



# RELEASE NOTES

## DATA STANDARDS

PUBLICATION: MARCH 27, 2025



# Table of Contents

Introduction ..... 3

AutoCarevip.com ..... 3

Documentation ..... 3

Data Standards Change Notification Policy ..... 3

Database Publication Schedule ..... 4

Data Standards General Information ..... 5

Subscription Information ..... 5

Support ..... 5

General Notifications..... 6

New ACES® 5.0, PIES® 8.0, VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, PAdb, and Brand Table Versions  
    Announced for Industry Review! ..... 6

PIES® Version 7.2 XSD Update – Rev 4..... 7

[UPDATE] ASCII and MYSQL File Type Sunset Date ..... 7

API is Here!..... 8

Data Standards Reference Database Publication Frequency Changes – January 2025  
    ..... 9

NEW Expanded Vehicle Coverage Roadmap Update ..... 9

NEW Technology Product License Agreement ..... 10

NEW Subscription Code ..... 10

Reference Database Notifications..... 11

Vehicle Configuration database (VCdb)..... 11

Qualifier database (Qdb)..... 13

Product Classification database (PCdb) ..... 15

Product Attribute database (PAdb)

16

Brand Table

17

## Introduction

The Data Standards release notes provide insight into current and future changes to the Data Standards (ACES®, PIES®, IPO and iShop®) and their supporting databases (VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, PAdb and Brand table). Release notes are made available for each Data Standards publication.

### AutoCarevip.com

The single platform for all things Data Standards, including:

- **Maintenance and Downloads** of the Data Standards supporting relational databases (VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, PAdb and Brand Table).
- **Documentation** for the Data Standards and their supporting databases.
- **Events** related to the Data Standards user community, including database publication dates, workgroups, trainings, webinars, conferences and more!
- **Discussions and Workgroup Cases** around the Data Standards.

### Documentation

Looking for the data standards technical documentation? Visit the [Auto Care Digital Hub](#)!

### Data Standards Change Notification Policy

[Notification Policy](#)

## Database Publication Schedule

The publication cycle (new database content updates) for the Data Standards reference databases are as follows:

- **VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, and PAdb**
  - **\*Monthly** – Manual Downloads through AutoCarevip.com
    - **Formats:** JSON, Access2007, SQLServer2008 R2, MySQL, ASCII\*
  - **Daily** – API
    - **Formats:** JSON

*\*This format will be no longer offered starting March 2026.*

- **Brand Table**
  - **Daily** – Manual Downloads through AutoCarevip.com
    - **Formats:** JSON, ASCII
  - **Daily** – API
    - **Formats:** JSON

\*Monthly publications for manual download occur on a Thursday of each month. Specific publications dates can be found on the Events page within Autocarevip.com [here](#). Monthly publications dates are subject to change.

## Data Standards General Information

Looking for more information on the Auto Care Association's data standards? Please visit our [website](#) for details.

## Subscription Information

Looking for more information on data standards subscriptions? Please visit our [subscriptions page](#) for details!

## Support

Data Standards Subscription & Billing Questions	<a href="mailto:techbilling@autocare.org">techbilling@autocare.org</a>
Data Standards & Vehicle Information Portal (VIP) Questions	<a href="mailto:technology@autocare.org">technology@autocare.org</a> <a href="#">Contact Us</a> (within VIP)

Having trouble accessing Autocarevip.com? Contact [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).

## General Notifications

### New ACES® 5.0, PIES® 8.0, VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, PAdb, and Brand Table Versions Announced for Industry Review!

**Announcement Date:** 3/27/2025

**Implementation Date:** 3/26/2026

The Technology Standards Committee (TSC) and the Auto Care Association are pleased to announce the following new Schema Versions for a **one-year industry review**:

- ACES® 5.0
- PIES® 8.0
- VCdb 2.0
- Qdb 2.0
- PCdb 2.0
- PAdb 5.0
- Brand Table 2.0

The one-year industry review period is a time for users to review, test, and implement these new versions into their systems before these versions become official. Additionally, users are asked to report any errors found in these new versions to [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).

These new schema versions will be implemented and become official versions on **March 26, 2026**

**For detailed information on these new versions, click [here](#).**

## PIES® Version 7.2 XSD Update – Rev 4

**Announcement Date:** 2/27/2025

Minor errors have been discovered in PIES® version 7.2 XSD, which should have been implemented in PIES® version 7.0. These have been implemented, and an updated version is now available [here](#) in Auto Care Digital Hub.

- Removed coded values from Elements "ACESApplications", "HazardousMaterialCode", and "PAdbAttribute". The coded values are in the PIES® coded values tables within the PCdb.
- Removed coded values for the attribute "UOM" for Element "Duration" in the Digital Asset Segment.
- The coded values are in the PIES® coded values tables within the PCdb.
- Cleaned up the code for documentation references and added missing documentation references.

## [UPDATE] ASCII and MYSQL File Type Sunset Date

**Announcement Date:** 2/19/2025

**On May 20, 2024**, Auto Care Association announced, in an effort to prepare the industry to use Auto Care's API, that it will be streamlining the file formats offered for the data standards reference databases (VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, and PAdb) for manual download by removing ASCII and MYSQL as available formats.

**However, due to industry feedback, the file format MYSQL is being retained.**

**Effective March 2026** only the following formats for manual download will be offered:

- JSON
- Microsoft Access2007
- Microsoft SQLServer2008R2
- MYSQL

If you have any questions, please contact [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).



## API is Here!

**Announcement Date:** 12/19/2024

The ACES®, PIES® and IPO reference databases (VCdb, Qdb, PCdb, PAdb, and Brand Table) currently and historically have been available to users for download through a manual download process via AutoCareVIP.com in various formats, including Access2007, ASCII, MySQL, SQLServer2008R2, and JSON. Additionally, these databases were historically published with new content monthly but were increased to a weekly cadence (except for the VCdb) in January 2023, with the goal of getting updated reference database content to users faster.

With a continued goal to increase speed and efficiencies for users around the acquisition of the ACES®, PIES®, and IPO™ reference databases, Auto Care Association announced in May 2024 that an application programming interface (API) would become available to users in November 2024. Auto Care and the Auto Care Technology team are pleased to announce that an API was dev-launched in November 2024 to select users and is now available to the entire industry!

**The API, which is in JSON format, allows users to:**

- Download updated reference database content as often as daily!
- Download complete database tables and/or updates (changes) to the database tables
- Automate IT processes for smoother, hands-off data exchange, creating workflow efficiencies.

Auto Care will continue to make the reference databases available for manual download through AutoCareVIP.com in the formats Access2007, ASCII, MySQL, SQLServer2008R2, and JSON. However, the frequency of getting manual database updates is being reduced from weekly to monthly (except Brand Table, which will remain daily), beginning January 2025. The dates of these publications are posted on the [events page](#) on AutoCarevip.com.

Documentation can be found [here](#)

Want to set up a time to talk about the API? Book time with us [here](#) (Select option "API Support")

Have questions or technical issues to report? Contact us [here](#).

## Data Standards Reference Database Publication Frequency Changes – January 2025

**Announcement Date:** 12/19/2024

On May 23, 2024, Auto Care announced, beginning January 2025, that they will be streamlining the publication frequency on manual downloads through AutoCareVIP.com for the Qdb, PCdb and PAdb from weekly to monthly, in an effort to prepare the industry to use API's to acquire the data standards reference databases, which is now available! The API provides users the ability to acquire database updates on a daily basis. Updates to the Brand Table for manual download will remain daily.

If you have any questions, please contact [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).

## NEW Expanded Vehicle Coverage Roadmap Update

**Announcement Date:** 8/29/2024

VCdb is the industry's source for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles, powersports, configurations and attributes for vehicles sold in North and Latin America. The Auto Care Association team has worked to ensure the most coverage of vehicle data in the Latin American region, which has a car parc with an ever-aging VIO, resulting in more opportunities for parts and services. Parts manufacturers have incomparable coverage through the VCdb, enabling them to sell more parts into more markets. The Latin American data expansion project, launched at this year's Auto Care Connect event in early May, aims to cover over 90% of the region from Canada to Argentina, with an anticipated completion date in late 2024.

"These updates essentially empower businesses to access data at the speed of light, promoting faster transactions, increased product sales, and reduced returns," said Jonathan Larsen, vice president, digital products and standards, Auto Care Association.

As these updates begin to launch, the Auto Care Data Standards and technology team will provide documentation across its Digital Hub, autocare.org website, Auto Care VIP portal, release notes, and other publications. Data Standards subscribers can also anticipate a VIP training series to guide users through the transition. VIP users are also reminded that the platform is the hub for submitting change requests to the current databases to modify existing records, remove and/or add new records, and access different events related to the data standards, including workgroups, trainings, webinars and conferences.

The first vehicles added to the VCdb for the following new LATAM regions began in August: Bahamas / Barbados / French Guiana / Guyana / Jamaica / Puerto Rico / Suriname / Trinidad and Tobago.

To learn more about the Auto Care Association's technology and data standards or how to subscribe, visit [autocare.org/standards](https://autocare.org/standards).

## NEW Technology Product License Agreement

**Announcement Date:** 8/6/2024

We are pleased to inform you that we have updated our license agreement for our tech subscribers. These changes aim to better serve your needs and align with current industry standards.

To review the updated terms, [click here](#).

If you have any questions or require further assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to our Technology team at [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).

Thank you for your continued partnership.

## NEW Subscription Code

**Announcement Date:** 5/23/2024

Auto Care VIP will now provide subscribers with a code that updates every year. This subscription code will enable high-quality authentication and authorization of subscriptions to protect the misuse of data standards.

If you have any questions, please contact [technology@autocare.org](mailto:technology@autocare.org).

## Reference Database Notifications

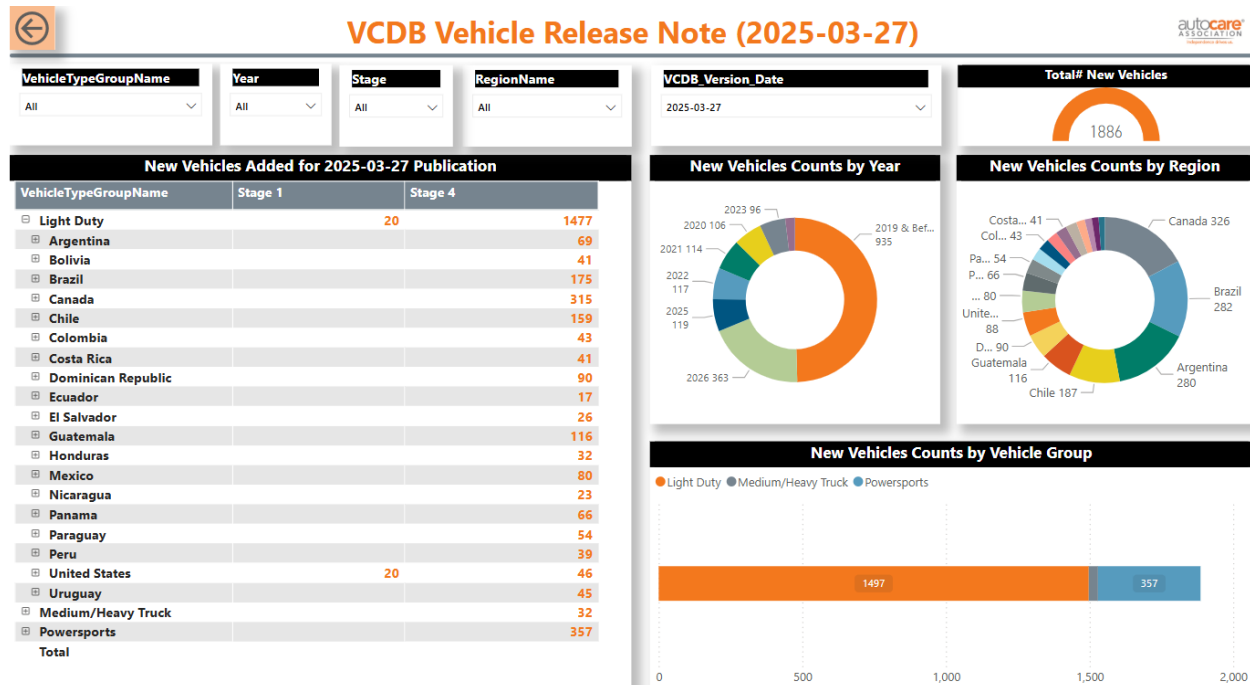
### Vehicle Configuration database (VCdb)

#### Notifications

No Notifications

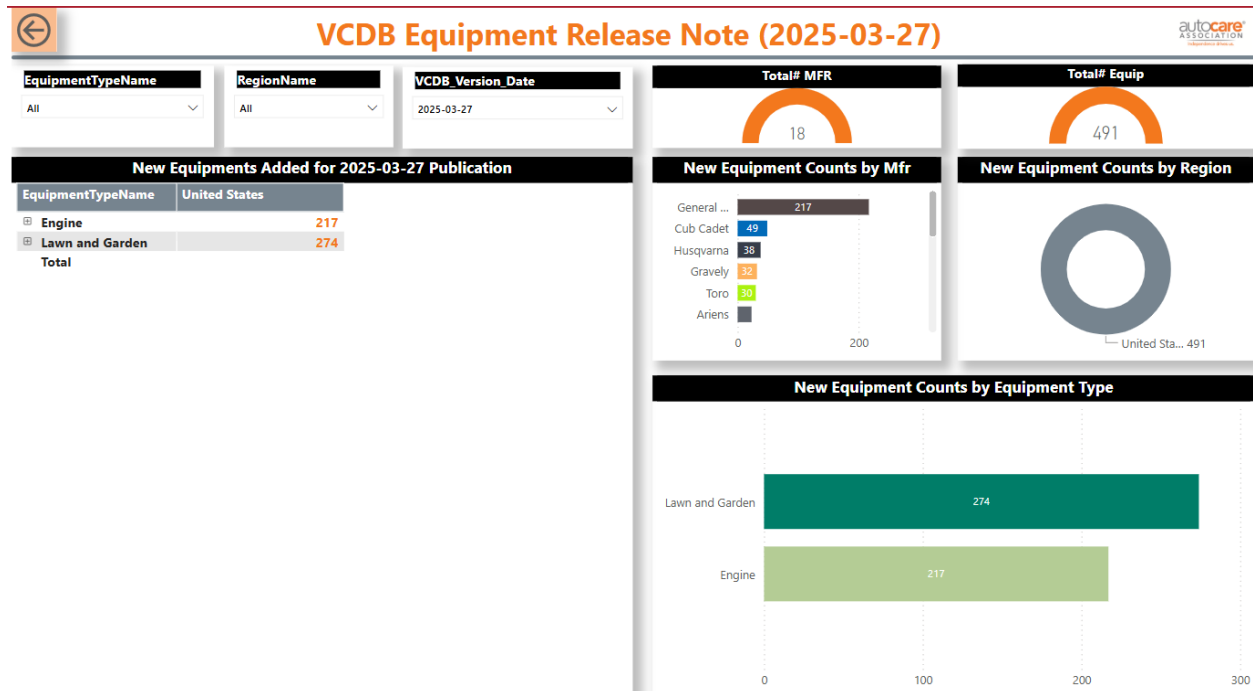
#### Content Changes

#### New Vehicles – All Regions / All Vehicle Type Groups



For the complete details on new vehicle additions for the current month in all Regions / Vehicle Type Groups, please utilize our [New Coverage](#) menu from the Auto Care Vehicle Information Portal. This interactive addition to VIP allows users to view/filter on all the current month's additions to the VCdb as well as past publications dating back to the release of the VIP site. New vehicle addition details include Vehicle Type Group, Region, Model Year, Make and Publication Stage. The Model Years are grouped as follows: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 & Before.

## New Equipment – All Regions / All Vehicle Type Groups



For the complete details on new Off Highway and Equipment additions for the current month in all Regions / Equipment Type Groups, please utilize our [New Coverage](#) menu from the Auto Care Vehicle Information Portal. This interactive addition to VIP allows users to view/filter on all the current month's additions to the VCdb as well as past publications dating back to the release of the VIP site. New equipment addition details include Equipment Type Group, Region and Manufacturer.

## Qualifier database (Qdb)

### **Notifications**

*The changes listed for the Qdb in these release notes only contain changes that require a 60 or 90-day notification per the [Data Standards Change Notification Policy](#). For complete details on what content has changed in the Qdb, please utilize the Qdb change log tables in each published version of the Qdb.*

### **Content Changes**

**Notification Type:** 30-Day

**Notification Date:** February 27, 2025

**Implementation Date:** April 24, 2025

**Database:** Qdb

**Table:** Qualifier

**Field Name:** QualifierId / QualifierText / ExampleText

- Qualifier ID 16156 with Production Code # <p1 type="idlist"/> is a functional duplicate and will be deleted. Please use qualifier ID 7565 Production Code <p1 type="idlist"/>
- Qualifier ID 19410 <p1 type="size"/> Rear Drum is a functional duplicate and will be deleted. Please use qualifier ID 12410 with <p1 type="size"/> Rear Drums
- Qualifier ID 11888 with <p1 type="size"/> Bore Master Cylinder is a functional duplicate and will be deleted. Please use qualifier ID 12250 with <p1 type="size"/> Master Cylinder Bore
- Qualifier ID 20640 with Two Pad Inspection Holes is a functional duplicate and will be deleted. Please use qualifier ID 20639 with <p1 type="num"/> Pad Inspection Hole
- Qualifier ID 15920 with Paris Rhone <p1 type="num"/> Amp Alternator is a functional duplicate and will be deleted. Please use qualifier ID 10987 with <p1 type="num"/> Amp <p2 type="name"/> Alternator

### Qdb change notices (ON HOLD)

The following list of deletions have been placed on hold till the Qdb workgroup discussions are completed

- Export (4204) will be deleted pending review by Qdb workgroup
- Export for Mexico (4211) will be deleted pending review by Qdb workgroup
- Export Model (22691) will be deleted pending review by Qdb workgroup
- Export Only (19461) will be deleted pending review by Qdb workgroup
- Up to Chassis # <p1 type="idlist"/> (10100) will be deleted, please use Before Chassis # <p1 type="idlist"/> (1496)
- From Chassis #(s) <p1 type="idlist"/> (4650) will be deleted, please use After Chassis # <p1 type="idlist"/> (1154)
- To <p1 type="date"/> (9775) will be deleted, please use Before <p1 type="date"/> (1494)

## Product Classification database (PCdb)

### **Notifications**

*The changes listed for the PCdb in these release notes only contain changes that require a 60 or 90-day notification per the [Data Standards Change Notification Policy](#). For complete details on what content has changed in the PCdb, please utilize the PCdb change log tables in each published version of the PCdb.*

### **Content Changes**

**Notification Type:** 90-Day

**Notification Date:** February 27, 2025

**Implementation Date:** May 29, 2025

#### **[Database Content Project 1069: How to represent "Wiper Blades" in the PCdb](#)**

See attached approved changes.



## Product Attribute database (PAdb)

### **Notifications**

*The changes listed for the PAdb in these release notes only contain changes that require a 60 or 90-day notification.*

### **Content Changes**

*No Notifications*

## Brand Table

### **Notifications**

*The changes listed for the Brand Table in these release notes only contain changes that require a 60 or 90-day notification.*

### **Content Changes**

*No Notifications*