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# **Contractor Package Version 20231011 Addendum 1: Key Changes in 2023 Autumn Release of Standards and Contractor Package**

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## Introduction

The following document outlines several recent changes in the Contractor Package Long Table template that will impact mapping, data capture and validation. Details of these changes and the associated rationale have been documented and can be provided upon request from [TEI\\_Mail@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TEI_Mail@gov.bc.ca).

This addendum covers:

1. **New Concatenated Fields for Selected Terrain and Ecosystem Attributes**
2. **Removing Domains from Fields for Data Entry**
3. **New User Defined Domains table (TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Domains)**
4. **Removal of Unsupported Ecosystem Fields in Contractor Package Long Table**

### 1. New Concatenated Fields for Selected Terrain and Ecosystem Attributes

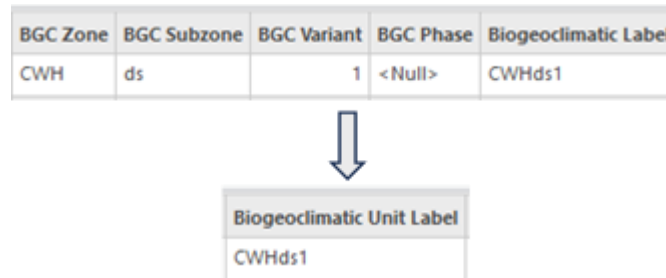
Several groupings of related category and subcategory terrain and ecosystem fields have been replaced with single concatenated fields. This update targets fields where interpretation of the subcategory letter code depends directly on the associated parent category code, particularly in cases where a single subcategory letter code was reused and assigned different meaning based on the parent category code. This improves data integrity and removes ambiguity by allowing one-to-one matching between code and definition. This also reduces the total number of fields in the Contractor Package, better aligns Long Table data collection with the published Short Table version and simplifies data dictionaries for data creators and users.

In general, the **VLD** fields that were generated in the scripted validation process and populated by concatenated codes, have been replaced with **LBL** fields so that the domains of valid combinations are enforced at the time of data capture. **NOTE:** Fields have not been removed from the operational master data so that no net loss of data from legacy projects will occur. Biogeoclimatic unit codes, site disturbance codes, sensitive ecosystem codes and geomorphological process codes are impacted by these changes.

#### BGC\_LBL

The biogeoclimatic (BGC) unit fields represented by BGC Zone (*BGC\_ZONE*), BGC Subzone (*BGC\_SUBZON*), BGC Variant (*BGC\_VRT*), BGC Phase (*BGC\_PHASE*) and BGC Validation (*BGC\_VLD*) have been replaced by a single Biogeoclimatic Unit Label (*BGC\_LBL*) field.

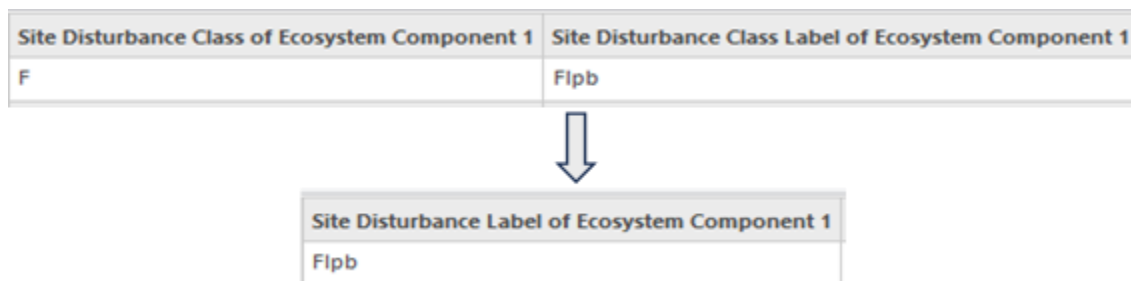
Example usage of new **BGC\_LBL** field compared to the previous version to record “Coastal Western Hemlock/Dry Submaritime/Southern”.



## DIST\_LBL#

The site disturbance fields represented by Disturbance Class (**DISTCLS\_#**), Disturbance Subclass (**DISTSCLS\_#**), Disturbance Subsubclass (**DISSSCLS\_#**) and Disturbance Class Validation (**DISTCLS\_VLD#**) have been replaced by a single Site Disturbance Label (**DIST\_LBL#**) field. The Site Disturbance Label contains a string of character codes representing the site disturbance label, which is a concatenation of Site Disturbance class, subclass and subsubclass codes.

Example usage of new **DIST\_LBL1** field compared to the previous version to record “Fires: burning of logging slash: piled and burned”.



## SECL\_LBL#

The sensitive ecosystem fields represented by Sensitive Ecosystem Class (**SECL\_#**), Sensitive Ecosystem Subclass (**SESUBCL\_#**) and Sensitive Ecosystem Class Validation (**SECL\_VLD#**) have been replaced by a single Sensitive Ecosystem Label (**SECL\_LBL#**) field. The Sensitive Ecosystem Label contains a string of character codes representing the sensitive ecosystem label which is a concatenation of Sensitive Ecosystem class codes and subclass codes.

Example usage of new **SECL\_LBL1** field compared to the previous version to record “Grasslands: shrublands”.

| Sensitive Ecosystem Class of Ecosystem Component 1 | Sensitive Ecosystem Class Label of Ecosystem Component 1 |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| GR                                                 | GR sh                                                    |



| Sensitive Ecosystem Label of Ecosystem Component 1 |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| GRsh                                               |

### **GEOPRO\_#, GEOPRO\_Q#, and GEOPRO\_COM**

The geomorphological process fields represented by Geomorphological Process Class (*GEOP\_#*), Process Initiation Zone Indicator (*GEOP\_INZ#X*), Process Subclass (*GEOP\_SCM#X*), and Process Qualifier (*GEOP\_Q#*) have been replaced by the Geomorphological Process and Subclass (***GEOPRO\_#***) and Geomorphological Process Qualifier (***GEOPRO\_Q#***) fields. Additionally, a Geomorphological Process Comment (***GEOPRO\_COM***) field will be added to record any pertinent information specifically related to geomorphological processes. This update represents a moderate change to the way geomorphological process information is recorded and stored but does not impact the underlying information interpreted and communicated by the mapper.

*Example usage of new **GEOPRO\_1** and **GEOPRO\_Q1** fields compared to the previous version to record “Rapid Mass Movement Initiation Zone: Debris Flow”. Note usage of hat (^) to indicate initiation zone at the Subclass level.*

| 1st Geomorphological Process Class | 1st Process Qualifier | 1st Process Initiation Zone Indicator for Subclass 1 | 1st Process Subclass 1 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| R                                  | <Null>                | ^                                                    | d                      |



| 1st Geomorphological Process and Subclass | 1st Geomorphological Process Qualifier |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| R^d                                       | <Null>                                 |

## 2. Removing Domains from Fields for Data Entry

### Note

Domains are used in Contractor Package Long Table to ensure valid field values are entered at the time of data collection. Removal of Domains will allow the user to enter invalid codes into the attribute table. Users who opt to remove Domains are responsible for the accuracy of field values and for validating data prior to submission.

The Terrestrial Ecosystem Information (TEI) Unit recognizes that data entry using Domains may feel inefficient for experienced mappers who are used to typing terrain and ecosystem codes into fields within the attribute table during a mapping project. In response, instructions are provided below to remove Domains from selected fields in Long Table. Processing instructions are provided for use in ESRI's ArcMap, but similar processes exist in other GIS applications.

Step 1: Choose the desired field with a Domain

Field Properties

Name: SURFM\_1

Alias: Surficial Material of Terrain Component 1

Type: String

Display

☐ Turn field off

☐ Make field read only

☐ Highlight field

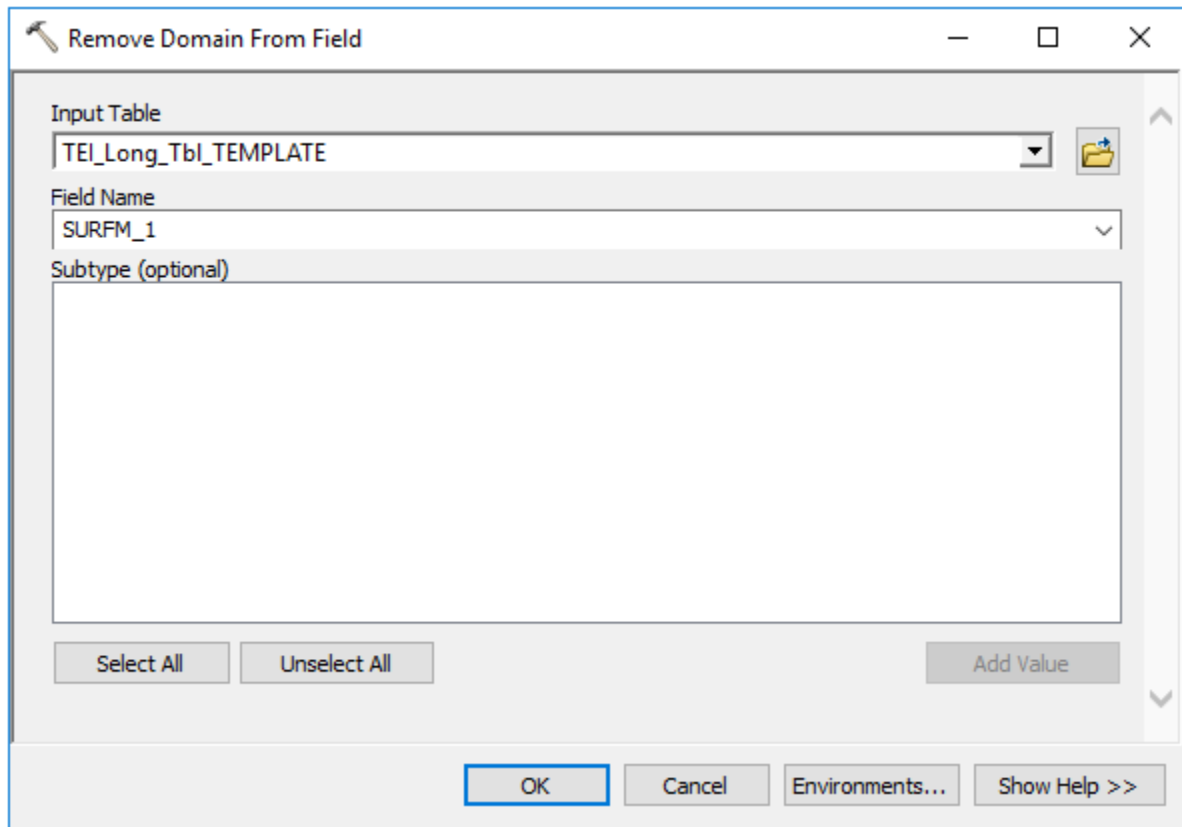
Number Format: ...

Data

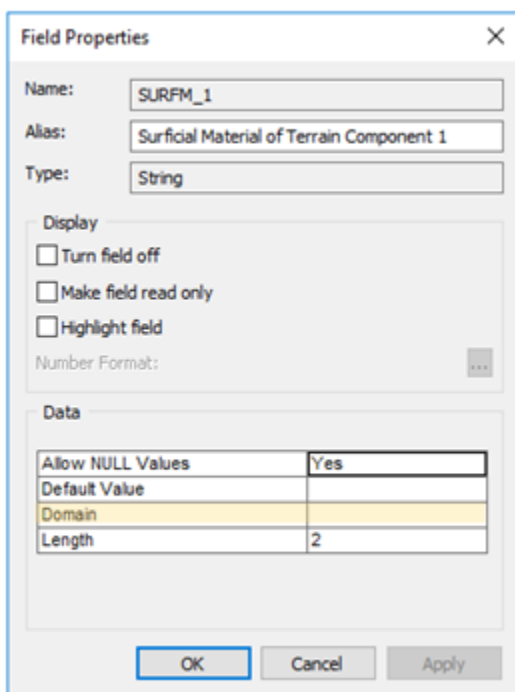
|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Allow NULL Values | Yes                |
| Default Value     |                    |
| Domain            | Surficial_Material |
| Length            | 2                  |

OK Cancel Apply

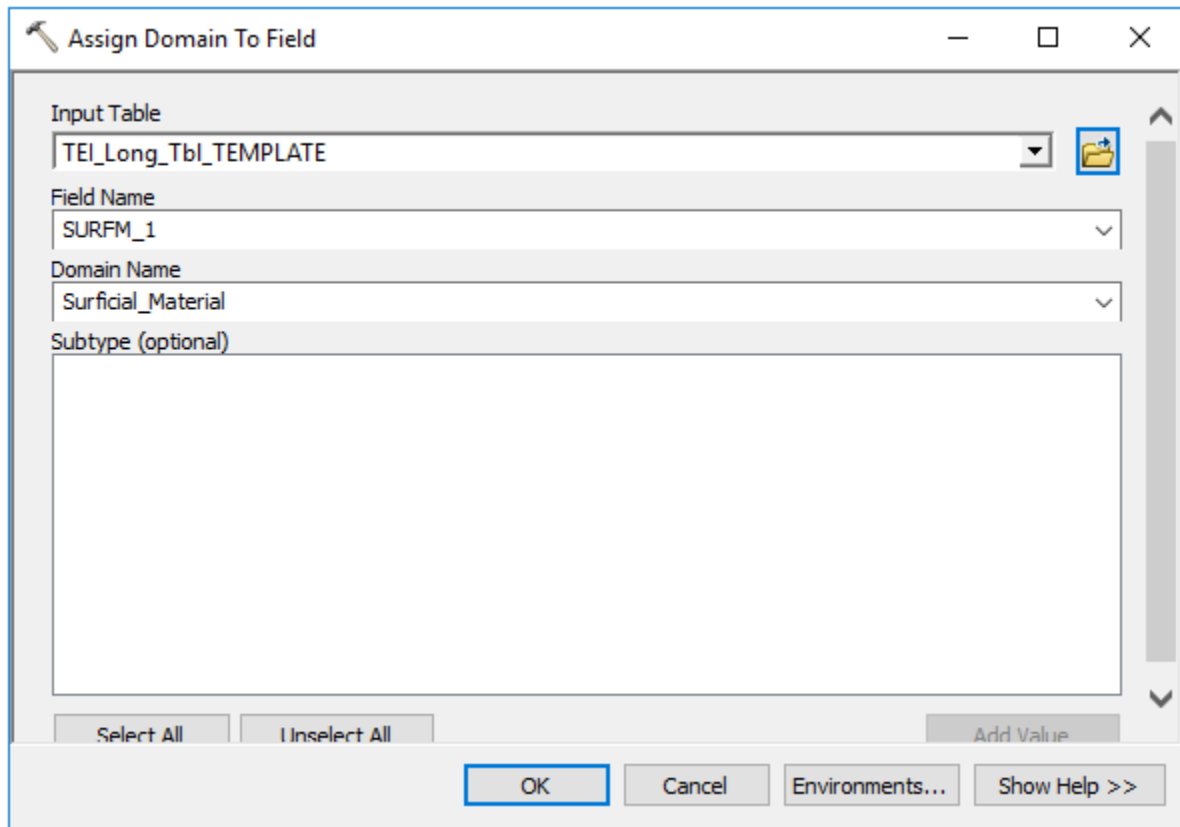
Step 2: Run the “Remove Domain from Field” tool, select the desired field



Step 3: Confirm Domain has been removed successfully



Step 4 (Optional): Reassign Domain using “Assign Domain to Field” tool should the user wish to restore Domain functionality



Assign Domain To Field

Input Table  
TEI\_Long\_Tbl\_TEMPLATE

Field Name  
SURFM\_1

Domain Name  
Surficial\_Material

Subtype (optional)

Select All Unselect All Add Value

OK Cancel Environments... Show Help >>

### 3. New User Defined Domains table (TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Domains)

User defined domains allow mappers to add new terrain and ecosystem codes and descriptions to their mapping project as new items within a selected domain. The TEI Unit strongly recommends using the established ecosystem codes for use in TEI mapping projects, but recognizes that – in specific circumstances – new codes may be required to adequately describe terrestrial ecosystems. Usage of new codes for TEI mapping projects is contingent on review and approval by the TEI Unit and Ministry of Forests Regional Research Vegetation (and BEC) Ecologist(s), see [Terrestrial Ecosystem Information Digital Data Submission Standard, Version 3.0](#) for additional information.

A new table titled *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Domains* has been added to the *Stage\_1.gdb* within the Contractor Package and the *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Fields* table has been simplified. Users can now use the *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Domains* table to record all non-standard domains applicable to data input into the *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Data* table. Additionally, metadata for any non-standard fields applied to the *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Data* table should be recorded in the simplified *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Fields* table. This change will make adding domain values for user defined fields more straightforward. Formerly, the *TEI\_Usr\_Dfn\_Fields* table was used to store metadata about both user defined fields and domains. The schema of this table was not easy to comprehend and often misused, leading to the submission of incomplete or erroneous user defined data.

#### 4. Removal of Unsupported Ecosystem Fields in Contractor Package Long Table

Several unsupported fields have been removed from the contractor package Long Table feature class. These fields remain in the operational data to house legacy data.

##### **Assumed Modifiers (*SITEAM\_S#A*, *SITEAM\_S#B*, *SITEAM\_S#C*, *SITEAM\_S#D*)**

Up to four assumed modifiers were previously assigned to each ecosystem unit to describe the typical environmental conditions of the site series in the landscape. However, with updates to site series within the provincial Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system and regional Land Management Handbooks (LMHs), these assumed modifiers were not updated or retained. As such, the use of site modifier fields (*SITE\_M#A*, *SITE\_M#B*) fields to describe the site conditions of the site series in the landscape during mapping is currently the standard approach. Up to two site modifiers (e.g., *SITE\_M#A* and *SITE\_M#B*) can be used per site series, describing variations in topography, moisture, soil and soil characteristics (RIC 1998).

##### **Site Series Mapcode Identifier (*MC\_ID#*)**

The site series mapcode identifier fields were intended to contain a unique ID number for the combination of BGC unit, site series, and map code. These ID numbers have not been assigned to each ecosystem unit, therefore these fields are not required at this time and have been removed.