



# Autocat supplier data review



## Data content

Although catalogues vary considerably by product, application data you provide to MAM must be consistent throughout. There is no set pattern as to what details should be included in each catalogue section, however the following details are generally essential and must be included in catalogue data. We ask that you include as much of the following detail as is possible. More consistent detail within your data helps the Autocat data conversion processes and makes part identification simpler and more accurate for your Customers using Autocat.

Field	Notes
Vehicle make	e.g. Ford
Vehicle model	e.g. Focus
Month / year	e.g. 12/98 - 03/04 or 1998 -> 2004 (depending on accuracy of data)
Engine size	e.g. 1.4 To ensure easier part identification, it is better to supply us with data which includes one engine size per line of data. e.g. '1.4' is far more preferable to '1.4, 1.6, 1.8, TD, TDCI' which is unacceptable.
Fuel type	e.g. PETROL, DIESEL, PETROL/LPG etc. Including this information in a separate field within your data helps to greatly reduce the number of application lines returned in Autocat.
Body style	e.g. SALOON, ESTATE, HATCHBACK etc. Including this information in a separate field within your data helps to greatly reduce the number of application lines returned in Autocat.
Part numbers	It is important to ensure that the part numbers contain the correct part number prefixes or suffixes (if any) and that there are no asterisks, dashes, spaces or symbols etc. that are not part of the actual part number. It is vital to check that the data you are providing is relevant to products sold in the UK aftermarket. Part numbers must also match exactly those of any price list that you may publish to Customers who load your pricing information onto their MAM system database.
Extra information	It is important to provide us with any relevant extra information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dimensions (any sizes, such as diameters, no. of teeth, length etc..)</li> <li>Fitment details (up to chassis no, eng. no. O.E. type etc..)</li> <li>Footnotes (Auto, Manual gearbox, series, type no's etc..)</li> <li>Images (Pads, Shoes, Water Pumps etc..)</li> <li>Original equipment Manufacturers / Supplier part numbers (O.E.M. or O.E.S.)</li> <li>Vehicle power (to be formatted BHP=130 or KW=78)</li> <li>Vehicle exact CC (to be formatted ExactCC=1349)</li> <li>Vehicle engine (codes to be formatted with no spaces e.g. TUJ3P)</li> <li>Catalogue version number (to allow users to review data history)</li> </ul> Extra information: This should be included as part of the catalogue application file or as separate extra information/footnote files. These must relate to each relevant part number or a footnote 'flag' contained within the catalogue file. In this case, a separate footnote 'table/' 'key' needs to be provided. <b>Important: If your printed catalogue contains extra information, then it is essential that the Autocat version does as well.</b>
Images	Autocat includes 1,000's of images for other suppliers catalogues. In some cases, an image may be essential for correct part identification. Please supply us with images (pictures or line drawings, B/W or Colour) in either EPS, JPEG or TIF format. These can be displayed on-screen within Autocat in conjunction with your catalogue data.
Technical data	Autocat+ is able to display a technical data sheet against a specific part number. To add these into your catalogue data, please supply us with the data sheet document in PDF format, together with a simple cross-reference list linking the document name to the relevant part number it refers to.

## Data latency

Data latency issues cost money. It is also a very hot topic with major Distributors and the various Buying Groups. It is important that your catalogue data included on Autocat is up to date. Out of date catalogue data on Autocat can create lost sales scenarios for both you and your Customers, and will almost certainly contribute towards incorrect part fitment errors.

We can only maintain the Autocat electronic catalogue database as a joint effort with your on-going support. With the provision of good quality catalogue data from all suppliers - including images and technical data information where relevant - we will always aim to maintain your catalogues on Autocat in a timely and effective manner.

Our in-house data conversion routines offer a speedy and effective solution for suppliers

to help avoid issues of data latency. We believe our fast data conversion turnaround times offer you a quick route to market for making your latest catalogue data available to a wider and more relevant audience in the UK aftermarket.

**Help avoid potential problems with data latency - work together with MAM to keep Autocat up to date.**

## Data submission & contact details

E-MAIL	You can e-mail any new catalogue data directly to Rod Field, at <a href="mailto:rod@mamsoft.co.uk">rod@mamsoft.co.uk</a> Please zip up the file attachment(s)
FTPS	You can transfer your data to us regularly and securely via FTPS protocol. Call us for details.
POST	You can post the data to us, on CD or diskette, to the MAM Wareham office address shown below



**Note: In all cases, we always acknowledge receipt of your data. No acknowledgement back from us means we have not received it.**

## Types of catalogue

There are two versions of Autocat on which your catalogue data is represented:

### Autocat+ - the fast access, fast update 'on-line' catalogue

Autocat+ is the UK's most comprehensive web-based parts catalogue. There are no deadline dates for submitting your catalogue data for Autocat+. New data is converted, checked and then published 'live' on-line to our dedicated and secure central database server within a matter of days, subject to the quality and structure of your original data. If you keep us updated regularly, Customers using Autocat will always have access to your latest catalogue data.



### Autocat - the original CD-ROM catalogue

Autocat updates are issued to users four times a year on CD in February, May, August and November. New data you supply to us is added to our master database ready for the next relative Autocat update. (See table on page 4).



## Your catalogue data on Autocat

Autocat is the UK's leading aftermarket parts reference catalogue. It is used in over 1,500 locations throughout the country, many of them your Customers. The key to Autocat's success isn't just its wide coverage - it's because it contains accurate, up-to-date product, fitment and technical information.

Whenever your Customers refer to Autocat, they expect to see your latest catalogue data. To help achieve this, we need your on-going support by providing us with accurate and timely data.

Once we've received your data, it is cleaned, processed and reviewed before being published for Autocat users to access.

With our new Autocat+ online catalogue, this process typically only takes us around ten working days, but with good quality

catalogue data, it is possible to complete the process in just two.

In the interest of your Customers using Autocat, we've introduced a number of measures to help you maximise your 'data performance' and get the most out of your inclusion in our catalogue.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, there is a lot of important information that could help you expand your reach and increase sales!



## New ASAP

Our new 'Autocat Supplier Assist Programme' (ASAP) enables you to update and enhance your Autocat data more effectively. Its main aim is to highlight data-related issues and help you enhance your 'data performance' within the Autocat+ electronic catalogue (see page 3).

## Did you know?

- Over 1,500 distributors, factors and workshops use Autocat.
- Autocat+ is 'on-line' - your latest catalogue data can be 'live' on Customers' systems within a matter of days.
- Autocat+ is developed in conjunction with a user forum comprising members from across the industry, including representatives from many of the trade organisations.

### In this issue

This newsletter contains valuable information that could help your business expand its reach and increase sales.

### Reviewing your data

In the interests of your Customers, follow our simple guidelines to check your data currently included in Autocat.

### Manage data 'ASAP'

Our 'Autocat Supplier Assist Programme' (ASAP) enables you to update and enhance the content and quality of your own catalogue data more effectively.

### Data content

Make part identification simpler and more accurate for your Customers by improving the depth of your data.

**Please contact Rod Field on 01929 550922 or e-mail [rod@mamsoft.co.uk](mailto:rod@mamsoft.co.uk) if you have any enquiries or questions regarding data or this review**

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# Autocat supplier data review



## Review your data now

In the interests of your Customers using Autocat, please action the following points relating to your catalogue data currently included on Autocat.

**Supplier Data Review list  
- IMPORTANT -  
Please review now.**

- If a catalogue includes product images, line drawings or technical data detail, please send us these too.

A separate 'Supplier Data Review' information sheet accompanies this newsletter.

This information shows your catalogue data that's currently published on Autocat or being converted and prepared for updating.

Please examine this report, reviewing each of the following four points:

- Check the dates. These indicate the last time you supplied data to us.
- Pay particular attention to 'Vehicle Service' related products. These require updating far more regularly.
- Please tell us if data is out of date then send us new data so that we can update Autocat quickly.

## Adding value with technical information

Autocat+ is able to display a technical data sheet against a specific part number. To add these into your catalogue data, please supply us with the data sheet document in PDF format, together with a simple cross-reference list linking the document name to the relevant part number it refers to.

## Improving performance

In the interest of improving the accuracy and functionality of data included on Autocat, we are continually looking to enrich the function of data wherever we can. The population of 'FUEL TYPE' and 'BODY STYLE' detail are key fields which can enhance the quality of the data conversion processes, especially where we match vehicle data to the MAM make and model index.

Ft	Body	CC	C
Dsl	Hatch	1753	4
Dsl	Hatch	1753	4

We ask that you include as much of these two details within the original data that you supply to us. Providing these fields within your data enhances the Autocat parts look-up function for the user. It improves accuracy by significantly reducing the number of application lines returned. It produces a shorter, more relevant list of parts for a particular vehicle; thereby resulting in more accurate part identification.



## Update and manage your data 'ASAP'

Our new 'Autocat Supplier Assist Programme' (ASAP) enables you to update and manage your Autocat data more effectively. Its main aim is to highlight data-related issues and help you enhance your 'data performance' within the Autocat+ electronic catalogue.

The ASAP initiative enables you to update and enhance the content and quality of your own catalogue data more effectively. ASAP gives you immediate access to your Autocat data. You can also view your data online exactly as your Customers see it, helping you ensure that your data is displayed correctly. Direct access to the data conversion team at MAM to discuss any data conversion issues you may have. Data reports are included to help you analyse data content and identify range gaps. Comparisons against the MAM make and model index (MMI) will help identify data content improvements. ASAP membership also gives you a priority for your data conversions.



## ASAP membership

Membership to the ASAP programme is charged on a monthly basis, which includes all ASAP benefits including access to reports, priority data conversions and an e-mail notification when catalogue sections are updated.

For a limited period, membership is available at special introductory rates. Please call Rod Field for details.

**For further information or to sign up for ASAP, please contact Rod Field on 01929 550922 or e-mail rodfield@mamsoft.co.uk**

## ASAP benefits

### Report packs

Each pack contains one each of the following reports for one product group (e.g. 'brake friction'):

### Data population reports

Reports that analyse the data population of certain criteria in your data (e.g. fuel type, body style, engine capacity, etc.) These can help highlight potential improvements which should be made to your original catalogue data.

### Vehicle gap reports

Reports that identify specific UK car and LCV vehicles not covered in your catalogue. These will identify potential gaps in your product range, highlighting areas for possible range expansion and increased sales. Analysing range gaps may also help correct any data detail errors (such as incorrect capacity, fuel types, model series, etc.)

## ASAP benefits

### Improved communication

Direct access to the data conversion team at MAM to discuss any data issues you may have regarding catalogue data conversions and the publication of data on Autocat.

### Priority data conversions

Catalogue data conversions will be actioned as a priority; including additions and updates (subject to quality of data & structure and current data conversion workloads at any given time).

### Catalogue data status review

Review the current status of your catalogue data. You can speak to us to get a 'one-stop' check to show how up-to-date your data is, identify all sections currently 'live' on Autocat+ or those that are in the conversion process.

### Autocat+ access

Members of ASAP are entitled to subscribe to Autocat+ at greatly discounted rates, giving access to data exactly as users will see it.

## Using existing data sources

### If you have an on-line catalogue or produce your own-brand CD-ROM

If you are already providing catalogue data to other companies for electronic catalogue purposes it is possible that we can use an adaptation of the same data to update your catalogues on Autocat.

### Tec Doc 'Export format' data

Please contact us to discuss prior to sending us this type of data. In some instances, Tec Doc data may be suitable. There are important issues you need to check before providing any Tec Doc derived data. Tec Doc data would need to be provided to us in the 'Tec-Doc Export Format - English Language' version and, where it is possible, GB specific applications only.

### If you use an external publisher or another software house

If you use an external publisher or software house to create and maintain your catalogue application databases (e.g. D.D.S., Elcome (Xchecker), Exford Systems, Xenon Media) it is likely that we may be able to utilise the same data for updating your catalogues on Autocat.

The above companies are usually able to provide this data to us in a format we can interpret. Please note that these companies are not necessarily under any obligation to update MAM automatically unless they are prompted to do so.

## Sending data electronically

Data must be provided to us electronically - we do not manually key-in data from printed (paper) hard copy catalogues or 'bulletin' sheets (either on paper or in PDF documents).

Catalogue data can be supplied to us in most industry standard recognised Windows database or spreadsheet formats (we cannot accept Mac-based data):

- Microsoft Access database table(s)
- Microsoft Excel spreadsheet(s)
- Own-branded CD-ROMS\*

\*Only possible if the catalogue data contained on this type of CD-ROM is accessible and is in a useable format.

These must always be accompanied by a detailed layout sheet relating to any catalogue application tables included.

We are happy to receive 'bulletin' information in electronic format, as it may be possible for us to add additions or changes to current catalogue data.

It is important that these are provided to us in a similar basic layout as that of a previously supplied 'complete' version of that data.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
2	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
3	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
4	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
5	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
6	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
7	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
8	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
9	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
10	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
11	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
12	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
13	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
14	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
15	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
16	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
17	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
18	Focus	Focus	FOCUS 1.4 16V 1096-11.0M 1.4	1600	4	SOHC	15	ABC0107	Brake Pk	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150

## Autocat<sup>1</sup> publication dates

Autocat <sup>1</sup> CD Update	Your new data should be in by...	Autocat <sup>1</sup> CD update released
SPRING update	End of December	February
SUMMER update	End of March	May
AUTUMN update	End of June	August
WINTER update	End of September	November