

# **MaxLoad<sup>®</sup> Pro**

## **Version 2.7X**

# **User's Guide**



**Total Optimization Packaging Software**

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# Preface

## About MaxLoad Pro

Congratulations on purchasing MaxLoad Pro, a Windows-based multi-sized product loading analysis software. You have made an excellent choice! MaxLoad Pro is extremely powerful and has proven to save millions of dollars for thousands of companies because of the efficiencies you'll realize in your business. We're confident that MaxLoad Pro will provide the same benefit to your company, regardless of your product, package or volume.

For over nine years, TOPS<sup>®</sup> Mixload/MaxLoad technology has been the industry's premier vehicle/container loading system. MaxLoad Pro offers a sequenced loading report, along with a variety of ways to display the load, such as sequenced 3-dimensional color/number coded load diagrams and placement-by-placement displays. MaxLoad Pro also has the ability to construct straight and mixed pallets. With MaxLoad Pro, you can accurately plan your vehicle/container loads in advance, resulting in increased efficiency and better customer support.

Over the years, we've maintained a steady effort to simplify our software so that you, the end user, are able to conduct your loading analysis quickly and efficiently. Just in case you have a problem, we've written this *User's Guide* to assist you with every possible issue or question you might have.

If this *User's Guide* does not answer your questions, or if you should experience problems while using the MaxLoad Pro software, please call TOPS Technical Support or your TOPS sales representative at 972.739.8677.

# How the User's Guide is Organized

This *User's Guide* is organized into 10 chapters and four appendices, as follows:

Chapter 1, **Getting Started**, discusses system requirements necessary to run MaxLoad Pro and instructions on how to install the MaxLoad Pro software.

Chapter 2, **The Basics**, presents the basic features and functions of the MaxLoad Pro system, such as the Control Center, common features used throughout the system and opening an existing manifest. This chapter also outlines MaxLoad Pro's new features and improvements.

Chapter 3, **Defining MaxLoad Pro Databases**, presents the three primary MaxLoad Pro databases – SKU, Pallet/Slipsheet and Vehicle. This chapter walks you through how to define, modify and delete items in each of the three databases.

Chapter 4, **Load a Truck Manifest**, discusses the features you'll use to define a truck manifest load – the Vehicle, Options, Mixed Pallet and Comments tabs, the SKU List and the Manifest List. This chapter walks you through how to define a truck manifest.

Chapter 5, **Load a Pallet Manifest**, discusses the features you'll use to define a pallet manifest load – the Mixed Pallet, Options and Comments tabs, the SKU List and the Manifest List. This chapter walks you through how to define a pallet manifest.

Chapter 6, **Loading a Tote Manifest**, discusses the features you'll use to define a tote manifest load. This chapter walks you through how to define a tote manifest.

Chapter 7, **Load a Single-SKU Manifest**, discusses the features you'll use to define a single-SKU manifest load – the Vehicle, Options and Comments tabs, the SKU List and the Manifest List. This chapter walks you through how to define a single-SKU manifest.

Chapter 8, **Viewing a Solution**, discusses the Manifest View screen, which provides a range of information about a load. This chapter shows you how to view a load solution from different angles and with different options, and presents the different types of information displayed for a load.

Chapter 9, **Editing a Solution**, discusses the Editor screen, which allows you to fine-tune or completely change a load solution. This chapter walks you through how to add and remove SKU's and placements from a vehicle; how to align and center SKU's and placements on a vehicle; how to view the load from different angles; and how to deal with stacking/loading violations.

Chapter 10, **Printing**, walks you through all the system's printing functions, including how to define print parameters, work with the print preview and add text annotations to a printout.

Chapter 11, **Configuration**, discusses how to customize MaxLoad Pro by turning on and off a range of options and by changing the defaults and/or properties for each individual field in the system.

Chapter 12, **Import/Export Functions**, discusses the various import and export options available in MaxLoad Pro.

Appendix A, **Command Line Parameters**, provides various command line options along with syntaxes available for Maxload.exe.

Appendix B, **Glossary**, provides definitions for a range of terms used in the MaxLoad Pro system and the product loading industry.

# New Features in MaxLoad Pro (V2.7X)

- ❖ **Enhanced Algorithm Options:** MaxLoad now offers more loading options including pinwheel patterns for unitloads, pyramidal staggering of pipes, improved nested loading of mixed size rolls and automatically align loads inside transit vehicles
- ❖ **TOPS Pro Integration:** Imports case sizing and pallet patterns from TOPS Pro into MaxLoad Pro.
- ❖ **Load by Percentage:** Allows you to specify the ratio of different SKUs to be loaded inside a truck. For example, 50% of SKU-A, 30% of SKU-B and 20% of SKU-C.
- ❖ **New Export Options:** Exports solution, load list, placement list and export by placement.
- ❖ **Data Import Wizard:** Allows you to easily import selected SKU and MFT fields.
- ❖ **Mixed Pallets:** Generates more efficient and stable mixed pallets as well as the ability to see contents of mixed pallet SKUs in the containers.
- ❖ **Higher Cubic Efficiency:** Automatically fills leftover space with selected SKUs, creates partial unitloads to fill leftover spaces on top, optimizes unitload height for top layers.
- ❖ **Enhanced 3D Editor:** A right-click menu in the 3D editor to easily access functions to align/snap SKU placement and to break a placement into individual items.
- ❖ **Customizable Loading Rules:** New set of loading rules that can be used to further optimize and control loading of transit vehicles.
- ❖ **Enhanced Reports:** Load by Placement report now indicates the SKU quantity and configuration for each step.
- ❖ **Improved Import/Export Functionality:** Allows you to select the data to be transported to and from MaxLoad Pro.
- ❖ **New Container Types:** Supports rail wagons, multi-zone trucks, ULD and double trailers.
- ❖ **More Language Support:** Adds support for Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Portuguese and Thai.

# Chronology of Features in MaxLoad Pro

This section outlines the various releases of the MaxLoad Pro software, along with the features included in each release.

## Version 2.6x

- ❖ Improved stop-off handling
- ❖ Color coded orders and rules to force orders to be loaded together
- ❖ Assign number of units to SKU as piece count
- ❖ Nest and stagger drums, pipes and rolls in a container
- ❖ New export options, Export by Placement and Export to XML
- ❖ New Import options, Import XML, Import Piece count
- ❖ Split door and side door loading for Rail Cars
- ❖ Added "Save to Library" feature
- ❖ Added "Bundle SKU's" feature
- ❖ MaxLoad Pro self cleans the database for SKUs not used for days, months, or years
- ❖ Enhanced reports
- ❖ Better loading algorithms, load for efficiency and or load by speed
- ❖ Increased stacking rules for loading along with preferred stack sizes

## Version 2.5x

- ❖ Improved loading of mixed pallets for increased stability and stackability
- ❖ Improved order handling

- ❖ Improved algorithms
- ❖ Improved "Maximum Axle Weight" calculations
- ❖ Added railcars
- ❖ E-mail reports directly from MaxLoad Pro using the default e-mail client
- ❖ Load a tote manifest
- ❖ Load a mixed pallet manifest (a specific collection of SKU's placed on a pallet)
- ❖ New global security settings in the Global Settings dialog box
- ❖ "Calculate All Vehicles" feature automatically loads trucks to complete a manifest
- ❖ Right-click feature displays properties information for the selected SKU
- ❖ Sort data in a column in ascending, descending, alphabetical, or numerical order
- ❖ "Multiple Truck Summary Report" feature displays a load report for each truck in the solution

### **Version 2.x**

- ❖ Added "Multiple View" feature for printouts
- ❖ Added three new user specified information fields for SKU's and manifests
- ❖ "Copy to Clipboard" feature allows the user to copy 3D views generated in MaxLoad Pro
- ❖ "Paste-On Graphics" feature allows the user to paste bitmap images onto the sides of individual SKU's
- ❖ Added "Colored Outlines" feature for printouts
- ❖ Activated user passwords
- ❖ Added Axle weight calculations
- ❖ Updated Italian translation

- ❖ Improved online help. The MaxLoad Pro manual is now available through online Help
- ❖ Improved manual editing of truck and mixed pallet manifests
- ❖ Less cluttered screens. MaxLoad Pro now allows the user to turn of some columns that they do not use.