64   **Mandatory linked fields**

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Mandatory linked field considerations.

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When a field is linked and mandatory 4th Dimension not only requires the field to be filled in before the record will be accepted, but a linked record will also have to exist. If you type into a mandatory linked field 4th Dimension will alert you if the linked record does not exist and will ask you if you would like to create it. This is explained in the manual. What is not explained is that this link test will be performed regardless if you have a **LOAD LINKED RECORD** command in the input layout procedure. Also, this test is performed before the next during phase, after the field has been modified by the user and the user tabs out of the field, so the programmer cannot depend on the layout procedure to fill in that field.

4th Dimension Technical Note