

Please note! This page describes the *nature of the error* using a hypothetical example and not the erroneous data of the input test file. You should however be able to apply this information to your error case.

## General description of the error:

**The format of the error message:** The entity name must immediately follow the '&' in the entity reference.

**Error description in schema standard:** <http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xml-20..04/#NT-content>

**Possible causes for this error:**

- There is illegal character '&' inside a field and is interpreted as entity
- XML entities are used incorrectly, e.g. a space is given after character & and amp;
  - ? & = &amp;
  - < = &lt;
  - > = &gt;

## Example

```
<Nm>Virgay & Co</Nm>
```

**Error message:** *Fatal Error NameRequiredInReference : The entity name must immediately follow the '&' in the entity reference.*

**Meaning of error:** Character & is interpreted to start an entity reference but instead a space is given after it

**How to fix:** Element can be fixed by replacing & with a correct entity reference, &amp;

```
<Nm>Virgay &amp; Co</Nm>
```