

Boiler Plates

New Feature in Xspec® 4.0

One of the newest features in Xspec 4.0 is the Boiler Plate. Boiler plates are documents that enable a company to enter default data to be used in several specification once. Boiler plates are very similar to templates which has lead many customers to ask, “What is the difference between templates and boiler plates?”

Templates: You also create templates for all company default information. For example, your company may manufacture numerous types of cookies. You may have certain properties, such as cooking temperature, that applies to all types of cookies. Instead of entering the temperature in every cookie specification you can enter it once in a template. When a user creates a new cookie specification, the temperature will already be in the specification. Templates are based on specification types. For example, a formula template can be linked to a formula specification only.

Boiler Plates: You create boiler plates for Text sections in a specification. Unlike a template, when you change information in a boiler plate, every specification using the boiler plate will automatically be updated. Also, boiler plates are based on categories. For example, the dairy boiler plates will be available for all specifications that are categorized under dairy - no matter if the document is an ingredient specification or a formula specification.

How it Works!!!

You create a boiler plate the same way you create specifications and templates. The New Reference screen (figure 1) is very similar to the New Specification and New Template screen. Enter the boiler plate information into the Text section (figure 2) and save the document.

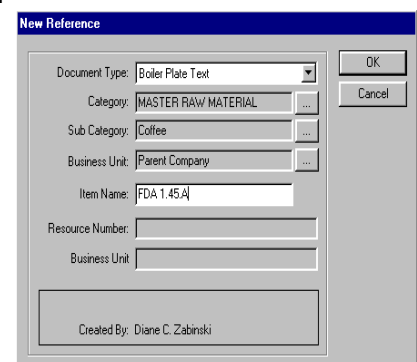


Figure 1

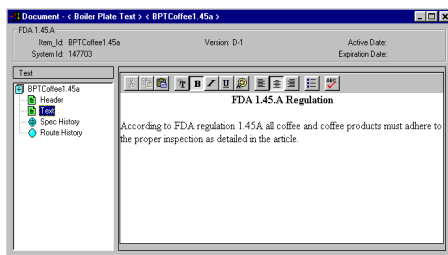


Figure 2

There are two ways boiler plate information can appear in a specification. First, you can assign a boiler plate to a category. Any time a specification is in the category, the boiler plate will appear in a Text section. The second way is to reference the boiler plate while you are in a Text section. When you reference the boiler plate, it will not matter what category the specification is listed under.

To assign boiler plates to categories, you must have the boiler plate opened, then choose *Utilities/Boiler Plates/Assign Boiler Plates*. The system displays the Boiler Plate Setup screen (figure 3). On this screen you choose the category, sub-category, and business unit to assign the boiler plate to. Then you can choose the specification types and sections that the boiler plate will appear in. Click the *Assign* button and the system assigns the boiler plate to all the specifications under the chosen category, sub-category, and business unit.

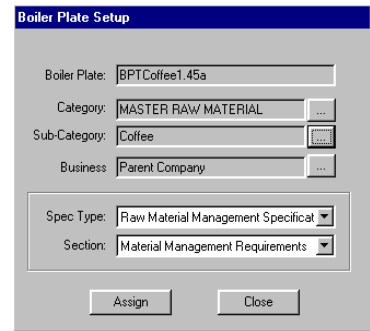


Figure 3

To assign a boiler plate to one specification, open the specification's Text

section. Click your right mouse button and choose *Reference Text*. The system displays the Reference Assignments screen (figure 4). Click on the boiler plate, then click on the *OK* button. The system assigns the boiler plate to the specification.

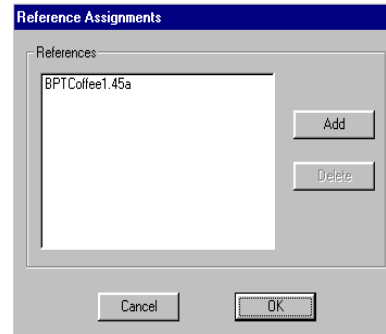


Figure 4

Whenever a boiler plate is updated, Xspec automatically updates all the specification that use the boiler plate!

How Do I Get More Information?

If you would like more information on Xspec version 4.0, please contact your IMAS sales representative at 800-977-3248.



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