



Manual Custom Classification Compano Online Software

Version 4.2

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1 Introduction

Existing classification systems in Compano Online Software can be expanded with custom classes or features or you can add your own, custom classification system. This manual explains how expand or create one custom classification system.

Important: To be able to use a custom classification system, a *dedicated (private) COS application* is mandatory.

1.1 Concepts

COS PIM

Compano Online Software, Product Information Management.

Classification System

A classification system identifies (technical) products, sorting them into *product classes* and describing them using standardized *product features* and *feature values*. Examples of classification systems are: ETIM, EZ-base, GPC, Q-model, etc.

ETIM

ETIM is an international classification standard for technical products of the installation sector, the construction sector and the maritime sector. *ETIM Dynamic* is the current development version of ETIM, which is updated weekly. Previous, fixed version of ETIM include ETIM 9, ETIM 8, etc.



2 Custom classification scenarios

2.1 Scenario I: Expanding classification system

An existing classification system, such as ETIM Dynamic, can be expanded with custom groups, classes or features. This scenario is suitable if almost all product data can be fitting into the existing classification system (for instance ETIM Dynamic), but a few crucial classes or characteristics are missing. These missing classes or features can then be added manually.

<u>Note</u>: Data of these custom classes or features will not be exported in industry standard formats such as DICO/INSBOU or BMEcat, however this data can be used for, for example, your own web shop.

2.2 Scenario II: New custom classification system

If your products *don't* fit into an existing classification system at all, you can set up your own system. This scenario is useful for, for example, wholesalers who, in addition to installation materials, also carry products that have nothing to do with the installation or construction world.

<u>Note</u>: Many groups, classes, characteristics and values are already included in ETIM. You can reuse this data, even within your own system, first find out if the group, class, characteristics or values you want to use already exists and then reuse it.

Example 1

As a first example, this guide describes expanding the ETIM classification system to include outdoor furniture, such as garden benches, garden chairs, garden tables and more.

Example 2

The second example concerns the creation of a new, custom classification system for classifying *Packaging sustainability information*.

3 Expanding existing classification system

Within ETIM, the product group *Furniture* **EG017960** exists for bathroom and bedroom furniture, but not for *garden furniture*. The following classes for outdoor furniture could be added to this product group:

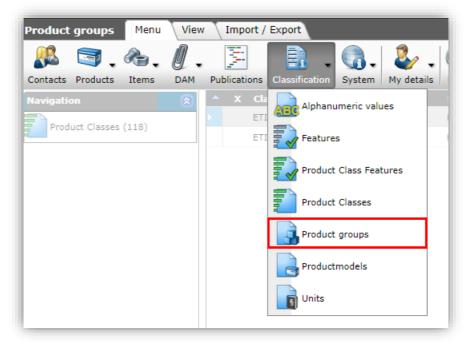
- Garden tables
- Garden chairs
- Garden benches
- Sunbeds
- Lounge furniture
- Parasols
- Hammocks

3.1 Add new Product Class

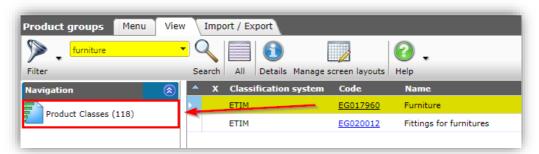
To add a new Product Class to a Product Group:



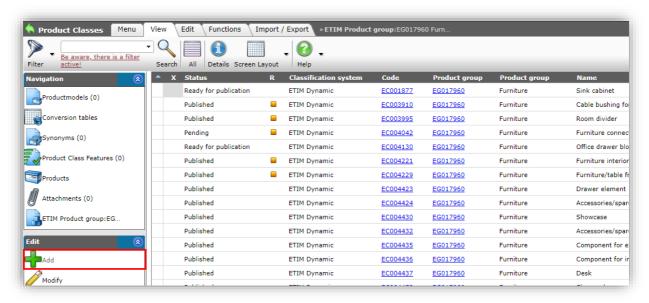
1. Through the Menu, go to Classification > Product groups



2. In the Search box, search for **Furniture**, select the product group *Furniture* **EG017960** and, under Navigation, click on *Product Classes*.

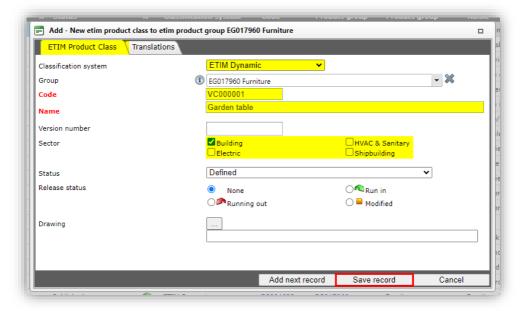


3. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add to add a new class:



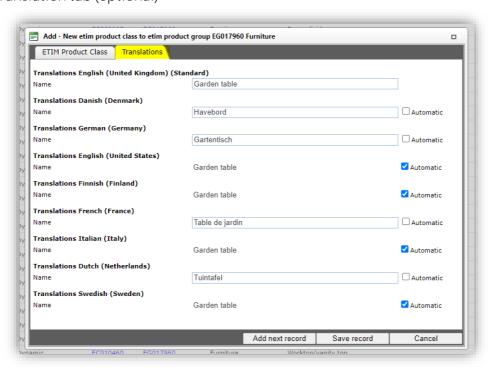


ETIM Product Class tab



- a. Classification system: The classification system to which the new class will be added. Check that the correct system is selected.
- b. Group: The group to which the class will be added.
- c. Code: Type a code for the new class; preferably use a system of codes of your own design. <u>Note</u>: Keep in mind that ETIM uses a system where codes start with an **EX** prefix. In these examples, the 'E' has been replaced by a 'V' to distinguish between ETIM classes and custom classes.
- d. Name: Type a name for the new class.
- e. Sector: Optionally, select the sector for which this class is relevant.
- f. Status: Leave on the default value.

Translation tab (optional)



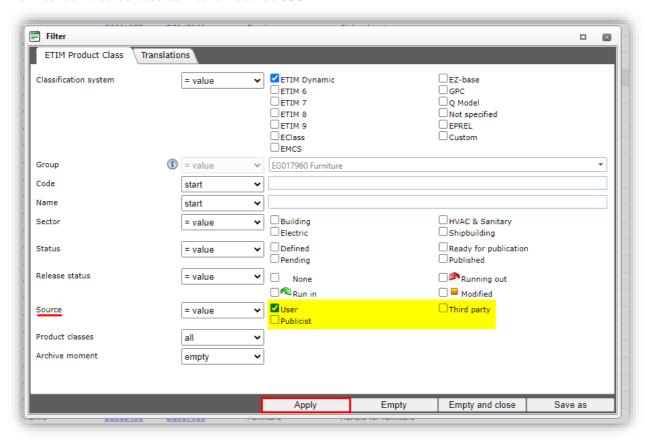


- a. Translations [language]: Optionally, fill out any translations for the Class Name. To fill out a name, first uncheck the tick box *Automatic*.
- 5. Save the record.

On the Overview, under the *Source* column, you can see which classes belong to the classification system (**Publicist**) and which are created by the **User**:



The Filter can also be used to filter on Source User:



3.2 Add a new Product Class Feature

For instructions on how to add a new Product Class Feature, please see <u>4.4 ADD A PRODUCT CLASS</u>
<u>FEATURE</u>.

4 Manually create custom classification system

A new, custom classification system can be set-up according to the following structure:

Product groups
 Product classes



1.1.1. Product Class Features

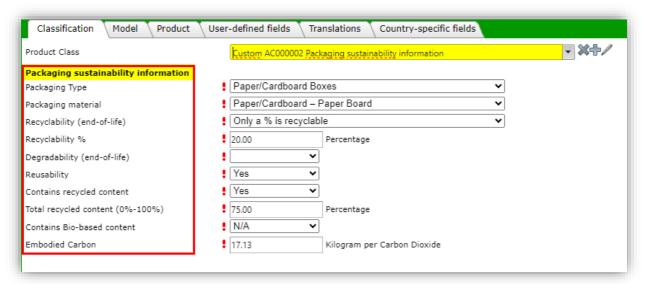
At these levels, you can add your own Groups, Classes, or Features.

Additionally, you can add your own, custom alphanumeric values or units, if necessary. However, it is recommended to make use of the existing (ETIM) alphanumeric values and units, as much as possible.

4.1 Custom classification example

In this manual, the following example is used to set up a custom classification system:

To identify the sustainability of product packaging a new class **AC000002** is to be set up which will contain the following features:





Packaging sustainability information (AC000002)								
Feature	Туре	Unit/Values						
Packaging Type (AF000006)	alphanumeric	Paper/Carboard Boxes Paper/Carboard Labels Paper/Carboard Printed Manuals Paper/Carboard Other Plastic Bags / Sacks Plastic Flexibles Film Plastic Unknown / Other Pallet Wood (Crate) Other						
Packaging Material (AF000007)	alphanumeric	Paper/Cardboard – Paper Paper/Cardboard – Paper Board Paper/Cardboard – Corrugated Paper/Cardboard – Moulded Fibre Paper/Cardboard – Other Plastic – HDPE Plastic – LDPE Plastic – OPP Plastic – PE Plastic – PE Plastic – PE Plastic – PS (polystyrene) Plastic – PVA (polyvinyl alcohol)						
Recyclability (end-of-life) (AF000008)	alphanumeric	Only a % is recyclable Yes No N/A						
Recyclability % (AF000009)	numeric							
Degradability (end-of-life) (AF000010)	alphanumeric	Biodegradable Compostable Oxo-degradable Other No						
Reuseability % (AF000011)	alphanumeric	Yes, No, N/A						
Contains recycled content (AF000013)	alphanumeric	Yes, No, N/A						
Total recycled content (0-100%) (AF000014)	numeric							
Contains Bio-based content (AF000015)	alphanumeric	Yes, No, N/A						
Embodied Carbon (AF000012)	numeric feature	Kilogram per Carbion Dioxide						

To manually create a custom classification system, the complete classification structure needs to be set-up:

Product Group
Product Class(es)
Product Feature(s)

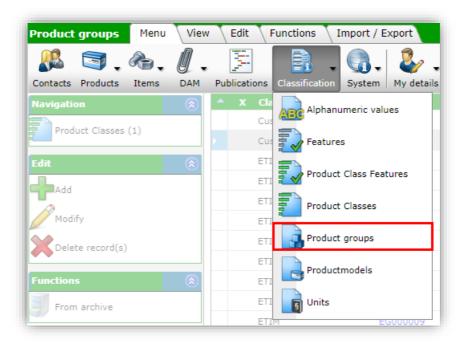
Additionally, feature values and/or units need to be set-up.

4.2 Create a Product Group

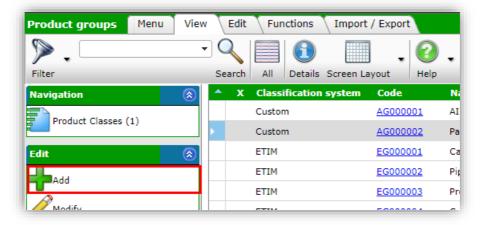
To create a new, custom Product Group:

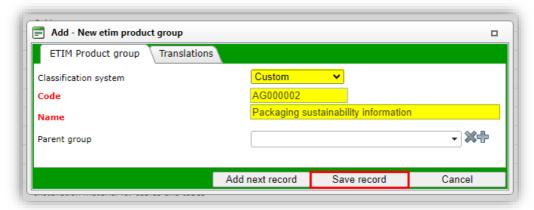
1. Through the Menu, go to *Classification > Product group*.





2. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add:





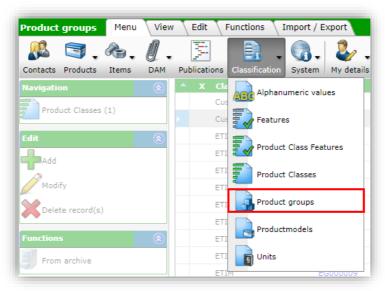
- a. Classification system: Select custom
- b. Code: Type a code for the custom product group
- c. Name: Type a name for the custom product group
- d. Parent group: Optionally, select a parent group
- 4. Save the record.



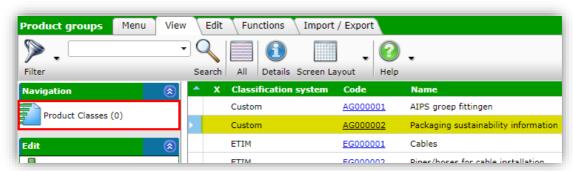
4.3 Create a Product Class

To add a new, custom Product Class to the Product Group:

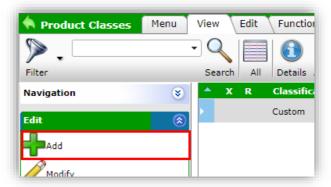
1. Through the Menu, go to *Classification > Product group*:



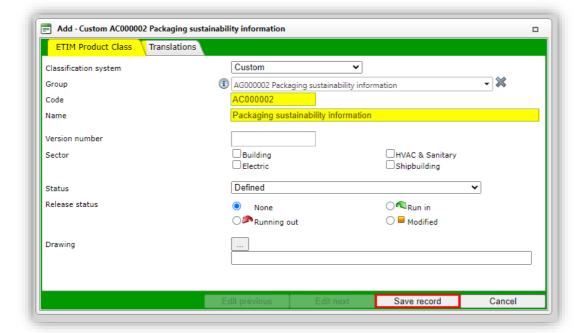
2. Select the custom group to which a new, custom Product Class is to be added, and under Navigation, click on *Product Classes*.



3. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add.



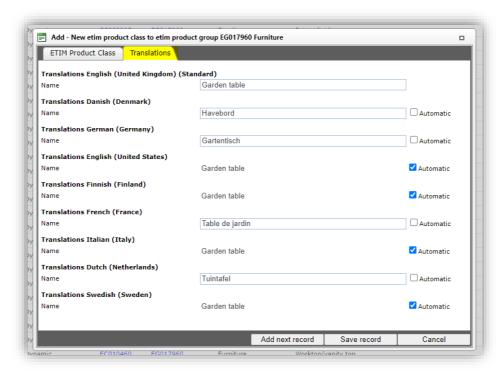




- a. Classification system: Check to see if this is set to **Custom**.
- b. Group: The group to which the class will be added.
- c. Name: Type a name for the new product class.
- d. Sector: Optionally, select the sector for which this class is relevant.
- e. Status: Leave on the default value.
- 5. Save the record.

Translations

Optionally, translations of the Class name can be added on the Translation tab:



a. Translations [language]: Optionally, fill out any translations for the Class Name. To fill out a Name, first uncheck the tick box *Automatic*.



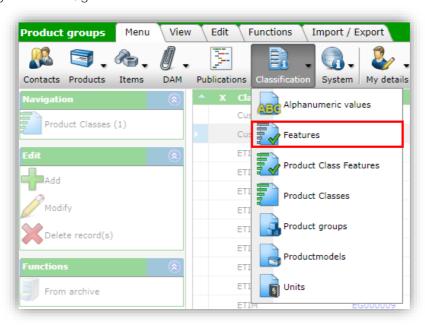
4.4 Add a Product Class Feature

To add a new, custom Product Class Feature to the Product Class:

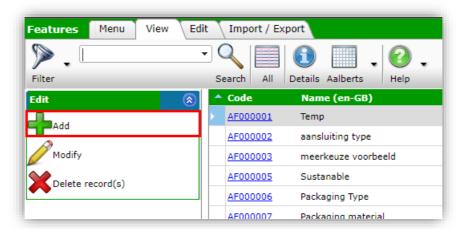
- First, create the new Feature
- Then, add the new Feature to the Product Class

4.4.1 Create new Feature

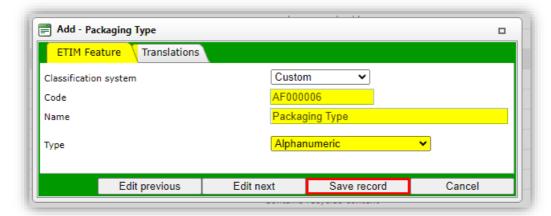
1. Through the Menu, go to *Classification > Features*.



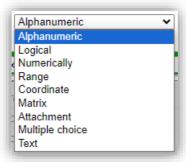
2. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add.







- a. Classification system: Check to see if this is set to Custom.
- b. Code: Type a code for the new Feature.
- c. Name: Type a name for the new Feature.
- d. Type: Select the type of the Feature, which will determine the type of values:



- i. Alphanumeric: Values can be selected from a list of alphanumeric values.
- ii. Logical: Values are Yes or No.
- iii. Numerical: Values are numbers (Integers or Decimals).
- iv. Range: Values are a Minimum and Maximum number.
- v. Coordinate: Values are 2- or 3-dimensional coordinates.
- vi. Matrix: Coordinate values for graphs. ???
- vii. Attachment: Values are (URL-)paths to an Attachment; attachments can be selected from the list of attachments that have been for this product. This is used, for instance, with EPREL classification.
- viii. Multiple choice: Values can be multiple selections from a list.
 - ix. Text: Value is a customisable text value.
- 4. Save the record.

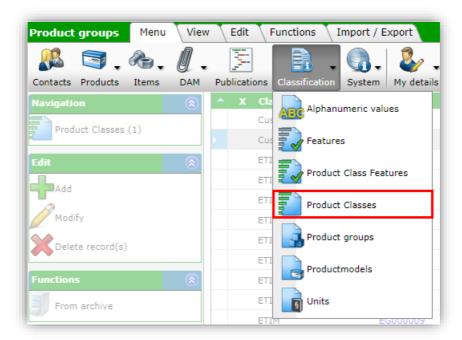
4.4.2 Add new Feature to Product Class

Next, add the new Feature to a Product Class:

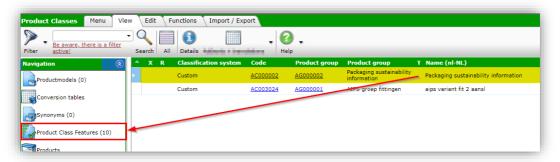
To add a new, custom Product Class to the Product Group:

1. Through the Menu, go to Classification > Product Classes.

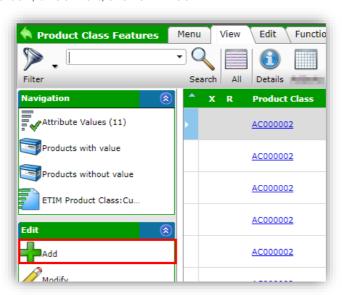




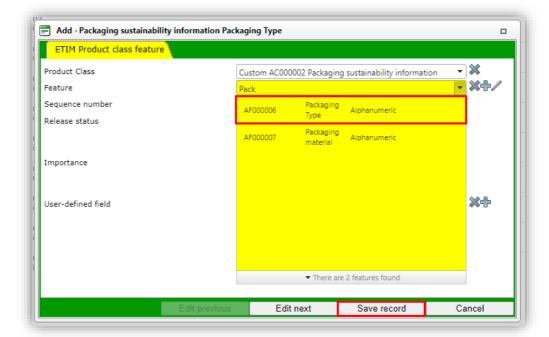
2. On the next screen, select the custom Product Class to which the Feature is to be added, and under Navigation, click on *Product Class Features*.



3. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add:







- a. Product Class: Check to see if this is set to the Product Class to which the Feature is to be added.
- b. Feature: Search for and select the Feature that is to be added.
- 5. Save the record.

4.4.3 Add Product Class Feature Attribute Values

For Product Class Features of the following types, *Attribute Values* need to be added:

- Alphanumeric
- Multiple choice

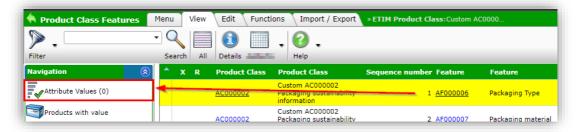
To add Attribute Values to a Product Class Feature:

1. Through the Menu, go to *Classification > Product Class Features*.

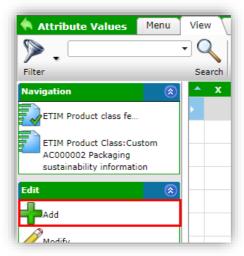


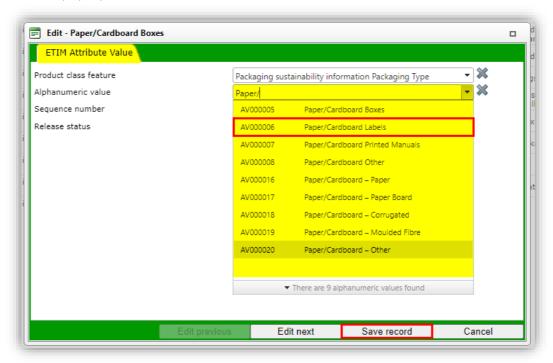
2. Select the Product Class Feature and, under Navigation, click on Attribute Values:





3. On the next screen, under Edit, click on +Add.





- a. Product class feature: Check to see if this is set to the Product class feature to which the Attribute Value is to be added.
- b. Alphanumeric value: Search and select the Alphanumeric value to be added as Attribute Value. <u>Note</u>: Should the correct alphanumeric value not be available from the default (ETIM) set, then new, custom values can be added. For detailed



instructions see paragraph <u>Fout! Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden. Fout!</u> <u>Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden.</u>

5. Save the record.

5 Import custom classification system

Setting up a custom classification system always follows the same logical steps. Thus, such a classification system can also be imported by preparing a number of Excel files and importing them in order.

The following example will be used in this chapter:

	Lens Filters				
Features	Values	Neutral Density	Polarization	Color Correction	
Mounting Type		Х	Х	Х	
	Screw-on	Х	Х	Х	
	Drop-in	Х	Х	Х	
	Magnetic	Х	-	Х	
	Unmounted	Х	Х	Х	
Circular Filter Size		Х	Х	Х	
ND-Coating		Х	-	-	
	Single-sided	х			
	Double-sided	Х			
Density		Х	-	-	
Polarizer Type		-	Х	-	
	Color Circular		Х		
	Color Linear		Х		
Color Filter Type		-	-	Х	
	Color Enhancing			Х	
	Cooling			Х	
	Fluorescent			Х	
	Sepia			Х	
	Tungsten			Х	
	Warming				
Coating		-	Х	Х	
	Multi-coated		Х	Х	
	Single-coated		Х	Х	
Anti-Scratch		Х	Х	-	
Water-resistant		Х	Х	-	
Oil-resistant		Х	X	-	

Group

Lens Filters

Classes

- Neutral Density Filter
- Polarizing Filter
- Color Correction Filter

Features

• Mounting Type (A)



- ND-Coating (A)
- Density (N)
- Polarizer type (A)
- Circular filter size (N)
- Color Filter Type (A)
- Coating (A)
- Anti-scratch (L)
- Water-resistant (L)
- Oil-resistant (L)

Class Feature

- Neutral Density Filter
 - o Circular Filter Size
 - Mounting Type
 - o ND-Coating
 - o Density
 - o Anti-scratch
 - o Water-resistant
 - o Oil-resistant
- Polarizing Filter
 - o Circular Filter Size
 - o Mounting Type → Never 'magnetic'
 - o Polarizer Type
 - o Coating
 - o Anti-scratch
 - o Water-resistant
 - o Oil-resistant
- Color Correction Filter
 - o Circular Filter Size
 - o Mounting Type
 - o Color Filter Type
 - Coating

(Alphanumeric) Values

- Mounting Type
 - o Screw-on
 - o Drop-in
 - o Magnetic
 - o Unmounted
- ND-Coating
 - o Single-sided
 - o Double-sided
- Color Filter type
 - o Color Enhancing
 - o Cooling
 - o Fluorescent
 - o Sepia
 - o Tungsten
 - o Warming
- Polarizer Type
 - o Color Circular
 - o Color Linear



- Coating
 - Multi-Coated
 - Single Coated

5.1 Prepare Excel files & layouts

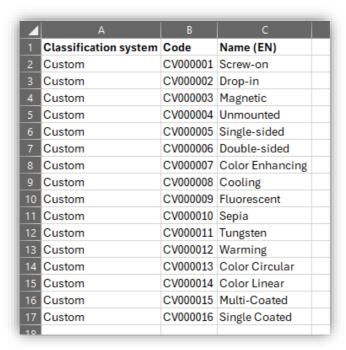
In total 6 Excel files need to be prepared:

- 1. Alphanumeric values
- 2. Features
- 3. Product groups
- 4. Product classes
- 5. Product class features
- 6. Product feature values

<u>Tip</u>: As these Excel files will be imported in order, number them accordingly from 1 to 6. Make sure to number the corresponding Import Layouts in a similar fashion!

5.1.1 Alphanumeric values

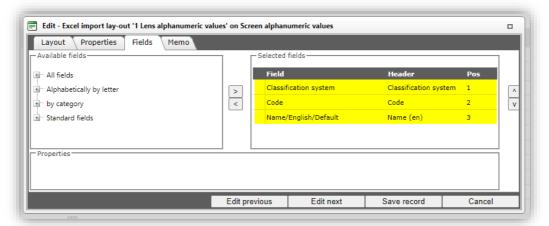
When new Alphanumeric Values needs to be added, the Excel file should look something like this:



- Classification system: Enter Custom for the classification system.
- Code: Enter codes for the new values, for instance **CV000001**, etc.
- Name: Enter a 'name' for each of the new values; this name is the actual value. <u>Note</u>: In a
 multi-lingual application, multiple, language-specific Name values can be imported, for
 instance Name_EN, Name_FR, Name_DE, etc.



Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with the *Import entity* set to: **ETIM¹ Alphanumeric value**.



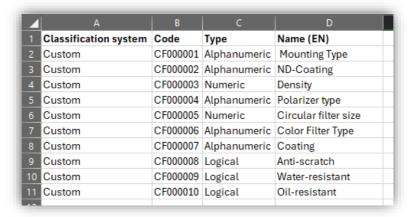
This import layout should contain the following fields:

- Classification system
- Code
- Name

<u>Note</u>: In a multi-lingual application, make sure to use the language-specific name field(s); multiple languages (translations) can be added at the same time.

5.1.2 Features

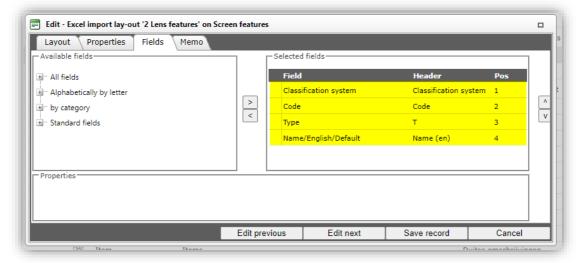
Any *Features* can be imported using the following Excel file setup:



Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with *import entity* set to: **ETIM Feature**.

¹ ETIM Alphanumeric value is the *only option available* for alphanumeric value import, even if your values are not strictly related to ETIM.



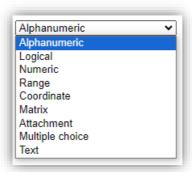


This import layout should contain the following fields:

- Classification system: Custom
- Code: Code of the Feature
- Type: Type of the Feature; see below
- Name: Name of the Feature

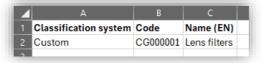
<u>Note</u>: In a multi-lingual application, make sure to use the language-specific name field(s); multiple languages (translations) can be added at the same time.

For the *Feature type* the following options are available:



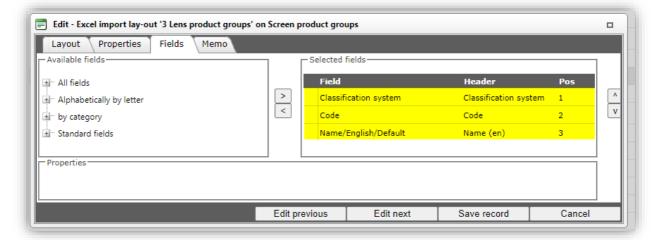
5.1.3 Product Groups

Any *Product Groups* can be imported using the following Excel file setup:



Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with Import entity set to: **ETIM Group**.





This import layout should contain the following fields:

- Classification system: Custom
- Code: Product group code
- Name: Name of the group

<u>Note</u>: In a multi-lingual application, make sure to use the language-specific name field(s); multiple languages (translations) can be added at the same time.

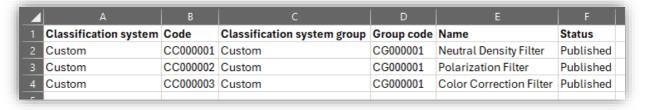
5.1.3.1 Product subgroups

Product groups can have certain hierarchical structure with main groups, subgroups, subsubgroups, etc. Should you wish to add product group hierarchy, then you can import this using the following data fields:

- Parent group classification system
- Parent group code

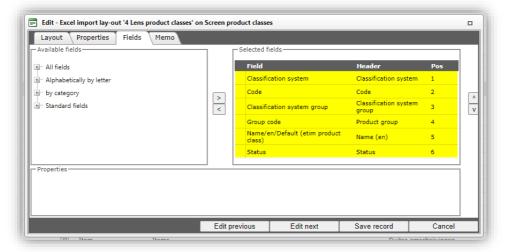
5.1.4 Product Classes

Any *Product Classes* can be imported using the following Excel file setup:



Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with Import entity set to: **ETIM Product Class**.

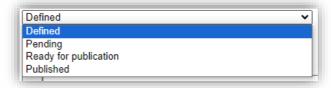




This import layout should contain the following fields:

- Classification system: Custom
- Code: Product class code
- Classification system group: Custom
- Group code: Product group code
- Name: Name of the Product class
- Status: Status of the Product class

For the *Status* the following options are available:

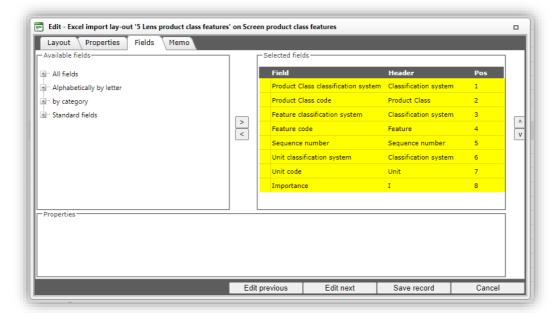


5.1.5 Product Class Features

Any *Product Class Features* can be imported using the following Excel file setup:

Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with Import entity set to: **ETIM Product Class Feature**.

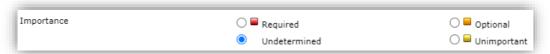




The import layout should contain the following fields:

- Product class classification system: Custom
- Product class code: Code of the product class to which a Feature is to be linked
- Feature classification system: Custom
- Feature code: Code of the Feature
- Sequence number: Features of a product class are ordered according to this sequence number
- Unit classification system: Custom
- Unit code: Code of the unit of measurement to be used for this Feature value
- Importance: Importance of the Feature

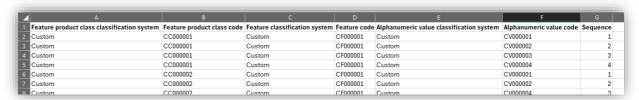
For *Importance* the following values are available:



<u>Note</u>: Importance can be used to indicate whether a feature is important to be filled, however even if for a Feature the Importance is set to Required, it is never mandatory to fill out that Feature.

5.1.6 Attribute Values

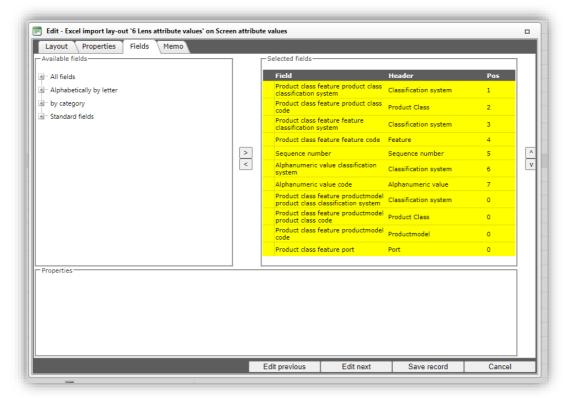
Attribute Values need to be linked to Product Features per Product Class. These links can be imported using the following Excel file setup:





<u>Note</u>: The list of Attribute Values contains all possible values, say **CV000001** to **CV0000nn**, however in the context of classes one or the other subset of values may apply. For example, for the *Polarization Filter* only the options **Screw-in** and **Drop-in** are applicable, but *not* the option **Magnetic**, while for the *Neutral Density Filter all* option are applicable.

Next, a corresponding *import layout* should be made, with Import entity set to: **ETIM Attribute Value**.



The import layout should contain the following fields:

- Product class feature product class classification system: Custom
- Product class feature product class code: Product class code of the linked feature.
- Product class feature feature classification system: Custom
- Product class feature feature code: Feature code of the linked feature.
- Alphanumeric value classification system: Custom
- Alphanumeric value code: Code of the linked alphanumeric value(s).
- Sequence number: Alphanumeric values of a Feature are ordered according to this sequence number
- Product class feature productmodel product class classification system: Mandatory field only used with Product Model classification.
- Product class feature product model product code: Mandatory field only used with Product Model classification.
- Product class feature productmodel product class code: Mandatory field only used with Product Model classification.
- Product class feature port: Mandatory field only used with Product Model classification.

<u>Note</u>: As the Product Model en Port fields are mandatory for a successful import, but—in most cases—are *not* used, the import position numbers (pos) are **set to '0'. Thus,** for these fields no values are imported.



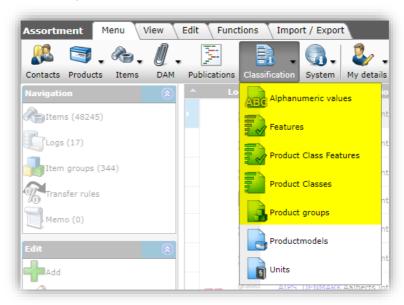
5.2 Import Excel files

In total 6 Excel files need to be imported in the following *mandatory order*.

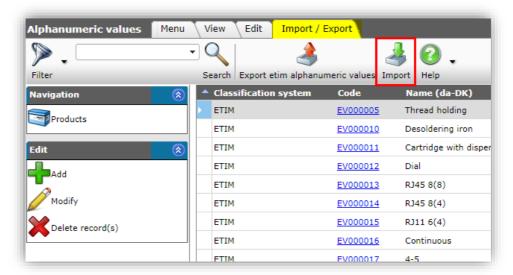
- 1. Alphanumeric values
- 2. Features
- 3. Product groups
- 4. Product classes
- 5. Product class features
- 6. Attribute values

To import the files:

1. Through the menu, go to *Classification* and select the corresponding category² where the Excel needs to be imported:

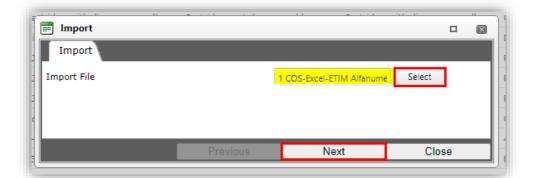


2. On the next screen, go to the Import/Export tab and click on Import.

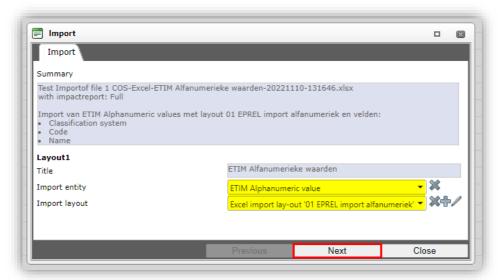


² There is no category for Attribute Value; attribute values can be imported with any random import function by setting the Import Entity to (ETIM) Attribue value.

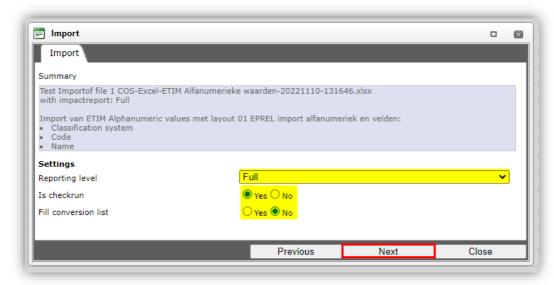




- a. Import file: Select the Excel-file; in this example the Excel-file with Alphanumeric values.
- 4. Click on Next.



- a. Import entity: The correct entity should be automatically selected, or select the correct entity; in this example **ETIM Alphanumeric value**.
- b. Import layout: Select the corresponding import lay-out.
- 5. Click on Next:

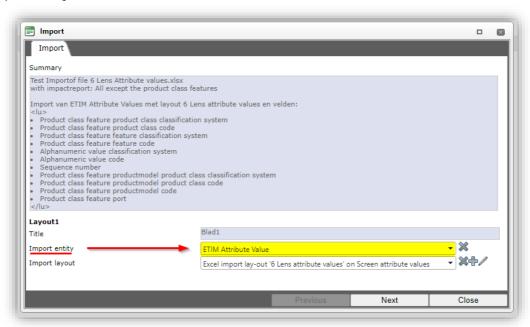


a. Reporting level: Select the reporting level for the import report:



- i. None: Do <u>not</u> generate an import report. This will result in the fastest import.
- ii. Full: Generate a full import report, including all changes in all fields. This will result in the slowest import as all fields will be checked.
- iii. Only warnings: Generate an import report only listing warnings. This import is generally faster than with a Full report.
- b. Is checkrun: Set to **Yes** to simulate an import; this will only generate an import report listing any potential error and/or warnings. No data is actually imported!
- c. Fill conversion list: Set this to No.
- 6. Click on Next to start the import.
- 7. Check the *Import report* for the results of the import.

<u>Note</u>: There is no entry in the Classification menu for Attribute Values. To import *Attribute Values*, start the import from, for instance, the *Product Classes* overview and select **Attribute value** as the import entity:



6 Units

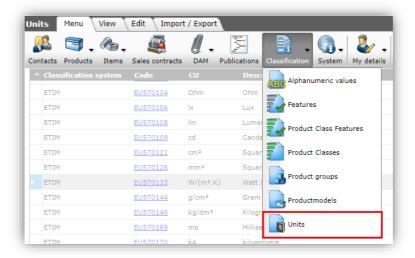
Mostly, existing (ETIM) units of measurement, such as *millimetre*, *litre* or *Watt / m² Kelvin* can be used. However, sometimes a new type of unit needs to be added.

6.1 Create new unit

To create a new type of unit:

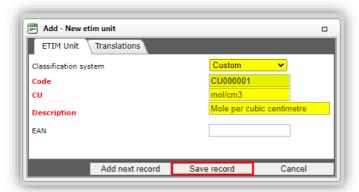
1. Through the Menu, go to *Classification > Units*.





2. Next, under Edit, click on +Add.





- a. Classification system: Set to Custom
- b. Code: Enter a custom code for the new unit
- c. CU: Enter an abbreviation for the new unit
- d. Description: Enter description for the new unit
- 4. Save the record.