

Truck Stops Plus

To set up your shippers & consignees in the Truck Stops Plus template file you would create a new data set and call it Shippers and Consignees in a new blank .est trip file and then make the changes permanent by saving your new .est trip file as a .stt template file.

As a matter of fact, anytime you want to make anything permanent in your Truck Stops Plus template file, just save it as a .stt template file and it will remain permanently in your Truck Stops Plus template file. Likewise, you can also remove anything you previously saved permanently in your Truck Stops Plus template file by first removing it and then saving it as a .stt template file.

From now on, every time you go to a new shipper or consignee, create a GPS trail as you are entering or exiting the shipper or consignee so that you can go back at the end of your workday to place a pushpin at the precise exact location of your shipper and consignee.

To do this, at the end of your workday, without first closing your current working trip file, from the desktop double click the Truck Stops Plus template shortcut. A new blank .est trip file opens up. Using the working trip file that you used earlier to create the GPS trail of your shipper or consignee as a reference, carefully place a pushpin in the new blank .est trip file you just opened up at the precise exact location of your shipper or consignee.

Next, create a new data set after you place your first pushpin by right clicking the pushpin and choosing properties from the quick menu. When the properties dialogue box appears, click the New Data Set button. A New Data Set dialogue box appears. Type in Shippers & Consignees and then click OK. Click OK again in the properties dialogue box to exit out of there.

Next, right click the pushpin again and when the quick menu appears, choose properties one more time. At the top of the properties dialogue box in the Name Text Box, type in the name and address of your shipper or consignee, indicate whether it is a drop & hook, a live load, a live unload, or a combination there of, and also whether or not they allow overnight parking. Then click OK to exit out of the properties dialogue box.

Next, from the View menu at the top left side of the display, click Legend and Overview. The Legend and Overview pane appears on the left side of the display. Find and right click the new Shippers & Consignees data set. When the quick menu appears, choose properties. When the properties dialogue box appears, choose a pushpin symbol that you want to use to designate your shippers and consignees by clicking the down arrow below where it says Symbols and then select a new symbol to designate your shippers & consignees from the symbols drop down box.

Next, make the changes permanent by saving your new .est trip file as a .stt template file. To do this, from the File Menu, choose Save As. When the Save As dialogue box comes up, change to the .stt (map template) file format in the "save as type" box by clicking the down arrow and choosing the .stt (map template) file.

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Next, browse to the location on your file tree where your current Truck Stops Plus template file is being stored. Click the Truck Stops Plus template file and then click Save. The changes will now be made permanent and will be available the next time you open and use your Truck Stops Plus template file.

From now on, when you add new Shippers & Consignees to your Truck Stops Plus template file, you will place pushpins per the referenced location on a new blank .est trip file as previously described above. After the pushpin has carefully been placed in the correct location, right click the pushpin and choose properties from the quick menu. When the pushpin properties dialogue appears, instead of clicking the New Data Set button as previously, click the down arrow on the Data Set Name drop down box, go through the list of data sets until you locate the new Shippers & Consignees data set to select it. Next, after the Shippers & Consignees data set has been selected, click OK to exit out of the properties dialogue box. Notice that the pushpin symbol will automatically change to the pushpin symbol you previously selected.

Right click the pushpin again, and choose properties from the quick menu. When the properties dialogue box appears, type in the name and address of your shipper or consignee and all relevant information in the Name Text Box as previously described, then click OK again to exit out of the properties dialogue box.

Next, either add more shippers and consignees or possibly add any new avoid area rectangles to force Streets & Trips to route as you need it to, then save the new .est trip file as a .stt template file to make the changes you added permanent per the above already described instructions. The changes you added will be available the next time you open and use your Truck Stops Plus template file.

Before long, you will have the majority your shippers & consignees catalogued. However, I wouldn't just stop there. If I were you I would also add all your company terminals and drop lots and any low weight limit bridges, restricted routes, and low clearances you run into as well by setting up new data sets as required.