



# RADFORDS

Grow the world's food basket

Radford Software Limited 150 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 1180, Tauranga 3140, NEW ZEALAND  
T. +64 7 579 1106 | E. [info@radfords.co.nz](mailto:info@radfords.co.nz) | [www.radfords.co.nz](http://www.radfords.co.nz)

## Pool 2020 XLSX Usage Notes – Test and Install

Date	Notes
14/07/2020 1.00 pm	Initial published version

These notes refer to known and tested methods of exporting to and importing from Excel xlsx files.

### **Background and general notes**

- Payments is currently developed in an old environment called Microsoft Visual FoxPro.
- Microsoft no longer supports this environment, and there are no “native” commands to export to or import from Excel xlsx files
- Payments can now export to or import from Excel xlsx files using program calls to some specific established tools for other Microsoft products. These other tools need to be installed on your computer.
- These tools may already be installed on your computer as part of Office 365 and / or Microsoft Access. We have some test processes, note below.
- If they are not already installed:
  - o They can be installed by your system administrator.
  - o BUT there is a nominal risk that doing so causes conflicts with other Microsoft tools.
  - o Your system administrator is responsible for validating these tools are suitable for your computer and your enterprise environment.
- Key Notes:
  - o Within Payments, some export locations and most import locations require specific consideration and code to accommodate xlsx files. Not all locations have been updated as at early July 2020. There is a list of updated locations later in this document.
  - o Generally, where xlsx files are now accommodated, the original xls files are still accommodated. This approach means you can manage (in your own time) the change of xls to xlsx files within your internal processes for Excel interface files. We do not require you to change your interface files from xls to xlsx.
  - o The export and import processes use tools installed on each specific computer. Just because one workstation works (or the server) does NOT mean all workstations will work. Each workstation must be set up individually. Where you run Payments using Remote Desktop on server, all users on that server should be OK.

## Installation and Setup Process

To enable you to work with xlsx files, we envisage the following process.

Within Payments, select *[This Computer]* (within *[Main Menu / Settings and Tools]*)

- Test Import:
  - Use Windows Explorer to check if the file "TestImportXLSX.xlsx" is in your program folder.
  - Return to the *[This Computer]* screen as above
  - Set the Import Method to "MS\_ACCESS"
  - Select / Locate the test file TestImportXLSX.xlsx
  - Click *[Test Import File]*
  - You should see a grid of 3 growers with tray quantities (different to the test export data).
  - If this works:
    - tick *[Import Method Tested]* and save these details
- Test Export:
  - Set the Export Method to "MS.ACE.OLEDB.12.0"
  - Click *[Test Export File]*
  - If this works:
    - tick *[Export Method Tested]* and save these details
    - exit this screen and select *[Users]*
    - Select XLSX as your *[Default Export Format]* and save these details.

The above methods can be accessed from the following links:

- Import:
  - This first interface is for the Excel data mining tool.
- Export:
  - This first interface is the tool that Access uses to create xlsx files.

Import Export connection string:

```
InSQL = SQLSTRINGCONNECT("Driver={Microsoft Excel Driver (*.xls, *.xlsx)};DBQ="+FULLPATH(XLSXFile)+";")
```

Export connection string:

```
ConnectionString = [Provider=Microsoft.ACE.OLEDB.12.0;Data Source="] + XLSXFile + [";Extended Properties="Excel 12.0 Xml;HDR=Yes;"]
```

As at 14 July, Microsoft's 2010 Access Runtime includes the necessary tools for the above connection strings. This can be found at:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=10910>

## Special Notes and Locations in Payments where xlsx files can be used

### Special Notes:

- The xlsx import process uses a very different process than the original xls process. At a technical level, the xlsx processes SQL query language and processes, which is a lot more precise than the old xls process.
  - o ***This means that xlsx import files need to be more precise.*** In particular:
    - Zero value numbers NEED to have a zero in every appropriate cell in the xlsx source file.  
Blanks no longer work and will cause an error
    - Dates? Logical values?
- At this point (July 2020), the import code REQUIRES the data to be on a sheet labelled "Sheet1". There is potential for data to be imported from other sheets, but this would require custom code which will be done on a case by case basis.
- When exporting data, some data sets include special column names that are reserved and need to be changed. These include files such as UserName and Size. Where these are included, we change the column name in XLSX to start with "Z\_". Contact us if this is an issue in specific cases.
- When exporting data with date-time fields (typically a transaction saved date-time), these fields are shown as dates in xlsx files. The data is still the full date time (as seen in the cell contents. To show the full date time, you will need to format that column as Custom / date-time.
- There may be some specific cases where the data included prevent the proper export to XLSX. If you just get a header record and no data, then please validate that data exists by checking the export to the original xls format. If there is a problem with xlsx, please contact Radfords with your specific case.

### Export Locations:

- Most export processes use a standard screen, as below. These include reports, maintenance screens etc.
- Once you have setup the Export process on your workstation, all locations using this screen should allow you to export to xlsx files. Specific export locations are listed in the grid below.
- If there are other specific export locations that still only create xls files, please contact us.

Export data for use elsewhere

Filename for your data: YourNewFile

Folder for this file: C:\POOL2020\EXPORTS\ [Select a different folder...](#)

Select a default export folder: ☒ Your specific export folder (See "Users") = (C:\PROJECTS\POOL2020\DEV\DESIGN\)  
☐ The computer's export folder (See "This Computer")

Format for this file: XLSX

Open this file now? ☒ (Will try to open this file in Excel for all formats)  
(See the settings for "This Computer" for the location of Excel)

Export Cancel

Version	Export Location	Notes
10.014	Pool Forecast / Import, Reset Rates	Create Template (for Rates)

#### Import Locations:

- The import process requires specific programming at each location.
- The column content / sequence / formats for the xlsx files are generally the same as before, subject to the special notes above.
- We have done some key / common locations as listed here:

Version	Import Location	Notes
10.014	General Account Transactions / For General Grower Accounts	Import both Period and Season values
10.014	Statement Transactions	
10.014	Grower Maturity Area Tools / Export, Import Maturity Areas	Export done as per standard export screen Import now done
10.014	Grower Maturity Area Tools / Import Forecast Rates to Accounts	Both grower and account value options.
10.014	Third Party Invoices / Import Grower Direct Invoices	
10.014	Pool Forecast / Import, Reset Rates	Import rates, Kgs, Ha Note that Rates template is also improved
10.014	Special Payments / Manage Special Payments / Manage Payment Run / Import Quantities	Import Quantities