

Configuration

Introduction

This chapter discusses how to define the configuration of the MaxLoad Pro System. Configuration features are subject to certain authorizations. Most Configuration features can be accessed and changed by any user. Global configuration parameters are the only parameters that can be accessed and changed by the Supervisor alone.

This chapter is organized in to following topics:

- ❖ Configuration Settings
- ❖ Global Settings/Supervisor Functions
- ❖ Properties
 - Lists
 - Measurement Input Fields
 - Non-Measurement Input Fields
 - Radio Buttons
 - Check Boxes

Configuration Settings

MaxLoad Pro can be configured as per user needs from the MaxLoad Configuration dialog box. The MaxLoad Configuration dialog box displays a range of options that define the way MaxLoad Pro performs its work. This dialog box allows you to turn on and off each of these options. To access the Configuration dialog box, start from the Menu Bar and follow these instructions:

1. Open the Tools menu and select Configuration.

System Response: The MaxLoad Configuration dialog box appears, as pictured below.

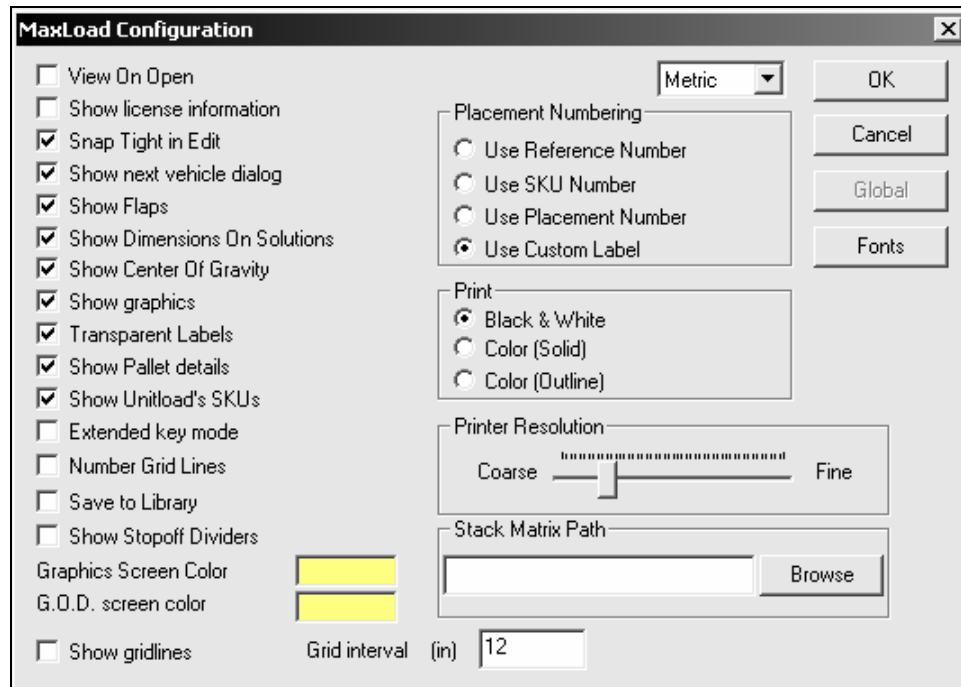


Figure 11.1 MaxLoad Configuration Dialog Box

As you can see, this dialog box contains a large array of options for you to work through. This section discusses each of these options in detail.

2. After you've made changes on the Configuration dialog box, you'll want to save your work. Click on OK.

System Response: MaxLoad Pro saves your Configuration changes and returns you to the previous screen.

3. To exit the box without saving changes, click on the Cancel button.

System Response: MaxLoad Pro ignores any Configuration changes and returns you to the previous screen.

- ❖ **View On Open:** If this box is checked, MaxLoad Pro will take you directly to the Manifest Solution screen on opening an existing analysis, bypassing the Manifest Pick List screen.

If this box is not checked, MaxLoad Pro will open the Manifest Pick List screen first, regardless of whether or not the solution has been previously calculated.

- ❖ **Show license information:** This switch turns off the license information found in the bottom right hand corner of the Control Center screen. When this box is checked, the license information will appear.

When this box is unchecked, the license information will remain hidden.

However, you can always access this information from the Menu Bar: Open the Help menu and select About MaxLoad.

- ❖ **Snap Tight in Edit:** This option controls the default setting for the Snap button in the Edit screen. When this button is checked, the Snap button will be “on.” And will assist you in placing cargo when editing a load. During the edit process, when you drag and drop an SKU into a vehicle or onto a pallet/slipsheet, MaxLoad Pro places that object into the nearest corner (i.e., as far forward and as far left as possible). The corner must always be forward and to the left of the selected placement.

When this button is not checked, the Snap button remains “off.” MaxLoad Pro will not assist you in placing an object. Instead, the object will remain where you last placed it during the edit process.

You can always turn the button on and off during the edit process.

- ❖ **Show next vehicle Dialog:** This option applies when you're loading items from the Cut List onto another container. When you click on the Next Truck button from the Solution View screen, you have the option to change the type of container that was used initially. When the option is checked, the Next Truck dialog box will appear that allows you to make another selection.

If this option is not checked, MaxLoad will assume that you would like to load the Cut List cargo onto the same type of vehicle.

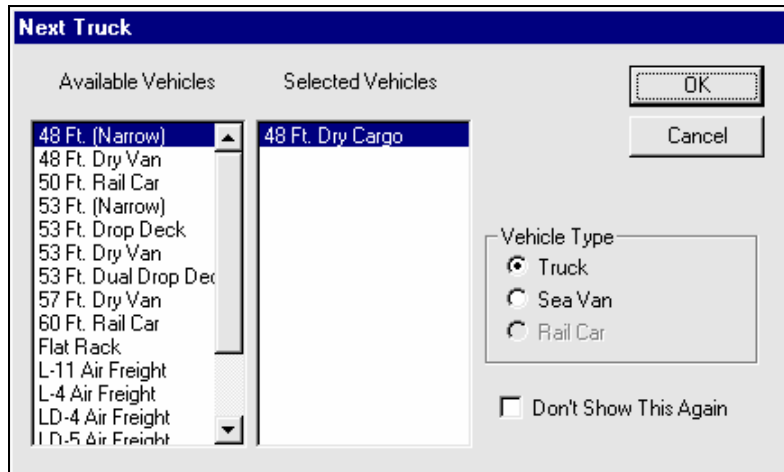


Figure 11.2 Next Truck Dialog Box

- ❖ **Show Flaps:** When this option is selected, all shipcases will appear with a case flap that designates the top of the box. The case flap always runs parallel to the length of the box, thus giving you an easy reference point when viewing the solution. The line on the box runs parallel with the length dimension of the box.

The SKU appear as cubes when this option is unchecked.

- ❖ **Show Dimensions On Solutions:** When this option is selected, MaxLoad Pro displays dimensions of the container or pallet in the Manifest View screen. The container dimensions appear exactly as you entered them when defining a vehicle. However, the pallet/slipsheet dimensions – when viewing a mixed pallet manifest – are displayed using the actual dimensions of the pallet plus any overhang. If no overhang is utilized, the pallet’s actual dimensions are displayed. The height displayed is the actual height of the mixed-pallet load.

No dimensions are displayed on solution, if this option is unchecked.

- ❖ **Show Center of Gravity:** If checked the center-of-gravity (COG) calculations get displayed as part of load statistics section, in the View Screen.
- ❖ **Show Graphics:** When this option is selected, MaxLoad Pro displays any graphics that have been assigned to a shipcase, SKU, tote, etc.
- ❖ **Transparent Labels:** When this box is checked, MaxLoad Pro places labels directly onto objects.

If this box is not checked, MaxLoad Pro places a black label onto a white background, then onto the object, therefore making it easier to see.

- ❖ **Show Pallet Details:** Depending on how complicated your load may be MaxLoad Pro is required to draw a very detailed solution on screen. As a result, you may find the amount of time it takes to display the solution to be unacceptable. To speed things up, MaxLoad Pro allows you to turn off pallet details, which are one of the most common culprits when a solution takes a long time to draw.

When this option is selected, MaxLoad Pro draws all pallet details when displaying the solution. These details include all deck boards, stringers, etc.

This option only applies to unitloads or mixed pallets drawn in a transit vehicle. It does not apply to mixed-pallet manifests.

- ❖ **Show Unitload's SKUs:** When this option is selected, MaxLoad Pro displays the individual SKU's that comprise a unitload.

Else, the unitloads appear as one large shipcase of pallet size.

- ❖ **Extended Key Mode:** This option controls the way that you enter information when building a load in the Manifest Pick List screen. You have two options: Standard Mode and Extended Key Mode.

Standard Mode provides a quick and easy way to key in quantities only. When you select an SKU from the SKU List, that SKU will appear in the Manifest List with the cursor flashing in the Quantity field. After you key in a quantity, pressing Enter returns the cursor to the SKU List, where you can select another SKU. Repeat this process until you've entered quantities for all SKU's in your manifest.

Extended Key Mode routes the cursor through all fields in the Manifest List, as follows:

1. After you select an SKU from the SKU List, the cursor moves to the Quantity field of the Manifest List.
2. In the Quantity field, enter a quantity. Press Enter.

The cursor moves to the Priority/Stop-Off field.

3. In the Priority/Stop-Off field, enter a value (if applicable). Press Enter.

The cursor moves to the UL (Unitload) column (if the column is turned on in Configuration).

4. In the Unitload (UL) field, tap the space bar to toggle this field on and off; the box shows an “X” when it’s on and is blank when it’s off. Press Enter.

The cursor moves to the MP (Mixed Pallet) column, which works the same way as the UL column.

5. In the Mixed Pallet field, tap the Space Bar to toggle this field on and off; the box shows an “X” when it’s on and is blank when it’s off. Press Enter.

The cursor moves to the Order Number column.

6. In the Order Number field, enter an order number (if applicable). Press Enter.

The cursor moves back to the SKU List, where you can select another SKU and start the process all over again.

In Extended Key Mode, if you don't need to enter information – a particular field is not applicable to your manifest – pressing Enter in that field automatically moves the cursor to the next field. Pressing Enter does not change any information in the field.

For instance, the Priority field will always show a default of “1.” If this is acceptable and you don’t need to change this priority value, simply press Enter to move to the next field. The priority value will remain as “1.”

Check the Extended key mode option in the Configuration dialog box for extended key mode, else leave it unchecked for Standard Mode.

- ❖ **Number Grid Lines:** Gridlines are markers in the container spaced at a user-defined interval. Gridlines provide a quick and easy reference point for determining how much floor space remains in a loaded vehicle. This option automatically numbers gridlines on a truck to mark specific distances on the floor space. Gridlines apply only to vehicles, not to pallets or slipsheets.

Note: This option works only if the Show gridlines option is checked.

- ❖ **Save to Library:** This feature gives the user the flexibility to save edited loads to library. If later they replicate a load, MaxLoad Pro will show the saved edited load in the Sol List.

Checking on this option in the Configuration dialog box makes the Save to Lib feature available in the Save As dialog box.

- ❖ **Show Stopoff Dividers:** If this option is checked, MaxLoad Pro will draw lines/ dividers to separate two stop off's.
- ❖ **Graphics Screen Color:** MaxLoad Pro allows you to control the background color of all graphics screens; 48 colors are available to you.

To change colors follow these instructions:

1. Click on the color box in the Configuration dialog box.

System Response: A Color dialog box appears.

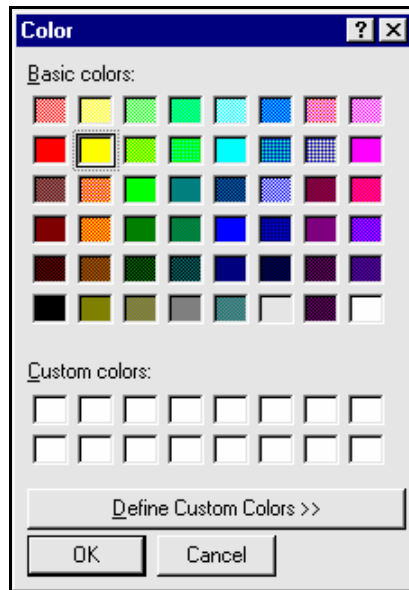


Figure 11.3 Color Dialog Box

2. Using the mouse pointer, select a new color.
3. When you're finished, click on OK.

System Response: MaxLoad Pro assigns the selected color to your backgrounds.

4. To exit the screen and negate any changes, click on the Cancel button.

- ❖ **g.o.d. Screen Color:** MaxLoad Pro even allows you to control the color of all graphic-online-drawing (g.o.d.) windows.

To change colors, follow these instructions:

1. Click on the color box in the Configuration dialog box.

System Response: A Color dialog box appears.

2. Using the mouse pointer, select a new color.
3. When you're finished, click on OK.

System Response: MaxLoad Pro assigns the selected color to your g.o.d. drawings.

4. To exit the screen and negate any changes, click on the Cancel button.

- ❖ **Show Gridlines:** This option turns gridlines on and off in a vehicle. Gridlines are markers in the vehicle spaced at a user-defined interval. Gridlines provide a quick and easy reference point for determining how much floor space remains in a loaded vehicle. Gridlines apply only to vehicles, not to pallets or slipsheets. An example of a vehicle with gridlines is pictured on the next page.

Note: Check the Number Grid Lines option to sequentially number the gridlines.

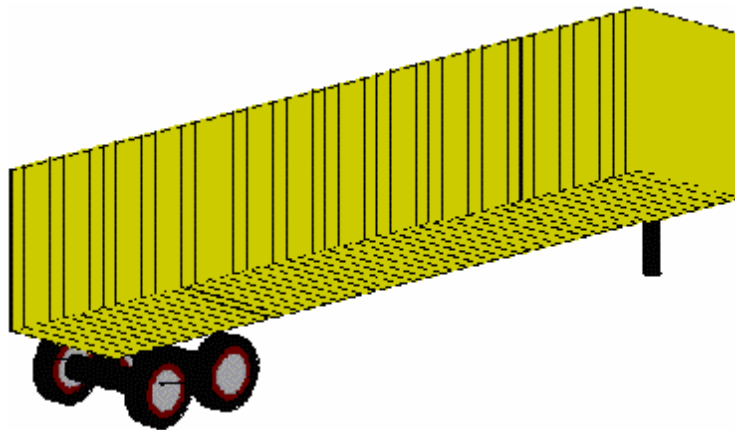


Figure 11.4 Grid Lines Spaced at 12-Inch Intervals

- ❖ **Grid Interval:** Once you've decided to show gridlines, you must decide at what interval they will be spaced. You can control this through the Grid Interval field. Simply key in a value that represents the desired interval.

- ❖ **Measurement Units:** This field allows you to control the measurement unit defaults. Whenever you begin a new manifest, the measurement units that initially appear in the Manifest Pick List screen will be controlled by this field.

To display the list – your only options are English and Metric – or change units, click on the down-arrow on the right side of the box. Use the mouse to click on the new selection.

For this change to be effective logout and log back into the software.

- ❖ **Placement Numbering:** Placement numbering is an arbitrary method to identify SKUs or groups of SKUs in the View Screen for easy identifications. The four placement numbering options available are as follows:

- **Use Reference Number:** Refers to a computer-selected number that helps you determine which SKU is which, when viewing or printing a solution. Each SKU is assigned a reference number when the load is calculated. When viewing a solution, the Placement List contains a column that displays a key to the numbering system.
- **Use SKU Number:** Tells MaxLoad Pro to use SKU Number as a placement number.
- **Use Placement Number:** Assigns each placement a unique number. Because there may be multiple placements for different SKU Numbers, you'll often notice that SKU Numbers are assigned different placement numbers as you view the load.
- **Use Custom Label:** Tells MaxLoad Pro to use the custom label that you designated when defining an SKU.

- ❖ **Print:** Print defaults can be set with one of these three options:

- **Black & White:** For non-color printer users, this option allows you to print a black-and-white outline of the loaded vehicle, as opposed to a gray-scaled printout. If you work with a color printer, MaxLoad Pro will print a black-and-white printout when the option is checked. If the option is not checked, the solution diagram will print using the colors assigned when defining an SKU.
- **Color (Solid):** In Print Preview, this option draws items on the screen in solid colors, with the lines on the items drawn in black.

- **Color (Outline):** In Print Preview, this option draws items on the screen with only the outline of the item. The body of the item is white, with the outline of the item drawn in color.

Note: Any changes you make to the Print defaults, become active only once you log out of the software and then log back in again.

- ❖ **Printer Resolution:** In an effort to speed up the printing process, MaxLoad Pro gives you a choice as to how “coarse” or “fine” printouts will appear. To change the setting, simply use the mouse pointer to slide the handle in one direction or the other.

You will receive printouts faster when the setting is closer to “coarse.” Printouts will take longer when you set this option closer to “fine.”

- ❖ **Stack Matrix Path:** MaxLoad Pro allows you to import the stack matrix from earlier versions of the program. You'll use this box to designate the import “path”.

For more details, contact TOPS Engineering Technical Support.

- ❖ **Fonts:** The Fonts button opens the MaxLoad Fonts dialog box, pictured below, where you can choose from multiple fonts to use when printing or viewing a solution. MaxLoad Pro allows you to assign different fonts to 10 different heading/text types located throughout system.

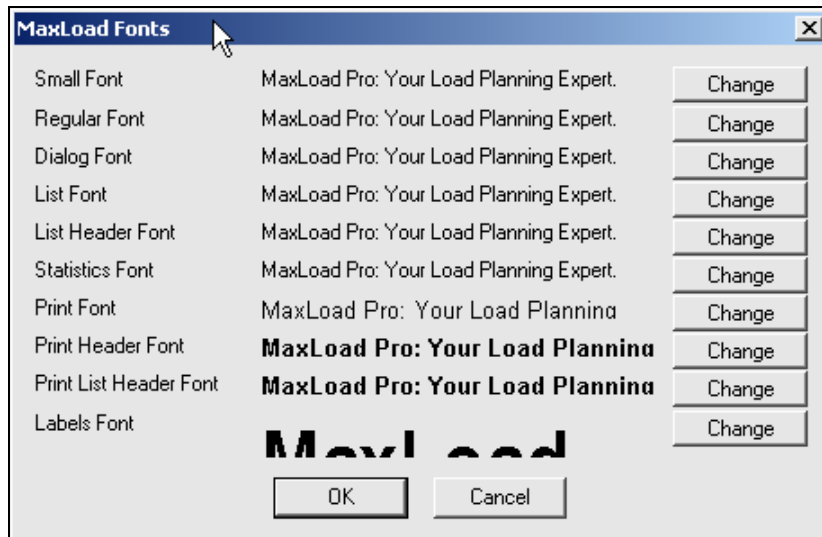


Figure 11.5 MaxLoad Fonts

To change a font, follow these instructions:

1. Click on the Change button next to the text/heading style that you want to modify.

System Response: A standard Windows Font dialog box appears. This Font dialog box is similar to that found in most major word processing/spread-sheet programs.

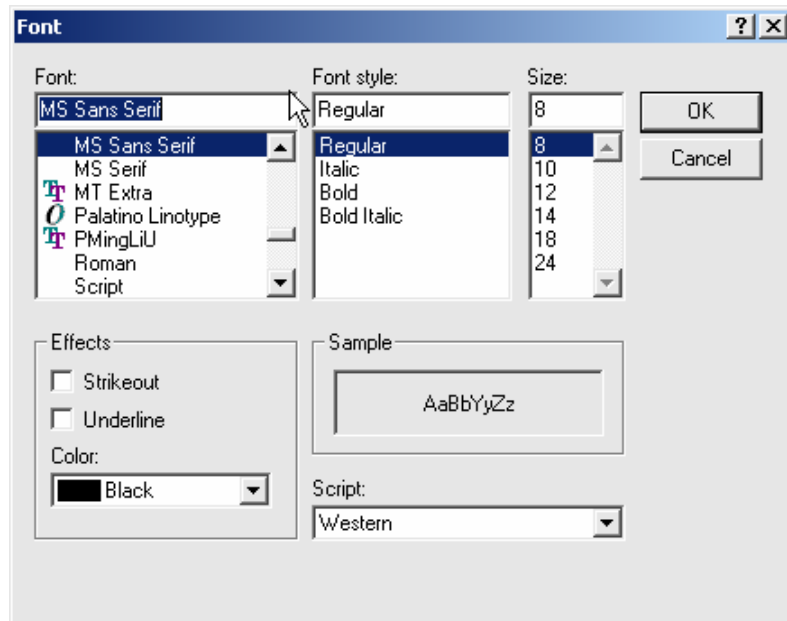


Figure 11.6 Font Dialog Box

2. Make the appropriate changes, then click on OK.
3. To exit the MaxLoad Fonts dialog box without saving any changes, click on Cancel.

Note: As a suggestion, we've found that the Arial Bold font are the easiest to view.

Global Settings/Supervisor Functions

Only supervisor can enter and update global settings for the MaxLoad Pro configuration. This section presents the Global Settings dialog box and each of the global configuration options.

Global Settings

To enter and update the MaxLoad Pro global settings, follow these instructions:

1. Login to MaxLoad Pro as a Supervisor.

System Response: The Control Center appears.

2. Open the Tools menu and select Configuration.

System Response: The MaxLoad Configuration Screen appears.

3. Click on the Global button.

System Response: The Global Settings Screen appears, as pictured below.

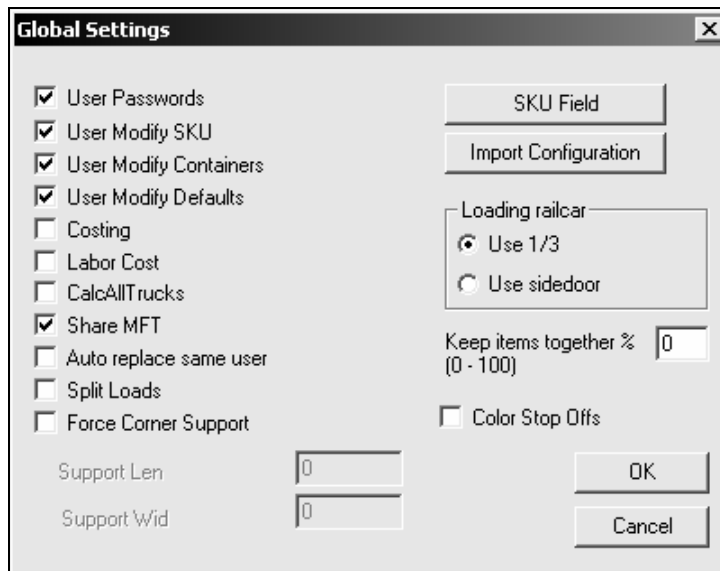


Figure 11.7 Global Settings Screen

The Global Settings Screen contains the following options:

- ❖ **User Passwords:** Protects user logins with passwords. If checked users will be prompted for a password at the login screen.
- ❖ **User Modify SKU:** Allows all users to modify, add or delete a SKU from the database.
- ❖ **User Modify Containers:** Allows all users to modify, add or delete containers from the database.
- ❖ **User Modify Defaults:** Allows all users to modify defaults set up in the system.

Note: If any of the above User Modify feature is turned off then only a user logged in as a Supervisor can make changes to SKUs, Containers, or Defaults, respectively.

- ❖ **Costing:** Activates a decision-making tool for SKU/item costing in a given manifest.
- ❖ **Labor Cost:** Activates a decision-making tool for costing man hours and labor involved in a given manifest.

Note: Costing and Labor Cost is undocumented features reserved for specific customers. Contact TOPS Technical Support for details.

- ❖ **CalcAllTrucks:** Activates the Calculate All Trucks feature, which calculates solutions using as many trucks as necessary to load a manifest.
- ❖ **Share MFT:** Allows all users to see all files. If this feature is turned off, users can only see their own manifests.
- ❖ **Auto Replace Same User:** Allows the supervisor to log out a user, then automatically log in the same user.
- ❖ **Split Loads:** Spaces columns of shipcases in order to fit another container between the shipcases. This feature works only when there's a container on top of other containers.
- ❖ **Force Corner Support:** Allows you to activate corner support when placing SKUs on top of other SKUs. This involves defining the length and width of the corner support.
 - **Support Len:** If you turn on the Force Corner Support option, this field allows you to enter the length of the corner post in inches or millimeters, depending on the Units selected.

- **Support Wid:** If you turn on the Force Corner Support option, this field allows you to enter the width, or thickness, of the corner post in inches or millimeters, depending on the Units selected.
- ❖ **SKU Field Button:** Displays the SKU List dialog box, which allows you to display dimensions, weight and SKU information in the SKU List on the Manifest Pick List Screen. If these fields are turned off, the startup of MaxLoad will be much faster.

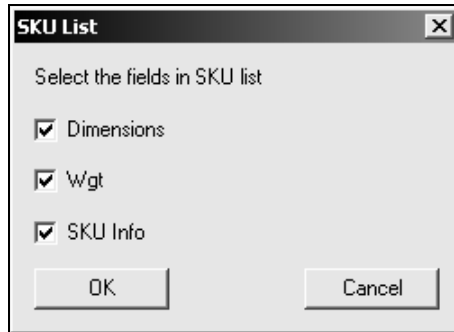


Figure 11.8 SKU List dialog box

- ❖ **Import Configuration:** Not implemented.
- ❖ **Loading Railcar:** Select an option – either Use 1/3 or Use Sidedoor – to specify how a railcar will be loaded.
- ❖ **Keep Items Together % (0-100):** This option is not currently available.
- ❖ **Color Stop Offs:** Color distinction for stop offs, thus making them easily identifiable.
- ❖ **OK Button:** Saves the changes made and closes the Global Settings dialog box.
- ❖ **Cancel Button:** Closes the Global Settings dialog box.

Properties

In addition to the Configuration dialog box, MaxLoad Pro provides a number of Properties Sheets that allow you to define the various defaults and properties in the system. All users have access to these Properties Sheets.

Each field is linked to a Properties Sheet dialog box, which allows you to change both defaults and/or properties for the specific field. This provides a general overview of the defaults/properties functions in MaxLoad Pro.

Similar fields have similar Properties Sheets. In MaxLoad Pro, the various fields fall into one of four categories:

- ❖ **Lists:** A collective display of various fields. For example SKU List.
- ❖ **Measurement Input Fields:** Fields that contain a dimension or weight.
- ❖ **Non-Measurement Input Fields:** Fields that contain numeric values, but don't measure anything.
- ❖ **Radio Buttons:** Fields that contains radio buttons.
- ❖ **Check Boxes:** Fields that contain check boxes.

Regardless of field type, all fields allow you to change their Control Label (name). You'll use the Properties Sheet to change a field's Control Label.

To access the Properties Sheet dialog box, use one of two options:

Option 1

1. Click on the field whose properties you want to change.
2. From the Menu Bar, open the Edit menu and select Properties.

System Response: The Properties Sheet dialog box appears.

Option 2

1. Right click on the name of the field that you wish to change properties.

System Response: A Properties button appears.

2. Left click on the Properties button.

System Response: The Properties Sheet dialog box appears.

Lists

Working in the software you will notice that there are various lists, like SKU List, Manifest List, Sol List, Placement List, displaying important information about SKUs, unitloads, mixed pallets, solutions, etc. The information displayed in these lists can be controlled by the Properties feature. The Properties dialog box for Lists can only be accessed by the Edit menu.

For example to view the Properties for the SKU List follow these instructions:

1. Select any column header in the SKU List, by clicking on the tab for SKU, Description, etc.
2. From the Menu Bar open the Edit menu and select Properties

System Response: The Properties dialog box appears. Here you can check and uncheck as to what needs to be visible in the SKU List.

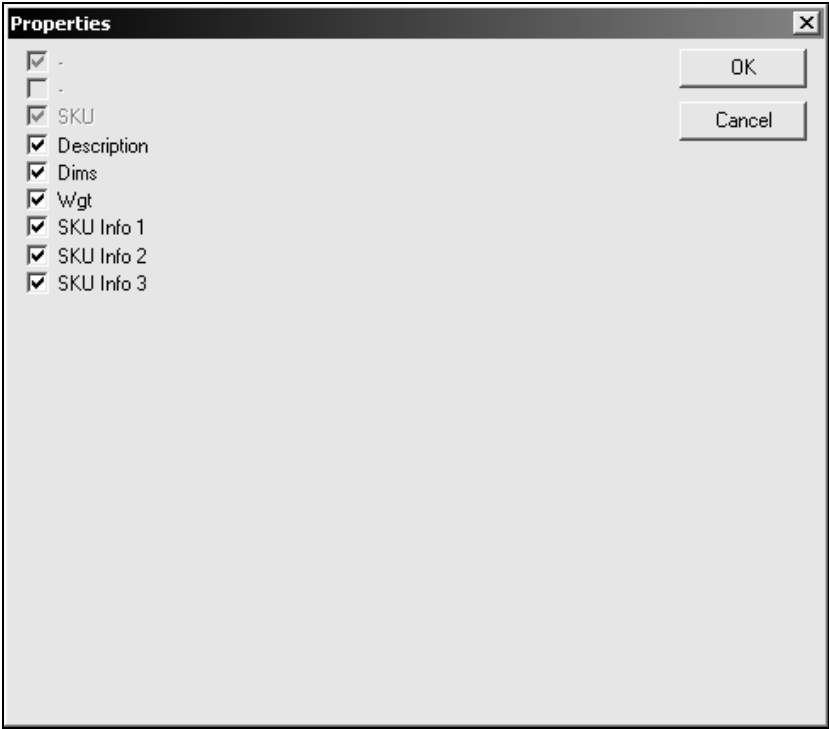


Figure 11.9 Properties dialog box

Measurement Input Fields

All Define Screens (for example, Define SKU) contain measurement input fields. You'll use this type of field type to input the dimensions or weight of an object.

When you access the Properties Sheet for a measurement input field, you'll notice that it's comprised of two tabs: Defaults and Properties. Both tabs contain nearly identical information, except that the Defaults tab also allows you to change the name of the field (the Control Label) and has a Default Value field. The Defaults and Properties tabs are pictured below.

The screenshot shows the 'Defaults' tab of a configuration dialog. It features a 'Units' section with radio buttons for 'English', 'Metric', and 'Global', where 'Global' is selected. Below this are input fields for 'Default Value' (0.00), 'Decimal places (English)' (2), and 'Decimal places (Metric)' (2). There are also dropdown menus for 'Units type (English)' (set to 'in') and 'Units type (Metric)' (set to 'mm'). At the bottom, there are checkboxes for 'Truncate zeros' and 'Show fractions', both of which are unchecked. A 'Control label' text box contains the word 'Length'. 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are located in the top right corner.

Figure 11.10 Defaults Tab

The screenshot shows the 'Properties' tab of a configuration dialog. It features a 'Units' section with radio buttons for 'English', 'Metric', and 'Global', where 'Global' is selected. Below this are input fields for 'Decimal places (English)' (2) and 'Decimal places (Metric)' (2). There are also dropdown menus for 'Units type (English)' (set to 'in') and 'Units type (Metric)' (set to 'mm'). At the bottom, there are checkboxes for 'Truncate zeros' and 'Show fractions', both of which are unchecked. 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are located in the top right corner.

Figure 11.11 Properties Tab

- ❖ **Defaults Tab:** Changes made to the Defaults tab affect all future SKU's, pallets or vehicles that you define, including the one that you are currently defining.

For instance, suppose you're in the Define SKU screen and you change how MaxLoad Pro reports length – from inches to feet, under the Defaults Tab. Not only will this affect the SKU you're editing, this action will also affect all future SKU's that you define.

- ❖ **Properties Tab:** Changes made to the Properties tab will only affect the individual SKU, pallet or vehicle that you're currently defining, and will not affect any future records. .

Principally, the Properties Sheet allows you to set the measurement units for a particular field.

The Properties Sheet dialog box also allows you to do the following:

- ❖ Change the measurement units for the field that you are making changes to. There are three choices in regards to measurement units; English, Metric, or Global. English and Metric are self-explanatory. But if you choose Global, MaxLoad Pro uses the measurement units selected in the toolbar.
- ❖ Set a default value for that parameter. This field is only available under the Defaults Tab.
- ❖ Set the number of decimal places, in both English or Metric, to be displayed for each field.
- ❖ Change the Unit Type – inches, feet/millimeters, centimeters, etc.
- ❖ Check whether or not you want MaxLoad Pro to truncate zeroes (i.e., display zeroes after the decimal point).
- ❖ Input fractions rather than decimals with the Show Fractions feature.
- ❖ Change the name of the Control Label for each field. For example change the name of height to depth. This field is only available under the Defaults Tab.

Non-Measurement Input Fields

Non-measurement input fields are not as common as measurement input fields. You're most likely to run across these fields when you're defining stacking relationships.

The Define SKU screen provides a good example of this type of field. Under the Stacking tab, the fields labeled Maximum Stack Height (On Base and On Side) are considered Non-measurement input fields. In the Define Pallet screen, the field labeled Total Deck Boards is another example of a non-measurement input field.

A Non-Measurement Input screen accepts only whole numbers and is generally used when answering the question "How many?" These fields accept a maximum of three characters.

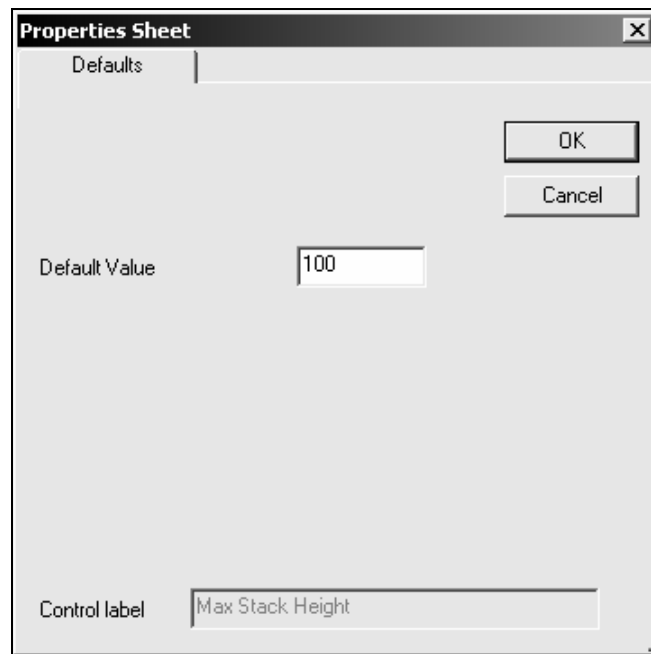


Figure 11.12 Description Properties Sheet

Notice that there's only one tab in this dialog box: Defaults. When you make a change in this field, it will not affect any previously defined items but it will affect all future SKU's, pallets or vehicles, including the one you're currently defining. You can also change the name of this field using the Control Label feature.

Radio Buttons

Radio buttons contain their own default behavior. Remember that radio buttons are mutually exclusive, meaning that you can choose only one option; you cannot select multiple options. Because radio buttons are unique in behavior, they also must have a unique Properties Sheet.

Regardless of which field you click on in a radio button box, you'll always access a common Properties Sheet; in other words, all buttons tie into the same sheet. As with non-measurement input fields, this dialog box only contains a Defaults tab, meaning that changes made to the Properties Sheet will affect the item you're currently defining, as well as any future items that you define.

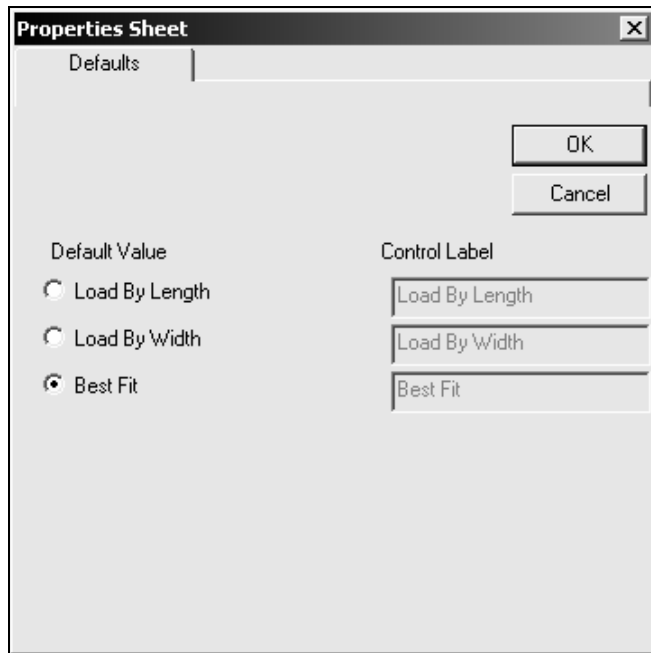


Figure 11.13 Radio Buttons Properties Sheet

Check Boxes

Check boxes allow you to turn certain MaxLoad Pro features on and off. Unlike radio buttons, check boxes are not mutually exclusive, meaning that each one behaves independently of the other. Because of this behavior, check boxes are considered unique enough to warrant unique Properties Sheet. There's one exception: the check boxes in the Allowed Vertical Column, whose Properties Sheet behaves in much the same fashion as a radio button.

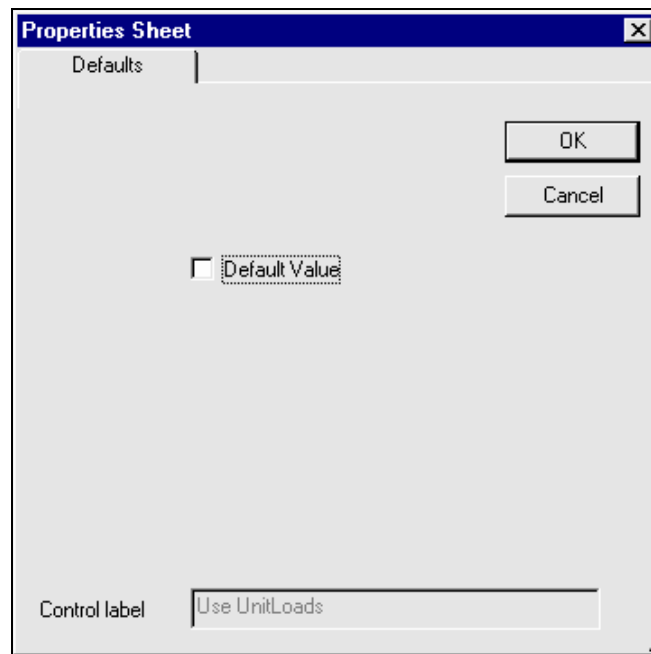


Figure 11.14 Check Boxes Properties Sheet

To change a check box default, access the Properties Sheet for the specific field that you want to change. Unlike a radio button Properties Sheet, each field has its own separate Properties Sheet. Use your mouse to click on or off the Default Value for that field. Notice too that you can change the Control Label for the field in question. When you're finished making changes, click on OK to exit the Properties Sheet.

