

POS - Field Identification Function

Format/length: I4

The system function `POS(field-name)` contains the internal identification of the field whose name is specified with the system function.

`POS(field-name)` may be used to identify a specific field, regardless of its position in a map. This means that the sequence and number of fields in a map may be changed, but `POS(field-name)` will still uniquely identify the same field. With this, for example, you need only a single `REINPUT` statement to make the field to be MARKed dependent on the program logic.

Example:

```

DECIDE ON FIRST VALUE OF ...
  VALUE ...
    COMPUTE #FIELDX = POS(FIELD1)
  VALUE ...
    COMPUTE #FIELDX = POS(FIELD2)
  ...
END-DECIDE
...
REINPUT ... MARK #FIELDX

```

If the field specified with `POS` is an array, a specific occurrence must be specified; for example, "`POS(FIELDX(5))`". `POS` cannot be applied to an array range.

POS and *CURS-FIELD

The system function `POS(field-name)` may be used in conjunction with the Natural system variable `*CURS-FIELD` to make the execution of certain functions dependent on which field the cursor is currently positioned in.

`*CURS-FIELD` contains the internal identification of the field in which the cursor is currently positioned; it cannot be used by itself, but only in conjunction with `POS(field-name)`. You may use them to check if the cursor is currently positioned in a specific field and have processing performed depending on that condition.

Example:

```

IF *CURS-FIELD = POS(FIELDX)
  MOVE *CURS-FIELD TO #FIELDY
END-IF
...
REINPUT ... MARK #FIELDY

```

Note:

The values of `*CURS-FIELD` and `POS(field-name)` serve only as internal identifications of the fields and cannot be used for arithmetic operations.

The value returned by `POS(field-name)` for an occurrence of an X-array (an array for which at least one bound in at least one dimension is specified as expandable) may change after the number of occurrences for a dimension of the array has been changed using the `EXPAND`, `RESIZE` or `REDUCE` statements.

Note for Natural RPC:

If `*CURS-FIELD` and `POS(field-name)` refer to a context variable, the resulting information can only be used within the same conversation.

See also Dialog Design, Field Sensitive Processing and Simplifying Programming, in the Natural Programming Guide.