

Excel Issues and Limitations

I. Issue – labels print with some blank fields even though the Excel file has data

Excel limitation – cannot print all records in a single column if the column includes records with combinations of numeric only, alpha only, and alpha numeric. This is a function of Excel and not an issue with Zebra Designer Pro. Solution - It is necessary to add a single quote to the data (Example '11A22) before each and every record in the entire column. This is because Excel is interpreting all fields in the column as alpha numeric. When Excel sees a field with numeric only data in a column it has identified as Alpha Numeric it sends it to ZD Pro as a blank.

Excel limitation – Unable to print records with numeric data separated by dashes or other characters. Solution - Each and every entry in the field must be preceded by a single quote. For example '1, '2, '101-1. Even fields that were printing need the single quote. This is because Excel is not a true database program and it becomes confused any time there are entries in the same column with a combination of numeric and either alpha or symbol (such as -) characters.

Access does not have this issue because unlike Excel it is a true database program. It may be possible to use an Excel function to automatically add the single quote instead of manually adding for each record.

Note - Excel is also required to have a heading for each column ZebraDesigner Pro extracts data for. The first record is assumed to be the column heading and will not be printed. If only one record is entered with no heading the field in ZebraDesigner Pro will be empty.

II. Pulling print quantity from an Excel field

The following steps are required in instances where the print quantity is not being read.

1. Set the Format of the cell used for print quantity in Excel to General.
2. Resave the file.
3. Create a new label file and reconnect to the database.

III. Printing trailing and lead 0's for dollar amounts

The key is to implement all of these instructions.

1. Use instructions at the following link to highlight and name fields in Excel (https://support.zebra.com/cpws/docs/zd/zd_connecting_to_excel.pdf)
2. In Excel file make all records General
3. Add a single quote in front of all #'s in the column
4. Resave in Excel file with a different file name
5. In ZD Pro Create a new label format
6. No connection should exist with the Excel file
7. Excel file should be closed when creating new label

IV. Adding New Data

Issue – additional records are added to an Excel file but do not print on the ZebraDesigner Pro label.

Use instructions at https://support.zebra.com/cpws/docs/zd/zd_connecting_to_excel.pdf