

## Implementation and Application

The common character set must be used in certain specific cases in an R/3 implementation with multi-codepage capability. This pertains particularly to areas of the R/3 System which are language independent. The areas of cross application, accounting, logistics, and human resources all have cases where common character set rules are to be followed.

### Codepage-Independent Data

Specific data to be displayed or changed by users with different codepages must use the common character set. There are three main reasons why certain data must be maintained using the common character set.

- Table sorting must have identical results when accessing data from different codepages.
- Users must be able to specify the access criteria for a table regardless of the codepage. This would not be possible if a character in the table was not defined in the codepage that they were currently using to access the system.
- The field is defined as language independent.

## Application Areas

- Customizing Elements** For all customizing entries where the user can define completely new table entries, the table key must be restricted to the common character set. Examples include global settings such as abbreviations for countries, currencies, units of measurements, and calendars.
- Descriptive Fields** The description for the organizational elements must also be maintained using the common character set if they are to be accessed globally by multiple languages requiring multiple codepages. The following fields are examples in each of the application areas. Depending upon the R/3 implementation, there are other cases where the common character set rule must be followed.
- Accounting: group company, company code, controlling area, bank
  - Logistics: plant, storage location, purchasing organization, purchasing group
  - Human Resources: plant selection.
- Matchcodes** All fields used for matchcode search can only contain characters of the common character set if the matchcode is to be used by multiple codepages. For example, to search for a specific customer in one city via matchcode, it must be possible to enter the city name in the matchcode. If the city name contains characters which are not available to the enduser due to operating system restrictions of the frontend, it becomes impossible to enter the symbol and to search for the given city. The city of the customer in this case must not contain characters that can not be entered by every user. If it can not be guaranteed that all data in the fields for matchcode contains only characters from the common character set, at least the data of the own language can still be found. But no general prediction is possible for foreign texts. In many cases a matchcode selection can be defined language-dependent. For example, master data (e.g. G/L account or material no.) are language-dependent and an R/3 user will search via matchcode in the language according to the frontend and application server codepage. The key patterns must always be entered case sensitive. (The former translation of matchcode characters to uppercase is switched off for all non-transparent matchcodes.)
- Addresses** An address must also be maintained using the common character set. If it is necessary to have an address in a local language and character set, this must be entered additionally as an alternative address. Therefore, in a multi-codepage capable R/3 System different versions of an address can exist.