

# Technical Bulletin

## Advanced Topics for Tecan Magellan Software

### Sample ID Lists

In an effort to make Magellan easier to use for customers, this is one in a series of technical notes on how to use the advanced features of this very powerful software package.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

The Sample ID List is a very useful tool for operators who wish to use their own sample names to identify wells in the plate within the software and in the printed report. The Sample ID List import features of the software are geared primarily towards those labs that use robotic liquid-handlers for setting up plates for use on plate readers. However, those operators not using a robot can still enter Sample ID information manually, or import a "custom" file format from Microsoft Excel (more on this process below).

While the User's Manual and Help section of the software cover in detail the building of Sample ID Lists, this document will clarify how the List is utilized by the software operator within a Magellan Method. Please see section 4.7 of the User's Manual for details on the Create/Edit a Sample ID List Wizard.

#### SETUP of the Sample ID List

Set up of the Sample ID List can be done automatically by the software package if it is linked to a liquid-handling robot. It can also be done manually by the software operator.

If the operator chooses to set up the Sample ID information manually, it can be typed into each well in the Create/Edit a Sample ID List Wizard.

Also, a sample ID list can be typed into Excel and then saved as a "tab-delimited" or "comma-delimited" text file. That text file can then be imported as a custom-formatted file in Magellan. Please see the section of the Help file entitled Custom Format Files .txt for additional details. This file needs to be stored in the Tecan/Magellan/smp folder on the computer.



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## Using Sample ID Lists in your Method

Once your Sample ID List is ready, you must set up your Method to use the information in that List. There are two techniques to doing this.

### TECHNIQUE 1:

1. In the Report and Export window of Create/Edit a Method, choose Organize Printed Report. Under Available Data, click the "+" sign next to Sample IDs, then drag Sample ID 1 onto the Matrix icon into the Selected Data window. Repeat this step for any additional pieces of Sample ID information that may be present in the Sample ID List. Click the "OK" button.
2. You are once again in the Report and Export window. Now choose Automated Data Handling. The first checkbox in the list is for Load Sample ID List. Once that is checked, the More button next to it become active. Click on it.
3. While in the More(Load Sample ID List) window, choose Same Filename as Workspace button if your Sample ID List has the same name, or choose Filename and type in the filename of your Sample ID List. Leave the Path and Format settings at default. Click OK twice to get back to the Report and Export window.
4. Continue through the Create/Edit a Method wizard to save your Method.

### TECHNIQUE 2:

You can attach a Sample ID List to a set of samples right before the run is started. To do this, simply click on the Select button next to the Sample ID List input box in the Run a Method window. Then choose an available Sample ID List from the menu. This allows you to attach changing Sample ID Lists to one Method that is used on a regular basis.

Now, when you print out your results, the sample names from your Sample ID List should be in the grid of plate results.

Please contact the Technical Support group at Phenix Research Products for additional information on this process, or to obtain information on other advanced Magellan topics.

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