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NASSCO PACP© Standard Database

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One of the most important parts of the Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program© is the development of a standard database for exchange of PACP© data, otherwise known as the PACP© Standard Database. The PACP© Standard Database is created in Microsoft ACCESS relational database format. A relational database means that various tables of information within the database can be "related" or associated with other tables using unique identification numbers or characters. Relational databases are more efficient in storing large numbers of data records than flat file or worksheet formats. When you open the PACP© Standard Database you will see a series of tables. The two most important tables are the "Inspections" table and the "Conditions" table. The Inspections table contains the information entered in the "Header" section of the PACP© data entry, such as manhole number, address, and pipe diameter. The Conditions table contains the information entered in the "Details" section of the PACP© data entry, including observations and defects such as taps,

debris, and cracks. The Conditions table data is "related" to the respective "Inspections" table data, although the data is stored in two separate tables. Other tables within the PACP© Standard Database define valid values for PACP© inspections. For example, the Valid Codes table define what observation and defect codes can be entered. The Valid Materials and Valid Lining Methods tables define what values can be used for coding pipe materials and coding lining materials. This allows use of the PACP© data for many purposes since only PACP© defined data entries are allowed in the PACP© Standard Database. Otherwise the database would be contaminated by non-PACP© codes and could not be used in PACP© applications without first removing the PACP© codes from the database. A very important feature of the PACP© software vendor certification is the verification that the vendor's software has the ability to export CCTV data out to the PACP© Standard Database. Once the PACP© data is exported to the vendor neutral PACP© Standard Database, the data is no longer specific to any

one vendor. The data can then be combined with data from other vendors to meet the needs of the customer. The PACP© Standard Database is freely available to use by anyone, and is intended to provide the ability to exchange PACP© data in a vendor-neutral environment. Certification of vendors is important since this assures the software collects the CCTV data in accordance with PACP© rules and can export the data to the PACP© Standard Database format. By using software from PACP© certified vendors to insure the data is entered correctly, the user will greatly enhance the accuracy of the data. The PACP© Standard Database allows data from many vendors and projects to be integrated in different applications.

Go to www.nassco.org and click on PACP Certified Software Vendors!

