



# Inventory Specifications

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## 1. CREATING SPECIFICATIONS

An inventory specification class is a collection of the attributes (i.e. properties) that are required to specify a group of inventory items to the required level of detail, e.g. properties may include nett weight, gross weight, volume, motive power, maximum cutting height, minimum cutting width.

### 1.1. Determine the Class Name

The name of the new class is created using a structure where the first three characters denote the domain or company code. The next three characters are 'AGS' (denoting Account Group Specification). Up to nineteen characters may follow, describing the specification type. Note that the class name must be unique, e.g. EZZAGSPlaner.

### 1.2. Determine the Class Attributes

Determine the names of all required attributes. The attributes, or properties, of an account group specification class should together fully describe a particular instance of the class, e.g. a planer may be fully described by the attributes of the class EZZAGSPlaner.cdl. The names of these attributes are:

CutterHead	defines the cutter head diameter in mm for a planer
CuttingHeight	defines the maximum cutting height in mm
CuttingWidth	defines the maximum cutting width in mm
FeedRate	defines the feed rate in metres/min
FeedSpeeds	defines the range of feed speeds
Knives	defines the number of knives
MinLength	defines the minimum length in mm
MinThickness	defines the minimum planing thickness in mm
Motor	defines the motor power rating and phase
NettWeight	defines the nett weight in kg
Speed	defines the cutterhead speed in rpm

Note that each name is used to create the prompt in the form for the field used to maintain the attribute, e.g. the prompt for the attribute CuttingHeight is 'Cutting Height:'.

### 1.3. Determine the Attribute Order in the Form

Consideration should be given here to the order in which the class attributes are to appear on, and be modified using, the specification maintenance form. The order is determined by the value of the FORMORDER parameter in each attribute. It is obviously important to ensure that no two attributes have the same FORMORDER value.

### 1.4. Create the Class Definition Language File

Use a text editor to make a copy of the class definition file of an existing account group specification class, and rename it to the new account group specification class name. Note that all class definition filenames have an extension of '.cdl', e.g. EZZAGSPlaner.cdl.

### 1.5. Set the Class Header and Class Name

Use a text editor to open the class definition file of the new account group specification. Change the 'File:' information in the document header (e.g. EZZAGSPlaner.cdl) and modify the class name to reflect the new account group name, e.g. User.EZZAGSPlaner. Note that the class name must always start with 'User.'

### 1.6. Load the Attributes

In the attribute definitions, change the name of each attribute (i.e. property) in the class to its new name. Ensure that the attributes appear in the document in uppercase alphabetic order, to facilitate finding a particular attribute name in the future. Note that the names



themselves are case-sensitive. Change the FORMORDER parameter of each attribute to reflect the position in the maintenance form in which that attribute is to appear. Also change the attribute description to accurately and succinctly describe the attribute. Add extra attribute definitions as required, by copying and modifying an existing attribute definition, or delete surplus attribute definitions.

### 1.7. Set the Storage Definition

Change the storage state and storage data to the class name, concatenated with 'State', e.g. for class EZZAGSPlaner, the storage state and data are EZZAGSPlanerState. Note that these are case-sensitive. Modify each storage value to the required attribute name. Add extra storage values as required, by copying, re-numbering and modifying an existing storage value, or delete surplus storage values. Ensure that the values are in uppercase alphabetic order of attribute name.

### 1.8. Save the Class Definition Language File

Save the class definition language file for the specification class, noting the file directory in which it has been saved.

## 2. AMENDING SPECIFICATIONS

The only modifications that should be made to an existing account group specification class are to change the description field and/or the FORMORDER parameter on one or more attributes, or to add a new attribute. Note that any other modifications made to an active account group specification class may cause unexpected results.

### 2.1. Determine the Modifications

Determine which attributes are to be modified, and the details of any new attributes to be added to the class.

### 2.2. Open the Class Definition Language File

Use a text editor to open the class definition file of the existing account group specification.

### 2.3. Modify the Attribute List

Modify the attribute descriptions and FORMORDER parameters as required. Ensure that no two attributes have the same FORMORDER parameter. Add new attributes as required (refer to [Load The Attributes](#)). For example, adding attribute NettWeight

```
attribute Motor {...}
attribute NettWeight {...}
attribute Speed {...}
```

### 2.4. Modify the Storage Definition

If one or more new attributes are added to the class, then the storage list must be modified to include the new additions. Note that the new storage value(s) must be appended to the end of the existing list of storage values. If this is not done, then the data in existing instances of the class will no longer be valid. For example, the list

```
value (1) = CutterHead;
value (2) = CuttingHeight;
value (3) = CuttingWidth;
value (4) = FeedRate;
value (5) = FeedSpeeds;
value (6) = Knives;
value (7) = MinLength;
```



```
value (8) = MinThickness;  
value (9) = Motor;  
value (10) = Speed;  
value (11) = NettWeight;
```

illustrates that the attribute `NettWeight` has been added after the initial creation of the class. Note that if no new attributes are added, then the storage list must not be modified.

## 2.5. Save the Class Definition Language File

Refer to [Save the Class Definition Language File](#) in Creating Specification Classes.

## 3. ACTIVATING SPECIFICATIONS

### 3.1. Load the Class Definition Language File

Use the menu option 'Account Group Codes' to enter the required account group code, and select the 'Generate' option. Enter the required domain or company code, (i.e. the first three characters of the specification class name), the name of the file directory in which the class definition language file was saved and the name of the specification class. Use the Submit action to load the class, compile it, and generate the associated maintenance form. Note that the specification maintenance form is the form used for maintaining both the default specifications for an account group (using the Extra action in the menu option 'Account Group Codes'), and the overriding account specifications for an individual account (using the Extra action in the menu option 'Inventory Account Record').