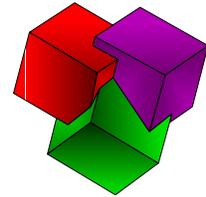


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## **News Release**

### ***For Immediate Release***

### **Imports Pallet Patterns to the Latest Release of MaxLoad® Pro Cargo Load Planning Software with a Simple Drag-and-Drop**

**RICHARDSON**, Texas – May 5, 2004 - TOPS® Engineering Corporation announced today release of Version 2.70 of its MaxLoad® Pro software. This new release of the cargo load planning, optimization and diagramming software will be showcased at the Distribution/Computer Expo 2004 (Booth# 528) in Chicago. The new software offers a host of new features which include:

- ❖ Integration between TOPS® Pro and MaxLoad® Pro software
- ❖ “Fill Item” function to fill unused cargo space with user selected items
- ❖ Smart algorithms for loading drums in tight staggered or pyramid pattern
- ❖ Support double trailer and multi-zone trucks
- ❖ More informative reports

“The **integration** between TOPS® two flagship products, TOPS® Pro and MaxLoad® Pro has been a long-awaited feature from our users,” said Bill Rehring, President of TOPS Engineering Corporation. “With the drag-and-drop feature, importing SKU and pallet patterns to MaxLoad® from TOPS® Pro has never been so easy.” For users who do not have both software on the same machine, the SKU pallet pattern can be saved to an ASCII file and sent to a different department or company for importing into MaxLoad®.

The **Fill Item** function, another wish-list feature from customers, enables users to select different items to be used to fill the unused space inside a truck or container, further improving the cube efficiency of the transit vehicles.

MaxLoad® Pro 2.70 improves and adds algorithms for loading cylindrical objects like **drums** or barrels. By specifying a tight or pyramid staggered load algorithms, users can ensure best space optimization for vertical and side-loaded drums.

There are other new features that make MaxLoad® Pro 2.70 a must-have for container load planners. They include support of more vehicle types, custom data import and export functions, change on-the-fly multiple language support, improved 3D color-coded load editor and more comprehensive reports and manifests.

**Availability** - MaxLoad®Pro 2.70 will be available by end of June 2004. Subscribers to MaxLoad®Pro's MVP Annual Maintenance and Support program will receive this new release for free. Other users not current on MVP can join the annual program and receive version 2.70, future MaxLoad®Pro upgrades and unlimited toll-free technical support.

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**About TOPS®**

TOPS® Engineering Corporation, incorporated in 1990, is the world leader in the development of innovative software for the distribution and packaging professionals. Its flagship products, "TOPS®Pro" - Package Design and Palletization software and "MaxLoad®Pro" - Cargo Load Planning and Optimization software, has over 8000 installed base worldwide and serves big and small corporations across wide industries. TOPS® also offers the first web-based package design software, TOPSePAC®, allowing package engineers to perform design and analysis anytime, anywhere, on any platform using any internet browser.

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