

# FORMAT

```
FORMAT [(rep)] parameter...
```

## Function

The FORMAT statement is used to specify input and output parameter settings. Settings specified with a FORMAT statement override (at compilation time) default settings in effect for the session that have been set by a GLOBALS command, SET GLOBALS statement, or by the Natural administrator. These settings may in turn be overridden by parameters specified in a DISPLAY, INPUT, PRINT, WRITE, WRITE TITLE, or WRITE TRAILER statement.

The settings remain in effect until the end of a program or until another FORMAT statement is encountered.

A FORMAT statement does not generate any executable code in the Natural program. It is not executed in dependence of the logical flow of a program. It is evaluated during program compilation in order to set parameters for compiling DISPLAY, WRITE, and INPUT statements. The settings defined with a FORMAT statement are applicable to all DISPLAY, WRITE, and INPUT statements which follow. Multiple FORMAT statements are permitted within a program, but only one per report.

## Report Specification - *rep*

The notation (*rep*) may be used to specify the identification of the report for which the FORMAT statement is applicable. A value in the range 0 - 31 or a logical name which has been assigned using the DEFINE PRINTER statement may be specified. If (*rep*) is not specified, the FORMAT statement will be applicable to the first report (report 0).

## Parameters

The parameters can be specified in any order and must be separated by one or more spaces. A single entry must not be split between two statement lines.

Field sensitive parameter settings applied here will only be regarded for variable fields used in a INPUT, WRITE, DISPLAY or PRINT statement of the selected report. They do not apply for text-constants used in any of the mentioned statements.

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 VARI (A4)      INIT <'1234'>          /*      Output
END-DEFINE           /*      Produced
FORMAT PM=I          /*      -----
WRITE 'Text'          VARI                /*      Text 4321
WRITE 'Text' (PM=I)    VARI                /*      txeT 4321
END
```

### Parameters that can be specified with the FORMAT statement

See the section Session Parameters in the Natural Parameter Reference documentation for a detailed description of the parameters which may be used.

| <b>Applicable Parameters</b> |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AD                           | Attribute Definition                |
| AL                           | Alphanumeric Length for Output      |
| BX                           | Box Definition                      |
| CD                           | Color Definition                    |
| DF                           | Date Format                         |
| EM                           | Edit Mask                           |
| ES                           | Empty Line Suppression              |
| FC                           | Filler Character                    |
| FL                           | Floating Point Mantissa Length      |
| GC                           | Filler Character for Group Heading  |
| HC                           | Header Centering                    |
| HW                           | Heading Width                       |
| IC                           | Insertion Character                 |
| IP                           | Input Prompting Text                |
| IS                           | Identical Suppress                  |
| KD                           | Key Definition                      |
| LC                           | Leading Characters                  |
| LS                           | Line Size                           |
| MC                           | Multiple-Value Field Count          |
| MP                           | Maximum Number of Pages of a Report |
| MS                           | Manual Skip                         |
| NL                           | Numeric Length for Output           |
| PC                           | Periodic Group Count                |
| PM                           | Print Mode                          |
| PS                           | Page Size                           |
| SF                           | Spacing Factor                      |
| SG                           | Sign Position                       |
| TC                           | Trailing Characters                 |
| UC                           | Underlining Character               |
| ZP                           | Zero Printing                       |

## Example

```
/* EXAMPLE 'FMTEX1:' FORMAT
*****
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 EMPLOY-VIEW VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
2 NAME
2 CITY
2 POST-CODE
2 COUNTRY
END-DEFINE
*****
FORMAT AL=7      /* ALPHANUMERIC FIELD OUTPUT LENGTH
        FC=+      /* FILLER CHARACTER FOR FIELD HEADER
        GC=*      /* FILLER CHARACTER FOR GROUP HEADER
        HC=L      /* HEADER LEFT JUSTIFIED
        IC=<<    /* INSERT CHARACTERS
        IS=ON     /* IDENTICAL SUPPRESS ON
        TC=>>   /* TRAILING CHARACTERS
        UC==     /* UNDERLINE CHARACTER
        ZP=OFF   /* ZERO PRINT OFF
*****
LIMIT 5
READ EMPLOY-VIEW BY NAME
    DISPLAY NOTITLE NAME 3X CITY 3X POST-CODE 3X COUNTRY
END-READ
*****
END
```

| NAME++++++  | CITY++++++  | POSTAL++++  | COUNTRY+++<br>ADDRESS |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| =====       | =====       | =====       | =====                 |
| <<ABELLAN>> | <<MADRID >> | <<28014 >>  | <<E >>                |
| <<ACHIESO>> | <<DERBY >>  | <<DE3 4TR>> | <<UK >>               |
| <<ADAM >>   | <<JOIGNY >> | <<89300 >>  | <<F >>                |
| <<ADKINSO>> | <<BEDFORD>> | <<1730 >>   | <<USA>>               |
|             | <<FRAMING>> | <<1701 >>   |                       |