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Product: Ishida ScaleLink Pro 5 Scale Management Software

Issue: Importing PLU text files

Contents: Instructions to Prepare and Import Delimited Text Files

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SLP-5 supersedes SLP-V as Ishida's Scale Management Software program but the text file import process remains the same. This bulletin expands the list of PLU fields and adds some details from the previous SLP-V bulletin (TB20100917).

Importing text files is the most efficient method of converting a customer's data from a previous system. The delimited text files must be in a specific format. The format requirements and the importing procedures are covered in this bulletin.

The easiest method to format a delimited text file to match SLP-5's requirements is to open it using Microsoft® Excel® or a similar spreadsheet program. The spreadsheet will separate the data into columns that can then be edited as needed.

Often the file contains more information than SLP-5 needs, so the first task is to delete unnecessary data. Then, identify columns that are blank, contain only zeros, etc. and delete them. Once only valid data remain, the columns must be labeled with headers and placed in the appropriate order. See the Data Definitions section of this bulletin for a list of PLU data that may be imported, valid data values, and header names.

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 file to identify each column. These labels are referred to as "headers". SLP-5 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 and characters. If a header is misspelled, contains blank spaces, or is the wrong case, SLP-5 will not import some or all the PLU file. The headers are listed in the Data Definitions section of this bulletin.

Order of Fields
Finally, the data must be placed in the appropriate order. All columns are optional except the PLU number ("Plu_No") column. The columns may be placed in any order with the following restrictions:
a. If the optional "Cmd" column is used, it must be placed first.
b. The "Plu_No" column must be placed first unless the optional "Cmd" column is used, in which case it is placed second. The file must always contain this column.
c. If the optional "PriceZone" column is used, it must be the first column after the PLU number.
d. The "FontX" and "LineX" columns containing the PLU description must be the last columns.

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	UnitPrice	Tare	DateFlag	ShelfLife	OpenPrice	PosCode	Font1	Line1	Font2	Line2
166	667	0	499	30	3	7	2	667	6	T-BONE STEAK	6	FAMILY PACK
167	669	0	229	25	3	7	2	669	6	CUBE STEAK	6	
168	670	0	259	15	3	7	2	670	6	CHOPPED SIRLOIN	6	
169	671	0	219	30	3	7	2	671	6	100% SIRLOIN	6	BEEF PATTIES
170	672	0	499	15	3	20	2	672	6	WHOLE BEEF RIB	6	
171	673	0	499	30	3	7	2	673	6	SELECT FAMILY PACK	6	RIBEYE STEAKS
172	674	0	579	15	3	7	2	674	6	DELMONICO STEAK	6	
173	675	0	499	15	3	7	2	675	6	RIB EYE STEAK	6	BONE-IN
174	676	0	279	15	3	7	2	676	6	FULL CUT	6	ROUND STEAK
175	677	0	649	30	3	7	2	677	6	PORTERHOUSE STEAK	6	FAMILY PACK
176	678	0	339	30	3	7	2	678	6	TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL	6	FAMILY PACK
177	679	0	359	30	3	7	2	679	6	FAMILY PACK	6	TOP ROUND STEAK
178	680	0	229	15	3	30	2	680	6	WHOLE TOP ROUND INSIDE	6	
179	681	0	329	15	3	7	2	681	6	F. P. CUBE STEAK	6	
180	682	0	239	15	3	7	2	682	6	EYE STYLE BOTTOM	6	ROUND ROAST
181	683	0	199	15	3	30	2	683	6	WHOLE BOTTOM ROUND	6	(GOOSENECK)
182	684	0	329	30	3	7	2	684	6	FAMILY PACK	6	BOTTOM ROUND STEAK
183	685	0	339	15	3	7	2	685	6	CUBED BOTTOM ROUND STEAK	6	
184	686	0	399	30	3	7	2	686	6	FAMILY PACK	6	EYE ROUND STEAK
185	687	1	1990	15	3	8	2	687	6	10# BONELESS	6	CHUCK STEAKS
186	688	0	399	30	3	7	2	688	6	FAMILY PACK	6	CUBED EYE ROUND STEAK
187	689	1	1990	15	3	3	2	689	6	10# GROUND	6	CHUCK
188	690	0	339	30	3	7	2	690	6	KANSAS CITY SIRLOIN STEAK	6	FAMILY PACK
189	691	0	339	30	3	7	2	691	6	FAMILY PACK	6	CHUCK EYE STEAK
190	692	0	239	30	3	7	2	692	6	FAMILY PACK	6	CHUCK STEAK

Figure 1. Spreadsheet of a PLU file

File Types

After the file has been formatted it must be saved as a delimited text file. Most spreadsheet programs support two text file options: comma delimited (.CSV) or tab delimited (.TXT). SLP-5 can use either of these. Ensure the correct file type is selected when the file is imported in to SLP-5. Refer to Figure 2 below for a sample delimited text file.

```
Plu_No,SalesMode,DateFlag,Tare,ShelfLife,UnitPrice,PosCode,Font1,Line1,Font2,Line2
300,0,3,6,5,119,300,4,BEEF RIBLETS,1,
301,0,3,8,5,198,301,4,BEEF CHUCK,4,BLADE CUT STEAK
302,0,3,8,5,139,302,4,BEEF CHUCK,4,BLADED CUT ROAST
303,0,3,8,5,149,303,4,BEEF CHUCK,4,7-BONE STEAK
304,0,3,8,5,149,304,4,BEEF CHUCK,4,7-BONE ROAST
309,0,3,8,5,249,309,4,BEEF CHUCK,4,FLAT IRON STEAK
601,0,3,10,5,299,601,2,BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAK,1,
603,0,3,11,5,399,603,4,BEEF TRI-TIP STEAK,4,
604,0,3,7,5,369,604,4,BEEF TRI-TIP ROAST,4,
700,0,1,12,5,129,700,4,GROUND BEEF CHUBS,4,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
703,0,3,6,5,189,703,4,GROUND BEEF LEAN,4,NOT TO EXCEED 22% FAT
```

Figure 2. Comma Delimited Text File

Importing

Now the properly formatted file can be implored into SLP-5. Open the program and select "Import from Text File" from the Tools section of the left side menu. Then navigate to and select the newly created file. Next, enter the proper settings to import the file. Refer to Figure 3 below for an illustration of the Text File Import Settings.

- Send to scale? – **uncheck** this box (the data can be sent later after import confirmation)
- Data to Import – select **PLU**

- Delimiter – select either **Comma(CSV)** or **Tab**
- Description Text Format – select **Line by line (with fonts)** or another format as needed
- Read input file column titles? – **check** this box (required to import correctly)

Once the proper settings have been entered, click the Execute Text Import icon at the upper left to begin importing data. The import time varies with the number of items but normally takes less than one minute. After the import has completed check the PLU file to confirm the data were correctly imported.

Figure 3. Text File Import Settings (Tab file format)

Errors During Import
If importing the file is unsuccessful, check the following.
1. Immediate failure and message "The import data does not comply with the file layout standards. Import aborted".
   a. Check the spelling of the PLU column header. It must be "Plu_No".
   b. The PLU Number column must be first unless the optional "Cmd" column is used.
   c. The PLU description "FontX" and "LineX" must be the last columns.
   d. Confirm the correct settings were selected on the import screen:
      i. Delimiter: "Comma(CSV)" or "Tab"
      ii. Description Text Format: "Line by Line (with fonts)", etc.
   e. Check the text file for any lines that do not begin with a valid PLU number.
      Note: Beginning with SLP-5 version 2.30f, the SlpMain.log.txt log file lists the first instance of a non-conforming PLU record. The log records "Error Line: xxxx: yyyy", where xxxx is the line number (the header line is line 1) and yyyy is the record data. Refer to the log to help identify incorrectly formatted PLUs.

2. Missing or incorrect data.
    a. If a column header is incorrect all data in that column are ignored. Recheck the header line for proper spelling, correct case, extra blank characters, or unidentified columns.
    b. Out of range data will be ignored. The results are either blank fields or default data values.

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. If this data entry task is performed by the customer, it is strongly recommended that the file be checked after a small number of items have been entered. If the entire PLU file is entered incorrectly it is a waste of everyone's time.

Rice Lake has created starter templates with notes to simplify this process. Refer to the Software section of the SLP-5 page on the Rice Lake web site to download the templates.

Data Definitions
Ishida's SLP-5 scale management software supports the PLU file header fields listed below.

Cmd	Action command:
	A = Add [If the item exists in the database 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 999 [zones]
SalesMode	0 = Weighed [default]
	1 = Fixed Price
	2 = Fixed Price and Weighed
	3[1] = Case Weight (Manual weight entry)
UnitPrice	0 to 99999 ($999.99)
OpenPrice	1 = Prohibit Price Changes
	2 = Allow Price Changes
DateFlag	1 = No Dates
	2 = Pack Date only
	3 = Sell By Date only
	4 = Both Pack and Sell By Dates
ShelfLife	0 to 995 (Days) [Must be specified if DateFlag is set as "3" or "4"]
Tare	0 to 9995 (9.995 Lb, dual-range) [9.99 Lb, single-range]
No2Tare[2]	0 to 9995 (9.995 Lb, dual-range) (Second Tare) [9.99 Lb, single-range]
ForcedTare	1 = Tare Required
	2 = No Tare Required
ExMessage1	0 to 999999 ("Extra Message #1" Text Message)
ExMessage2[2]	0 to 999999 ("Extra Message #2" Text Message)
PosCode	0 to 999999 (Standard Random Price UPC Format)
	or 0 to 9999999999 (10-Digit Dry-Article Source-Marked Barcode)
PackQuant	0 to 999 (Number of Pieces)
Weight	0 to 999 (Fixed Bakery Weight, Ounces)
Logo1[2]	0 to 999 Graphic image number
Logo2[2]	0 to 999 Graphic image number
TimeFlag	1 = No Pack Time
	2 = Pack Time (Internal clock)

ExpTimeFlag	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]
PropTare[2]	0 to 500 (50.0%)
ExMessage3[2]	0 to 999999 ("Extra Message #3" Text Message)
Coupon	0 to 999999 (Coupon Message) [AC-3000: 99 maximum]
PosFlagSelect[1]	0 = Disable, use barcode format and flag value from Setup menu [default]
	1 = Enable, set the barcode format and flag value in the PLU
PosSelect[3]	0 = Use Scale Default (from Setup menu) [default]
	1 = Standard Random Price UPC Format
	3 = 10 Digit Dry Article Barcode
Posflag[3]	0 to 99 POS Barcode Flag (Standard = 2)
BarCodeNum[3]	0 = Use Scale Default (from Setup menu) [default]
	1 to 33 = Specify UPC Barcode Format
	1: 5-Digit Code FFCCCCCc/pPPPPc/d
	2: 6-Digit Code FFCCCCCCPPPPc/d
	4: 5-Digit Price FFCCCCCPPPPPc/d
	15: Fixed Zero FFCCCCC0PPPPc/d
SafeHandlingFlag[2]	1 = Do Not Print
	2 = Print
LabelFormatNo1[2]	0 to 99 or 0 to 999[1] (Label Format number)
LabelFormatNo2[2]	0 to 99 or 0 to 999[1] (Second Label Format number)
No2PrintFlag[2]	0 = Do Not Print (Second Label print flag) [default]
	1 = Print
LabelFormatNoPrep[1]	0 to 999 (Auto Print Label Format number) [optional]
ImageNo	0 to 999 Display Image number [Uni-5/7/9 only]
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[2] = Subtract $ Amount from Unit Price
	6[2] = Subtract % Unit Price from Unit Price
MarkPrice	0 to 999999 (Dollar Amount) [Discount markdowns]
	or 0 to 999 (Percentage) [xx.x%]
TraceFlag[1]	1 = Enable (Lot Number and/or Country of Origin)
	2 = Disable [default]
Font1[4]	Specify character size of the description/text lines

Code	Char/Line[5]	Justification[6]	SLP-5 Name
27[1]	62	Left	15, L62
0[7]	54	Left	1, L54
1	47	Left	2, L47
2	36	Left[8]	3, C36
3[7]	36	Center	4, C36
4[7]	31	Center	5, C31

5[7]	27	Center	6, C27
6	25	Center	7, C25
7[7]	25	Center	8, C25
8[7]	24	Center	9, C24
9	19	Center	10, C19

Line1[4]	Text description. If the text file is comma delimited, enclose each line in double "quotes". If the text file is tab delimited, do not use quotes.
Font2	Line two, same format as Font1
Line2	Line two, same format as Desc1
...	
Font30	Line thirty, same format as Font1. (Maximum thirty lines)
Line30	Line thirty, same format as Desc1. (Maximum thirty lines)

(1) Supported by Uni Series, WM-Ai, and IP-Ai only.
(2) Not supported by 3000 Series or earlier models.
(3) PosFlagSelect must be enabled for Uni Series, WM-Ai, and IP-Ai. Not supported by 3000 Series or earlier models.
(4) See the Word Wrapping section below for further information.
(5) Based on the standard 56mm / 60mm print width.
(6) Uni Series, WM-Ai, and IP-Ai justification is controlled by the label format.
(7) 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.
(8) Center justified for: AC-4000, BC-4000 and 3000 Series.

Importing Other Data Files
The primary purpose of this document is to provide the details necessary to import PLUs in a text file format. Please note, however, that SLP-5 can also be used to import other information such as price changes (PLU import with limited data), text messages, and nutrition data.

Text Messages
When importing text message files, the first column header is "Message_No" rather than "Plu_No". All of the following messages use this header to identify the message number: Extra Message #1, Extra Message #2, Extra Message #3, Coupon Message, and Free Messages. The text can be individual lines (Font1, Line1, Font2, Line2, etc.) or a single line where SLP-5 will automatically word wrap the text.

Word Wrapping
SLP-5 can automatically import and word wrap text. After specifying the Font1 value, list all text for the item in the Line1 field. SLP-5 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 different from line to line then individual lines and character sizes must be specified.

Determining Headers
As mentioned previously, it is critical that the headers in the text file are correct. While this bulletin lists the most commonly used PLU fields it does not include every field. The easiest method to determine headers titles not included in this bulletin is to export a file from SLP-5 with headers. Use the exported text file as a reference to determine the titles and fields to include in the text file that will be imported.

Reference
Refer to the SLP-5 on-line help menu section "Text File Import & Export" for more details about importing delimited text files into SLP-5 (Help menu > Index tab > Text File Import & Export).