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Product: Ishida ScaleLink Pro 3.2x scale management software

Issue: Importing PLU text files

Contents: Instructions to prepare and import ASCII delimited files



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When replacing a customer's old scales, it is usually expected that their existing PLU file will be loaded into the new scales. Using Ishida's ScaleLink Pro software it is possible to import and convert ASCII (text) delimited files. In order to import a file, it must be in a specific format. The format requirements and the importing procedures are covered in this bulletin.

An ASCII file can come from a number of sources which include scale management software similar to Ishida's ScaleLink Pro, PC based scale backup programs, spreadsheets, etc. The easiest method to format a file to match ScaleLink Pro's requirements is to open it using Microsoft® Excel® or a similar spreadsheet program. The spreadsheet program will separate the data into columns that can then be edited as needed.

Usually, the file contains more information than SLP needs, so the first task is to delete unnecessary data. Identify columns that are blank, contain only zeros, etc. and delete them. Once only valid data remain, the columns can be labeled and placed in the appropriate order. See the Reference section of this bulletin for a list of data that may be imported.

#### Header Names

After the extraneous data have been removed, the remaining columns must be labeled. This is done by inserting a line at the beginning of the list to identify each column. These labels are referred to as "headers". SLP uses the headers to identify the data in each column. It is important that each header is spelled correctly using the proper upper and lower case letters. If a header is misspelled SLP will not import the PLU file. The headers are listed in the Reference section of this bulletin.

#### Order of Fields

Finally, the remaining data must be placed in an appropriate order. All columns are optional except the PLU number ("Plu\_No") column. The columns may be placed in any order except for the following restrictions:

- a. If the optional "Cmd" column is used, it must be placed first.
- b. The "Plu\_No" column must always be included. It must be placed first unless the optional "Cmd" column is used, in which case it is placed second.
- c. If the optional "PriceZone" column is used, it must be the first column after the PLU number.
- d. The "FontX" and "DescX" columns must be placed at the end of the line.

Refer to Figure 1 below for a sample of a PLU file listed in a spreadsheet.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Plu_No	SalesMode	DateFlag	Tare	ShelfLife	UnitPrice	PosCode	Font1	Desc1	Font2	Desc2
2	300	0	3	6	5	119	300	2	BEEF RIBLETS	1	
3	301	0	3	8	5	198	301	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	BLADE CUT STEAK
4	302	0	3	8	5	139	302	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	BLADED CUT ROAST
5	303	0	3	8	5	149	303	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	7-BONE STEAK
6	304	0	3	8	5	149	304	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	7-BONE ROAST
7	306	0	3	6	5	358	306	2	BEEF SHORT RIBS	1	
8	307	0	3	8	5	378	307	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	BBQ RIBS
9	308	0	3	6	5	138	308	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	NECK BONES
10	309	0	3	8	5	249	309	2	BEEF CHUCK	1	FLAT IRON STEAK
11	310	0	3	6	5	359	310	2	BEEF CHUCK SHORTRIBS	1	
12	311	0	3	12	5	269	311	2	BEEF BONELESS SHORT RIBS	1	
13	601	0	3	10	5	299	601	2	BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAK	1	
14	602	0	3	10	5	328	602	2	BEEF CHATAUBRIAND	1	
15	603	0	3	11	5	399	603	2	BEEF TRI-TIP STEAK	1	
16	604	0	3	7	5	369	604	2	BEEF TRI-TIP ROAST	1	
17	700	0	1	12	5	129	700	2	GROUND BEEF CHUBS	1	NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
18	701	0	3	10	5	239	701	2	BONELESS STEWING BEEF	1	
19	702	0	3	6	5	149	702	2	GROUND BEEF	1	NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
20	703	0	3	6	5	189	703	2	GROUND BEEF LEAN	1	NOT TO EXCEED 22% FAT
21	704	0	3	6	5	239	704	2	GROUND BEEF EXTRA LEAN	1	NOT TO EXCEED 15% FAT
22	705	0	3	5	7	129	705	2	GROUND BEEF CHUB	1	NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
23	706	0	3	8	5	269	706	2	BEEF CHUCK STEAK	1	BONELESS
24	707	0	3	10	5	249	707	2	BEEF CHUCK ROAST	1	BONELESS
25	708	0	3	6	5	269	708	2	GROUND BEEF DIET LEAN	1	NOT TO EXCEED 7% FAT
26	709	0	3	8	5	359	709	2	BEEF CHUCK EYE STEAK	1	
27	801	0	3	6	5	899	801	2	BEEF LOIN	1	FILET MIGNON
28	802	0	3	8	5	878	802	2	BEEF TENDERLOIN ROAST	1	
29	803	0	3	6	5	598	803	2	BEEF FILET TIPS	1	

Fig 1. Spreadsheet of a PLU file

File Types

After the file has been formatted it must be saved as an ASCII delimited file. Most spreadsheet programs have two ASCII (text) file options: comma delimited or tab delimited. ScaleLink Pro can use either of these. Be sure the file is named as a "txt" file type. If the spreadsheet adds a different extension the file must be renamed to end with "txt". For example the file could be named as "PLU.txt". Refer to Figure 3 below for a sample ASCII delimited file.

**NOTE:** From version 3.26x .CSV (comma separated) file types are supported.

Importing

Now the properly formatted file can be imported into ScaleLink Pro. Open the program and from the Tools menu select "Import from Text File...". Then find and select the newly created file. Next, enter the proper settings to import the file:

Send to scale? – uncheck this box, the file can be sent later.

File contents – select PLUs.

File format – select either "Comma-delimited" or "Tab-delimited".

Description text format – select "Line by Line", the file is not formatted for the other choices.

Refer to Figure 2 below for an illustration of the Text File Import Settings.

Once the proper settings have been entered, select OK to begin importing data. The import time varies with the number of items but normally takes less than one minute. Check the PLU file to confirm the data were successfully imported.

Errors During Import

If importing the file is unsuccessful, check the following.

1. Immediate failure
  - a. Check the header line for proper spelling, correct case, and extra blank characters or unidentified columns.
  - b. Confirm the proper settings were selected on the import screen:
    - i. Comma or Tab delimited
    - ii. Line by Line import format.

2. Failure after some processing

Review the partial list of imported PLUs and then check the file being imported for invalid data. Specifically check the last PLU imported or the first item that was not imported.

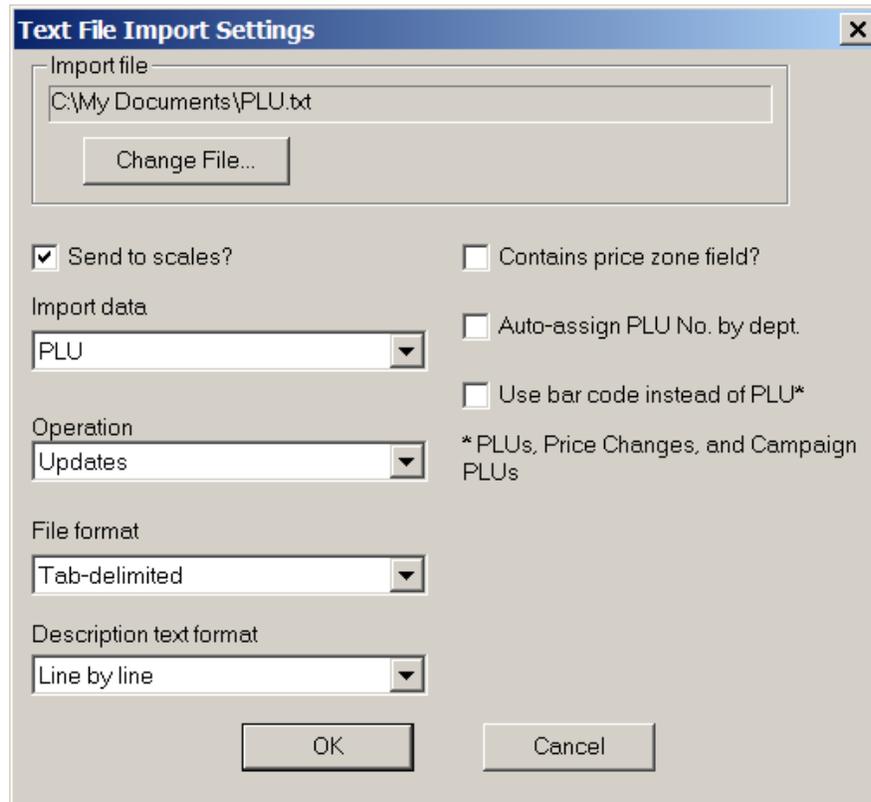


Fig 2. Text File Import Settings

Creating a PLU File

To program a new PLU file, often the easiest method of entering data is in a spreadsheet. To do this, create a blank "template" that includes the headers for each column. Then enter the appropriate data. This data entry task may be performed by your customer.

Reference

Ishida's ScaleLink Pro scale management software supports the PLU file header fields listed below.

Cmd	Action command: A = Add [If the item exists at the scale it will be deleted and replaced] U = Update [Only the specified data is changed, all other fields remain] D = Delete
Plu_No	1 to 999999
PriceZone	0 to 99 [SLP version 3.2x allows 0 to 9999 zones]
SalesMode	0 = Weighed [default] 1 = Fixed Price 2 = Fixed Price and Weighed
UnitPrice	0 to 9999 (\$999.99) [AC-3000 \$99.99 maximum]
OpenPrice	0 = Scale Reference 1 = Prohibit Price Changes 2 = Allow Price Changes

MarkFlag	0 = No Markdown [default] 1 = Set Total Price 2 = Subtract \$ Amount from Total Price 3 = Subtract % Amount from Total Price 4 = Set Special Unit Price 5* = Subtract \$ Amount from Unit Price 6* = Subtract % Unit Price from Unit Price
MarkPrice	0 to 999999 (Dollar Amount) [Discount markdowns] or 0 to 99 (Percentage)
DateFlag	0 = Scale Reference 1 = No Dates 2 = Pack Date 3 = Sell By Date 4 = Both Pack and Sell By Dates
ShelfLife	0 to 995 (Days) [Must be specified if Date Flag is set as "3" or "4"]
TimeFlag	0 = Scale Reference 1 = No Pack Time 2 = Pack Time
ExpTimeFlag	0 = Scale Reference 1 = No Sell By Time 2 = Designate Sell By Time (See "ExpTime" field below) 3 = Relative Sell By Time (See "ExpTime" field below)
ExpTime	0:00 to 23:59 (Designated Sell By Time) or 0 to 9999 Minutes (Relative Sell By Time) [Add minutes to internal clock]
Tare	0 to 999 (9.99 Lb) [For dual-range scales maximum is 9.995 Lb]
No2Tare*	0 to 9995 (dual-range) (Second Tare) [9.99 Lb, single-range]
PropTare*	0 to 500 (50.0%)
ForcedTare	0 = Scale Reference 1 = Tare Required 2 = No Tare Required
PackQuant	0 to 999 (Number of Pieces)
Weight	0 to 999 (Fixed Bakery Weight, Ounces)
PosSelect	0 = Scale Reference 1 = Standard Random Price UPC Format 3 = 10 Digit Dry Article Barcode
Posflag	0 to 99 POS Barcode Flag (Standard = 2)
PosCode	0 to 999999 (Standard Random Price UPC Format) or 0 to 9999999999 (10-Digit Dry-Article Barcode)
BarCodeNum	0 = Scale Reference 1 to 33 = Specify UPC Barcode Format*
Message7	0 to 999999 ("Extra Message #1" Text Message)
ExMessage2*	0 to 999999 (Extra Text Message)
ExMessage3*	0 to 999999 (Extra Text Message)
Coupon	0 to 999999 (Coupon Message) [AC-3000: 99 maximum]
Nutrition*	0 = No Nutrition Information [Do Not Print (3000 Series only)] 1 = Nutrition Information [Print (3000 Series only)]
NutritionID*	0 to 999999 (Nutrition record number)
SafeHandlingFlag*	0 = Scale Reference 1 = Do Not Print 2 = Print
Logo1*	0 to 999 Graphic Image number
Logo2*	0 to 999 Graphic Image number
Message1	0 to 99 (POP Message) [AC-3000 Graphic Image Number]
LabelFormatNo1	0 to 99 (Label Format number)

LabelFormatNo2 0 to 99 (Second Label Format number)  
 SecondBotPrintFlag 0 = Do Not Print (Second Label print flag)  
 1 = Print

Font1+ Specify character size of description/text line (based on 60mm wide print):

Code	Char/Line	Justification	SLP Name	Notes
G*	54	Left	1, L54	
0	47	Left	2, L47	Code value is zero
1	36	Left†	3, C36	
H*	36	Center	4, C36	
I*	31	Center	5, C31	
E*	27	Center	6, C27	
2	25	Center	7, C25	
J*	25	Center	8, C25	
K*	24	Center	9, C24	
3	19	Center	10, C19	

Desc1+ Text description. If the ASCII file is comma delimited, enclose each line in double "quotes", if it is tab delimited, do not use quotes.  
 Font2 Line two, same format as Font1  
 Desc2 Line two, same format as Desc1  
 ...  
 Font30 Line thirty, same format as Font1. (Maximum thirty lines)  
 Desc30 Line thirty, same format as Desc1. (Maximum thirty lines)

\* Not supported by 3000 Series or earlier models.  
**NOTE:** If new character sizes are sent to older scale models no text will print on the label.

+ See the **Word Wrapping** section below for further information.

† Center justified for: AC-4000, BC-4000 and 3000 Series

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Plu_No,SalesMode,DateFlag,Tare,ShelfLife,UnitPrice,PosCode,Font1,Desc1,Font2,Desc2
300,0,3,6,5,119,300,2,BEEF RIBLETS,1,
301,0,3,8,5,198,301,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,BLADE CUT STEAK
302,0,3,8,5,139,302,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,BLADED CUT ROAST
303,0,3,8,5,149,303,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,7-BONE STEAK
304,0,3,8,5,149,304,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,7-BONE ROAST
306,0,3,6,5,358,306,2,BEEF SHORT RIBS,1,
307,0,3,8,5,378,307,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,BBQ RIBS
308,0,3,6,5,138,308,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,NECK BONES
309,0,3,8,5,249,309,2,BEEF CHUCK,1,FLAT IRON STEAK
310,0,3,6,5,359,310,2,BEEF CHUCK SHORTRIBS,1,
311,0,3,12,5,269,311,2,BEEF BONELESS SHORT RIBS,1,
601,0,3,10,5,299,601,2,BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAK,1,
602,0,3,10,5,328,602,2,BEEF CHATAUBRIAND,1,
603,0,3,11,5,399,603,2,BEEF TRI-TIP STEAK,1,
604,0,3,7,5,369,604,2,BEEF TRI-TIP ROAST,1,
700,0,1,12,5,129,700,2,GROUND BEEF CHUBS,1,NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
701,0,3,10,5,239,701,2,BONELESS STEWING BEEF,1,
702,0,3,6,5,149,702,2,GROUND BEEF,1,NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
703,0,3,6,5,189,703,2,GROUND BEEF LEAN,1,NOT TO EXCEED 22% FAT
704,0,3,6,5,239,704,2,GROUND BEEF EXTRA LEAN,1,NOT TO EXCEED 15% FAT
705,0,3,5,7,129,705,2,GROUND BEEF CHUB,1,NOT TO EXCEED 30% FAT
    
```

Fig 3. ASCII comma delimited text file

### Importing Other Data Files

The primary purpose of this document is to provide the details necessary to import a PLU file in an ASCII text format. Please note, however, that ScaleLink Pro can also be used to import other information such as price changes (PLU import with limited data), messages, and nutrition data.

When importing message files the first column header is "Message\_No" rather than "Plu\_No". All of the following messages use the column header to identify the message number: Extra Message #1, Extra Message #2, Extra Message #3, and Coupon Message.

### Word Wrapping

ScaleLink Pro can automatically import and word wrap text. After specifying the Font1 value, list all text for the item in the Desc1 field. ScaleLink Pro will place the maximum number of words on each line. The line breaks will occur at spaces between words. This eliminates the need to manually count characters to determine line breaks.

**NOTE:** This method will force the same character size throughout the text. If the character sizes are to change from line to line then individual lines and character sizes must be specified.

To control the word wrap width for PLU Descriptions during import enter the Setup Menu and select Options. In the Label Sizes tab set the Width as needed. When a new PLU file is imported into an empty database the PLU Descriptions will word wrap at the defined width.

For message files the default line width is 60mm when importing text. The line width can be altered by adding a column titled: "LabelWidth". Enter the line width value in millimeters (mm).

### Determining Headers

As mentioned previously, it is critical that the header line in a text file contain the exact field titles. The easiest method to determine these headers titles is to export a file from ScaleLink Pro with headers. Use this exported text file as a reference to determine the titles and fields to include in the text file that will be imported.

### Reference

Revision 5 of this bulletin has been updated based on ScaleLink Pro versions 3.26i and 3.27d. For further information about ScaleLink Pro refer to the User Guide.