP)?	Functional overview [DEP-FO]	Section 3.1.2

3. Reading guide technical users

The majority of the information in the DEP documentation set is targeted for technical users: Those that have to do with software that creates or interprets DEP packages.

For those who encounter the DEP for the first time, *strong advise* to read the *Functional overview* document [DEP-FO] first. This will provide you with an overview of the DEP, what it is for, and its underlying principles, both technical and non-technical.

The other documents in the DEP documentation set provide the detailed information necessary to create or interpret DEP packages. These are meant as a reference and need not necessarily be read from start to finish. Here is a high-level breakdown of the information provided:

Document	Information
Manifest Extension Reference [DEP-MER]	<p>A DEP Content Package (CP) must have (as every CP) a so-called <i>manifest file</i>. This is an XML document that describes the CP's content. Its structure is defined by the CP standard.</p> <p>The DEP extends the standard CP manifest structure with information of its own (e.g. metadata). These extensions are described here.</p>
Extension Document Reference [DEP-EDR]	<p>A DEP Content Package (CP) contains, among other files, QTI assessment items and tests. These are XML documents whose structure and meaning is prescribed by the QTI standard.</p> <p>The DEP extends the QTI standard, but these extensions could not be placed inside the assessment and test XML documents. Instead this is done in so-called <i>extension documents</i> that exist side-by-side with the assessment and test documents.</p> <p>This document describes this mechanism and provides a detailed description of the extension document's XML structure and its meaning.</p>
QTI Adaptations Reference [DEP-QAR]	<p>Besides the extensions described in the DEP extension documents, there are several other extensions to the QTI standard. This document describes these additional extensions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEP specific extensions to the standard QTI interaction types. - The DEP defines a number of so-called custom operators. These can be used in the QTI results processing to, for instance, compare a student's answer to the correct one without regard to whitespace. - How to create interaction types completely outside the QTI domain (so-called custom interactions). These interactions are usually written in HTML and JavaScript. - How to add so-called adaptive testing to DEP CPs. This allows for students to take different routes through an exam, based on the results so far.

Working with the DEP means you have to understand both the IMS QTI and Content Packaging standard. Information about these standards is not in the DEP documentation set (except on an overview level in [DEP-FO]). You can find and download these standards, including extensive documentation, on the IMS website <http://www.imsglobal.org>.