

# Technical Documentation

## EXTERNAL STOCK MANAGEMENT INTERFACE ADVANCE

---

Version 1.1

07/04/2014

## VERSION HISTORY

Version #	Implemented By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Reason
1.0	Lee Sumner	01/04/2003			Draft document created
1.1	Mark Spence	07/04/2014			Updated following review

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 HEADER FILE SPECIFICATION – (OUTPUT FROM ADVANCE).....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 DETAIL FILE SPECIFICATION – (OUTPUT FROM EXTERNAL SYSTEM).....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Detail file notes .....	4
3.2 Technical notes .....	4
<b>4 FORMAT OF STOCK INNITIALISATION FILE .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

*This document describes the import and export file specifications for the External Stock Management System link within the Advance bodyshop management system.*

When the external stock system option is active within Advance, a header file is created each time a new job is created in a user definable folder. Advance then scans a second user definable folder to look for detail files that have been output by the external stock system. The header files and detail files have the same name so they must use separate folders.

## 2 HEADER FILE SPECIFICATION – (OUTPUT FROM ADVANCE)

This will allow the Advance bodyshop management system to export Job information for use in external stock management systems.

Advance will create one header file per job and will place this in a user definable folder. The folder must be configurable within the external stock management system and must not be the same as the external job management's export folder.

The file is in Comma Separated Values (CSV) format and contains the following fields;

**File Name:** *JobNumber.Txt (i.e. 12345.TXT)*

Field #	Description	Data Type	Field Length
1	Job Number	Alpha Numeric	10
2	Registration Number	Alpha Numeric	12
3	Customer Name	Alpha Numeric	30
4	Address Line 1	Alpha Numeric	30
5	Address Line 2	Alpha Numeric	30
6	Address Line 3	Alpha Numeric	30
7	Address Line 4	Alpha Numeric	30
8	Address Line 5	Alpha Numeric	30
9	Post Code	Alpha Numeric	12
10	Home Phone No	Alpha Numeric	20
11	Business Phone No	Alpha Numeric	20
12	Fax No.	Alpha Numeric	20
13	Make	Alpha Numeric	30
14	Model	Alpha Numeric	30
15	Engine	Alpha Numeric	30
16	Year of Registration	Numeric	4
17	Colour	Alpha Numeric	20
18	Mileage	Alpha Numeric	10
19	Chassis Number	Numeric	30
20	Insurance Name	Alpha Numeric	30

### 3 DETAIL FILE SPECIFICATION – (OUTPUT FROM EXTERNAL SYSTEM)

The data from the external stock management system needs to be passed back in the following format. There should be one file created per job number with one line created per 'parts issue'. The destination folder for this file must be configurable in the software and must not be the same as the folder used to import header files.

The file must be in Comma Separated Values (CSV) format and contain the following fields;

**File Name:** *JobNumber.Txt (i.e. 12345.TXT)*

Field #	Description	Data Type	Field Length
1	Job Number	Alpha Numeric	10
2	Date	Alpha Numeric	"dd/mm/yyyy"
3	Technician	Alpha Numeric	10
4	Part Number	Alpha Numeric	25
5	Part Description	Alpha Numeric	40
6	Quantity	Numeric	4
7	Unit Cost	Numeric	10.2
8	Unit Retail	Numeric	10.2
9	VAT Code	Numeric	1

#### 3.1 DETAIL FILE NOTES

**\*Job Number** must match the job number passed in the respective header file.

**\*Technician** is a numeric code that identifies which technician was issued with the goods. The technician codes in the external stock management system must match the technician codes stored within Advance, or be left blank if technicians are not used by the external system.

**\*Vat Codes** are set in the software, each rate has a code. All parts default to code 1 for 20%. The other default codes are 4 for 0%, 2 for 8% and 5 for 5%.

#### 3.2 TECHNICAL NOTES

Although both files are described as CSV, all fields are delimited by commas, even numeric fields. Each line should be followed by a CRLF (\$0D\$0A)

The field definition of Numeric 10.2 means 10 characters maximum including the decimal point. So a cost of £1.35 for an item would be output as "1.35"

An example output line in the detail file could be;

"12345","01/03/2014","TECH01","PART001","Full Description","5","1.35","1.95","1"

This would identify 5 \* PART001 being recorded against Job Number 12345 for technician TECH01. The part is called Full Description, its cost is £1.35 and its retail is £1.95 and attracts VAT.

## 4 FORMAT OF STOCK INITIALISATION FILE

There is an import feature in the Stock module this section outlines the file requirements for that import to be successful.

The external stock management system creates a file to be exported to the user definable folder where all the other exports are located ([\\Advance\Links\Pilot](#))

The file contains a line for each item of stock that may be used in Advance at the current customer site.

It is a comma separated text file with all fields delimited by double quotes ("" ). *Obviously this means that none of the text fields can contain double quotes in the body of the text.*

The format is:

Field Description	Type	Length	Allowed Values
Line Type	Text	15	"Parts", Sundry Parts"
Description	Text	255	Description of stock item
Part Number	Text	30	Stock ID (Unique identifier)
Unit Cost	2dp number		Cost of a single item
Unit Retail	2dp number		Retail value of a single item
Ordering Pack Size	Number		Default value =1
Ordering Unit	Text	20	Description of ordering unit (Roll, Each)