

FRESH DIRT

Changes in 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the form being changed?

A: Over the past several years, the CGA Data Reporting and Evaluation Committee has identified several ways to improve the DIRT form. The committee elected to refrain from making changes during this time to encourage consistency and avoid user confusion. The team has since determined it is appropriate to move forward, using suggestions provided by damage prevention stakeholders as a starting point. The team also addressed issues identified during committee meetings, data analysis conducted from the annual DIRT reports, and support tickets entered by DIRT users.

The team worked for many months. The result of this effort will allow for improved clarity, more streamlined data submission, and more meaningful analysis of data.

Q: What are the changes in the new form?

A: There are several new questions and several questions deleted. The root causes have been adjusted to more accurately depict real-world scenarios relating to damages and near-misses. Data Not Collected is removed as an option for the questions it appeared under.

For specific details, see the following documents also available in this toolkit:

- [2006 Field Form vs the 2018 Field Form](#)
- [DIRT Migration Guide 2018](#)
- [Presentation from the Fresh DIRT Webinar](#)

Q: When does the transition occur?

A: Calendar year 2017 events will be entered using the current form, available until March 31, 2018.

For events occurring in calendar year 2018, DIRT users should be prepared to capture data per the revised form during field investigations. When entering data after January 1, 2018, using the web form, users will be able to toggle between the original form (for 2017 events) and the 2018 revised version (for 2018 events). After the deadline for entering 2017 events has passed, the ability to toggle between versions will be removed, and the 2018 version will be the only form available.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| DIRT Specification Version: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Next version, 2018.0 ▾ Original v1, 2006 Next version, 2018.0 </div> |
|------------------------------------|---|

A similar process will apply to Bulk Uploads. The File Upload Specification link also includes ability to toggle between versions.

| | |
|--|---|
| Specification Version: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> New version, 2018.0 ▾ Original v1, 2006 New version, 2018.0 </div> |
| Specification Generated 2017-11-22 for Country: | |
| State/Province: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> NY ▾ </div> |

CGA Virtual Private DIRT Demo - File Upload

Upload legacy ADL Delimited Text File

The legacy ADL (Automated Data Loader) format accepts comma-, tab-, or pipe-delimited text files in a very specific format, described in the [File Upload Specification](#) document.

Submitted data is validated immediately on upload and is saved only if *all* rows in the file pass validation.

DIRT Specification Version:

Next version, 2018.0 ▾

-- select --
 Original v1, 2006
Next version, 2018.0
 -- select --

Q: Will the submission methods also change? Or only the form itself?

A: Submission methods will essentially remain the same. Users may submit bulk data using the Automated Data Loader (ADL), or by submitting individual web reports. If using ADL, users should review the revised file upload specification, and download the revised sample files (scroll to the bottom of the [File Upload Specification](#)) to match the revised form. Also see the document entitled [DIRT Form Revision Migration Guide](#) for a detailed description of the changes to the File Upload Specification.

Sample Files:

The following data files are available as examples. Right-click on the links below and choose Save Link As... to save these sample files to your PC:

[sample_adl_2.xls](#)
 Microsoft Excel 95/97 spreadsheet containing some sample data. DIRT File Upload does not support Excel spreadsheets, but you can create valid text files from this document by choosing File->Save As... and picking either `Text (Tab Delimited) (*.txt)` or `CSV (Comma Delimited) (*.csv)`, creating either of the two sample files below.

[sample_adl_2.txt](#)
 Tab-delimited text file containing the sample data from the Excel spreadsheet using File->Save As... and picking `Text (Tab Delimited) (*.txt)`. This is the most optimal format for File Uploads.

[sample_adl_2.csv](#)
 Comma-separated-values text file containing the sample data from the Excel spreadsheet using File->Save As... and picking `CSV (Comma Delimited) (*.csv)`.

Q: What if I have questions? How can I receive support?

A: The DIRT User’s Guide is an excellent resource for questions regarding completion of the form, and has been updated to reflect the revised form. It is available from the following link, even if you are not a CGA Member or registered in DIRT:

<https://sandbox.cga-dirt.com/vpddemo/html/userGuide.html>

The Data Committee and CGA Staff will be holding webinars and *office-hour* sessions throughout the transition period, including information sessions at the annual CGA Conference in March 2018.

Users can also submit a Support Ticket through the DIRT tool, by clicking on ‘Support’ located on the DIRT Main Menu. The CGA staff and/or the DIRT developers will respond to your request.



There is also a “Feedback” link in the bottom left corner of each page. Look for “Contact Us” and “Support.”

Q: How can I learn more about the CGA Data Reporting and Evaluation Committee?

A: All committee meetings are open to CGA members. The Common Ground Alliance welcomes all interested parties to join the organization, and become a member. Go [here](#) for more information!

Q: Will there be additional revisions or changes in the future?

A: We recognize that a major overhaul such as this has an impact on all companies submitting to DIRT. They need to train their personnel, revise internal policies and procedures, etc. For this reason, the committee “saved up” many revisions that had been contemplated over the years in favor of doing them all-at-once. We do not anticipate any more significant changes for at least several years.