

Validation Rules

Download the PDF of this article.

In this Article

Related Articles

The purpose of input validation is to help your respondents provide the desired answers in the expected format. It is an aid, and it is not designed to be foolproof. There are ways one can bypass the validation and, although rare in a normal use case, invalid responses should not be unexpected.

Note: It is not suggested to use more than one validation type per field.

All validation rules can be accessed by clicking on a field, selecting **Options** and then selecting **Validation Rules** from the left-side option menu.

The screenshot displays a form editor interface. On the left, a 'Field Properties' sidebar is open, showing 'Validation Rules' settings. The 'Require this field' toggle is turned off, labeled 'Not Required'. The 'Expected Input Format' is set to 'None'. The 'Limit length of answer' is set to a text input field followed by a dropdown menu currently showing 'characters'. On the right, the 'Edit Form Title' toolbar includes icons for Bold, Italic, Underline, Image, Link, Clear, Required, Options, Copy, Delete, and Done. Below the toolbar, the form preview shows 'Field A' (a text input field with a dashed border), 'Field B' (a text input field), and a 'Next Page' button.

Please Note: Validation Rules may not work as expected if JavaScript is disabled.

Limit Length of Input

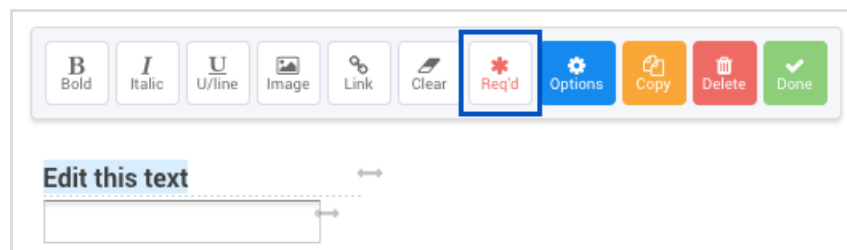
This option allows you to set the maximum characters or words to be allowed in a text field and text area. You can only define a limit for characters **or** words and not for both.

Required Fields

Users can be required to fill out a given field before submitting or proceeding to a form's next page.

To set a field as required:

1. Select your question and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. Check the corresponding box for **This is a required field**.
4. This can also be accomplished by clicking the **Req'd** icon after clicking on a field in your form.



Note: If [Page Navigation](#) is enabled on a multi-page form, a respondent will be notified of any required fields left blank through the form when they try to submit.

Require an Email Address

To require a valid email address:

1. Select a text input question and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Email**.

Note: An underscore in a domain of an email is most likely a human error but FormAssembly's email validation will allow it to pass. However, Salesforce's validation will not accept the format of an underscore in the domain of an email.

Note: Email Validation will allow multiple email addresses separated by commas but Salesforce will throw an error if it is pushed to Salesforce as it only expects one email address in that field.

Require Numbers Only

To require numbers only:

1. Select a text input question and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#). Or, you can select your question with the sidebar open.
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Number [0-9]**.

Require a Number Within a Range

Numbers can be limited within a range by doing the following:

1. Select a text input question and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Number [0-9]**.
4. Enter the lower number in the **From** field and the higher number in the **To** field.

Require a Date and/or Time

To require a field to accept only a date:

1. Select a text input field and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Date**, **Time**, or **Date and Time**.

Select the **Date (with calendar)** option if you'd like to allow respondents to use a calendar to select the date.

Require a Date and/or Time Within a Range

Date inputs can be limited to a specific range. To enter your range:

1. Select a text input field and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Date, Time, or Date and Time**.
4. Enter your beginning date in the **From** field and your ending date in the **To** field.

Require a Custom Format

Create your own formatting rules by using regular expressions, creating an automatic format, or by limiting the number of characters that can be entered into a field.

1. Select your question and click the **Options** button to open the [editing sidebar](#).
2. Select **Validation Rules** from the sidebar.
3. In the **Expected Input Format** menu, select **Custom...**
4. Create your rules in the corresponding fields.

The image shows a sidebar titled "Expected Input Format" with several sections:

- Expected Input Format:** A dropdown menu currently showing "Custom...".
- Validate with a Regular Expression:** A text input field with the example "e.g /[\d]3/g".
- Custom Error Message:** A text input field with the example "e.g "This entry is invalid. Enter a ...".
- Auto-Format with a Mask:** A text input field with the example "e.g ###-###-####Help?".
- Limit length of answer:** A text input field followed by a dropdown menu showing "characters".

Auto-Format with a Mask

The auto-formatting can be used for a more simple pattern, such as a phone number or serial

number.

For instance, let's say you have a serial number field, and all of the serial numbers expected to be entered on your form start with **M4K**, then have 4 numbers and 2 letters. The mask would be `M4K#####`, with `#` = numbers and `$` = alphanumeric characters (letters or numbers).

Characters like commas, slashes, and dashes will all act like `M4K` and only function as placeholders. The expected format will be visible once the field is selected.

Note: The Auto-Format with a Mask feature does not work reliably on Android phones. The best alternative would be to use a regular expression instead.

Validate with a Regular Expression

Please Note: Expressions must be enclosed in `"/`. For example:

This works: `/[\d]3/g/`

This doesn't: `[\d]3/g`

Regular expressions can help you define an expected pattern. Crafting regular expressions can be difficult. It is usually best to copy & paste an existing expression than trying to come up with your own.

While we'd like to provide as much support as we can, we are unable to support expressions as they can break in ways we cannot predict such as when updates are made.

Please reference the links below for information and assistance on expressions:

- <http://www.regexlib.com/Search.aspx>
 - <https://regex101.com/>
 -
-