

The PIDB format is the basic **format format** in which product data will be submitted to the PIDB database. When you as a manufacturer are ready to upload your first catalog to PIDB, you will contact PIDB and together we'll review your data and make sure what you're providing can be properly read and mapped into the PIDB. The closer your data submission comes to providing the fields and field names shown below, the easier the process will be, and the more complete will be your products' listings.

Document History:

- Rev 1.1 Restate rules governing the behavior and usage of the is_obsolete and dt_obsolete fields, and dt_available fields.
 Add replacement GTIN and replacement date for new item
 Add file naming rules

1. File Naming Convention:

- a. File names are used to provide PIDB some of the information it requires to properly process a file. They are not case sensitive.
- b. There are four sections to a file name
 - i. The first is the customer ID number assigned to the organization uploading the date. It is a number and does not require leading zeros. Regardless of who does the upload, or if it is done automatically, this number must be provided for PIDB to know who is sending the file. It is followed by an underscore (_).
 - ii. The second and third numbers represent industry segments and tell PIDB the industry segment providing the information and the segment for which it is intended. A manufacturer catalog intended for distributors may not contain the same information as a catalog intended for retailers. The second and third fields are separated by an underscore (_). The third field is followed by an underscore (_).
 1. 1 = Manufacturer
 2. 2 = Distributor
 3. 3 = Retailer
 4. 4 = Consumer
 - iii. The fourth field is an ID number assigned to the format. It represents what you've told us will be in the data uploads you send and allows PIDB to properly know that column 1 is one thing in your file, but not necessarily the same thing in someone else's file. A data provider may have more than one file format that is used to send up different kinds of data sets.
 - iv. Anything after the fourth field is optional and must be preceded, if present, by a dash. This part of the file name can consist of any characters valid in a Linux file name. If you're a Windows person, anything that works in Windows will work in Linux. You can use this field to help you identify a file putting some text or perhaps a date string or both. After the dash separating the fourth required field from the optional part of the file name, dashes and underscores are ignored and may be used freely.
 - v. The file name suffix must be .txt
 - vi. Examples:
 1. Good Names:
 - a. 123_02_03_1005-org-123_from-dist_to_ret.txt
 - b. 123_01_02_1010-20120418.txt
 - c. 12325_1_3_1122.txt
 2. Bad names:
 - a. 122_2a_1_1003.txt → The values in the first 4 fields are always numeric, 2a is not
 - b. 122_1-2__1003.txt → The first four fields must each be separated by a single underscored character
 - c. 123_02_03_1005-12/2/2011 → The forward slash is not a valid character in a file name

- d. 12325_1_5_1122.txt → 5 is not valid for fields two and three
- e. 12325_3_1122-my-file.txt → There must be four valid numeric fields, separated by underscores, before the optional part of the file name

2. Item detail format:

All item detail files uploaded by data-providers will be converted into this format before being stored in the database. The list of the fields in this file format is specified below. (Note: This is subject to change.) It is possible for data sets to be split into multiple files, for example separating out unit of measure and dimensional data from the rest of an item’s information. Contact PIDB to review the formats for files you wish to upload.

- a. File format: Tab-delimited
- b. Column Headers are optional, but often helpful. PIDB must be able to understand what the data in each column represents.
List of values for a field in a record: Comma-delimited e.g. Countries of Origin
- c. Fields marked * are required for a PIDB record to be created.
- d. Fields marked ** are required for a record to be made available for downloading to a distributor
- e. Fields marked + are would be really nice to have from the manufacturer or data provider
- f. Fields marked # are optional
- g. Descriptions are highly subjective as well as often being constrained by the computer systems in which they’re being held. As such it’s difficult to assert which description of those below **MUST** be present, but there does need to be **at least one**. PIDB will work with data providers, to ensure that products have useful sets of descriptions. Description length specifications are subject to change. The terms manufacturer and brand are used somewhat interchangeably but both terms refer to the item’s provider (manufacturer or brand owned by a manufacturer) rather than to the item’s customer (distributor).

DB field name	Field Name *: req for record // **: req for distribution // +: not req. but useful // #: optional	Additional Information
* item_gtin	GTIN: Digital number used to identify the product. Formerly known as the UPC, it is an 8, 12, 13, or 14 character value. No spaces or punctuation. For most products this would be the GTIN of the retail unit. An exception would be something like a display which is a collection of different skus combined for sale to distributors and retailers under its own GTIN number.	8, 12, 13,14 characters
* item_uom	What is the Unit of Measure to which the GTIN number above applies? Most of the time it will be the each, and the quantity will be one. (see appendices)	Should be one of: ea, ip, ca, ds, pl, or ch
** mfg_name	Manufacturer Name. If you’re the manufacturer sending this file this field can be omitted.	100 characters max
** brand_name	Brand Name: If not provided, the record will need to be reviewed to determine if the manufacturer’s name is also the brand name.	100 characters max
** mfg_sku	Manufacturer SKU / part number (not the GTIN)	1-30 characters
** item_title	Item’s Name / Title	1-20 characters
# mfg_desc_req	Optionally allows manufacturer to require his/her description be used as given	5 (True/False/Yes/No/Y/N)
** item_short_desc	Item’s Short Description	1-25 characters

DB field name	Field Name *: req for record // **: req for distribution // +: not req. but useful // #: optional	Additional Information
# item_med_desc	Item's Medium Description	1-100 characters
# item_long_desc	Item's Long Description	1-256 characters
# Item_web_desc	A text description of the item suitable for the web	1-5000 characters
** prim_item_class	Primary Item Class / Functional Grouping (see appendices)	1 character
** prim_anml_group	Primary Animal Group (see appendices)	1
# addl_item_classes	Additional Item Classes (see appendices) (Do not separate multiple letters with commas)	15
# addl_anml_classes	Additional Animal Groups (see appendices) (Do not separate multiple letters with commas)	10
** is_obsolete	Is it obsolete? (Default is no) THIS MUST ALWAYS BE THE CURRENT STATE of the product. When creating a new item, this field will be set to the value provided. When updating an item, if the dt_obsolete field is present and has a value in the future, this field will not change the state of the is_obsolete flag. PIDB will change the state of is_obsolete the date set in dt_obsolete is reached.	5 (True/False/Yes/No/Y/N)
# dt_obsolete	Optional field that instructs PIDB when to change the state of the is_obsolete flag. This date can be used to make an item obsolete, or to bring it back to life. When creating a new item. For this field to be used, it must be a date in the future. If the date is less than or equal to the date the file is submitted, it is ignored. Use this field to set up and item to change its obsolete state in the future. If your file spec includes the use of this field, to change the state of is_obsolete when the file is processed (e.g. in the present) , leave dt_obsolete blank. When dt_obsolete is blank, the value in is_obsolete is immediately applied to the item in the PIDB.	

DB field name	Field Name *: req for record // **: req for distribution // +: not req. but useful // #: optional	Additional Information
# repl_gtin	<p>repl_gtin and dt_repl_gtin work together to allow you to tell PIDB that as of a certain date repl_gtin will replace the item whose record is currently being processed. Only the manufacturer can change the item record. If you're not the manufacturer and you include repl_gtin and dt_repl_gtin in your uploads that information will be recorded but only apply to you and to those to whom you distribute your catalogs. repl_gtin must be the GTIN of an item that already has been created in the PIDB.</p> <p>If both repl_gtin and dt_repl_gtin are blank the blanks will be written out to the table in effect cancelling any replacement previously uploaded. This means that once a substitution has been made, in order for it to remain in effect, the repl_gtin and dt_repl_gtin must continually be sent in your data uploads.</p> <p>Of repl_gtin and dt_repl_gtin, if either is blank and the other is not, then no data will be changed.</p>	
# dt_repl_gtin	<p>See repl_gtin</p> <p>Also, when this date arrives, PIDB will not automatically set the is_obsolete flag to True. If you want to obsolete the item on the same day the item is being replaced, or on any other day, set the is_obsolete and dt_obsolete fields in a file upload.</p>	
# dt_avail_dist	<p>Optional, if provided, won't be available for viewing to distributors before this date. This field can be used to make an item unavailable temporarily by simply setting it to a date in the future and restoring it once the item has become available again.</p>	<p>If only this date is provided, it would cascade to apply to dt_rel_ret and dt_rel_cnsmr</p>
# dt_avail_ret	<p>As above, but applies to retailers</p>	
# dt_avail_cnsmr	<p>As above, but applies to consumers</p>	
# is_msds_req	<p>Is Material Safety Data Sheet Required. If provided, PIDB will make the sheets available on PIDB.com</p>	<p>5 (True/False/Yes/No/Y/N)</p>
# sell_seasons	<p>Selling Seasons (all seasons is default)</p>	<p>The current list of seasons is: Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring, Christmas, Chanukah, Easter, Passover, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Back to School, Kwanzaa, Thanksgiving, Pond</p>
+ it_coo	<p>Countries of Origin (see appendices)</p>	
# rtl_msrp	<p>Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (default none)</p>	<p>14, max 4 after decimal.</p>
# rtl_map	<p>Minimum Retail Price Allowed to be Advertised (default none)</p>	<p>14,max 4 after decimal.</p>
# rtl_msp	<p>Minimum Selling Price Allowed (default none)</p>	<p>14,max 4 after decimal.</p>

3. **Dimensions:**

- a. Item dimensions are actually tied to the unit of measure (uom) of an item. A single SKU may have dimensions for each, inner pack, and case values, each of which should (but may not) have its own GTIN. PIDB will store information about the various units of measure associated with a product. There needs to be a basic uom associated with an item, and with few exceptions, most notably a display or end cap (also a display) made up of a number of **different** SKUs, that basic uom will be each. If you have the information of the different UOMs in which your product is available, provide it in this next section. What is shown are the values that can be submitted for Each. There could be entries for Inner Pack, Case, and Pallet. Pallet and containers are somewhat special cases and are further discussed below. For an Inner Pack, retail units should represent how many there are in a one Inner Pack. For a Case, retail units should be how many there are in the case, regardless of whether or not there are Inner Packs. UOM data can be sent up as a separate file from the rest of the item data.
- b. If you provide the item dimensions, but not the item ship dimensions, ship dimensions will be entered to be the same as the other non-ship dimensions.
- c. Width is left to right with the product facing you, right side up. Height is top to bottom. Depth is front to back.

DB field name	Field Name	Additional Information
ea_gtin	Provided above, not required twice	
ea_gtin	Provided above, not required twice	
ea_ret_units	How many retail units are associated with this UOM? Should ALWAYS be 1 for eaches.	
ea_width	Each Item Width	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_height	Each Item Height	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_depth	Each Item Depth	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_weight	Each Item Weight	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_ship_width	Each Item Width	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_ship_height	Each Item Height	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_ship_depth	Each Item Depth	14,max 4 after decimal.
ea_ship_weight	Each Item Weight	14,max 4 after decimal.

- d. Set of values for Inner Pack: ip_ret_units, ip_width, etc.
- e. Set of values for Case: ca_ret_units, ca_width, etc.
- f. For Display (consisting of different skus) retail units can be the number of retail units on the display. A display made up of all the same SKU should be classified as either a Case or Inner Pack depending upon how you ship it to the customer.

4. **Pallets** are an exception to standard UOMs in since they represent an ordering unit of measure and do not carry their own GTIN number.

- a. The Packaging Data record stores information about the items per layer and number of layers on the pallet, and the Unit of Measure of what is going on the pallet. It could be eaches in the case of bags of seed, or cases in the case of dog food.

5. **Containers** (ch) are another exception. As an aid to ordering, you, the manufacturer, can indicate how many pallets of product ship out from your location or are available from you in a container.

DB field name	Field Name	Additional Information
pl_layers	Number of layers of cases on the pallet	Pallets don't have a GTIN
pl_uom	What is the UOM going on the pallet	ca (Cases), ea (Eaches)
pl_pallets_per_truck	The number of pallets of product that can fit in a container leaving your location	

PIDB Standard Units of Measure

Many times Units of Measure (UOMs) get confused with packaging. For example, typically a distributor will not split or open a bag of gravel, so arguably the unit of measure should be each; yet we often see the UOM as bag or box or bale or roll, etc. Here are the Units of Measure to be standards for the PIDB. For the abbreviations used, we used the following as our reference: http://das.ct.gov/Purchase/Info/ANSI_UNITS_OF_MEASURE.pdf

When you send up new items for inclusion in the PIDB we will map the UOM provided to one of the UOMs below. We will store the UOM you send up, but when PIDB sends out new product information, it will have one or more of these UOMs.

Unit of Measure	Description
ea: each	One retail unit. What a consumer buys one of in the store. An Each has a GTIN.
ip: Inner Pack	Package of multiple same retail units. If used, there will be one or more inner packs in a case. Inner packs are often the selling unit to the stores. Should have a GTIN.
ca: Case	A shippable packaging of an item. It contains one or more retail units which may or may not be in inner packs. While cs is very common, ca is the EDI abbreviation for case. Should have a GTIN.
ds: Display	A group of multiple different SKUs (eaches) designed to be shipped as a single SKU to the store. End caps are displays. Should have a GTIN.
pl: Pallet	Collection of one or more cases or retail units (in the case of bags of dog food, bird seed) grouped in layers by SKU on a skid. A pallet is the buying UOM distributors often must use when ordering certain kinds of product e.g. dog food. PL is the EDI abbreviation for pallet. Pallet does not have its own GTIN.
ch: Container	Collection of one or more SKUs shipped together. It does not have its own GTIN. It is a buying UOM distributors have to use sometimes when buying glass and possibly other items. Ch is the EDI abbreviation for Container.

PIDB Standards for Animal Groups and Item Usage (Classes)

To permit some preliminary categorization for catalogs (not a complete taxonomy) PIDB will provide a simple classification. Products will be classified by their Target Animal Group and the Usage / Function. These ought to be passed in uploads to PIDB to create the item record, but will be shown as optional. Because some items can target more than one Animal Group, PIDB will store all the groups for which a product is suitable, PIDB will do the same for Item Usage / Function. It is not the intent here to provide a complete taxonomy, simply enough information to allow distributors and retailers to do some rough sorting and categorization of the products. This list will grow as warranted.

Item Target Animal Group(s)	
Letter Abbreviation	Description
A	Aquatic
B	Bird
C	Cat
D	Dog
E	Equine
I	Insects
R	Reptiles
S	Small Animals
X	Exotics

Item Usage / Function (Classes)	
Letter Abbreviation	Description
A	Accessories
B	Bedding and Litter
C	Control & Training
D	Dishes & Bowls
E	Enclosures
F	Food & Treats
G	Grooming
H	Hygiene & Sanitizing
I	Informational / Instructional
M	Medicine and Supplements
P	Pond
R	Restraints
S	Spare Parts
T	Toys
W	Apparel

Country or Countries of Origin

This field can contain one or more three letter country codes separated by commas. The codes come from column A3 on this web page: <http://www.statoids.com/wab.html>. These are the ISO-3166-Alpha-3 codes. We use the three letter country codes to avoid (minimize) mistakes and confusion with the two letter state abbreviations.