

# Import file guidelines - simple

## 1 - General information

Import files should contain a list of Quantification Cycle (**Cq**) values. Depending on the instrument software that generates the data, Cq values may have alternative names such as Ct, Cp, or TOP. Cq is the official abbreviation in the Real-time PCR Data Markup Language (more info on <http://www.rdml.org>).

The qbase<sup>PLUS</sup> calculation engine is based on Cq values. Sigmoidal amplification curve data are not supported.

Import file formats can be either a tab delimited text file (.txt), a comma or semicolon separated value file (.csv) or a Microsoft Excel file (.xls). Microsoft Excel 2007 (.xlsx), OpenOffice.org Calc (.ods) and proprietary or binary instrument files are not supported.

In qbase<sup>PLUS</sup>, there are character restrictions on sample, target and run names. Only the following characters are allowed: all alphanumerical characters (0-9, a-z, A-Z), space, \_, -, \$, #, :, ^, . and the greek letter mu ( $\mu$ ). **Illegal characters** such as brackets and slashes should be removed or replaced.

## 2 - simple

Simple files are a simple, instrument independent, and self-explanatory file format that contains only the essential information which can be processed and stored in qbase<sup>PLUS</sup>. This file type may be useful if you want to import your Cq data without any annotation in a format as simple as it can get: just well ID's with their Cq values.

## 3 - simple data table format

Simple files can easily be generated in a spreadsheet program.

**Step 1:** Open a new, empty spreadsheet and add the following column headers:

- Well ID (in cell A1)
- Cq value (in cell B1)

**Step 2:** Open your data file in a spreadsheet program.

*Note* - If you imported a text file into your spreadsheet program, you need to make sure that the correct decimal separator is being used.

**Step 3:** Copy paste your well-IDs and Cq values from your data file into cell A2 and cell B2 of your new simple file, respectively. Well positions should be like A1, H12, P24. The Cq value column can contain only numerical values or empty cells.

**Step 4:** Save this file as an Excel 2003 or a delimited text file.

An example file ([simple-ExampleFile.xls](#)) can be [found](#) in the support section of the Biogazelle website.

## 4 - Import simple run files into qbase<sup>PLUS</sup>




- Step 1:** Open the experiment (  ) in which the run(s) need to be imported by double clicking it in the Project Explorer tree or by using the *Load experiment* option in the experiment context menu.
- Step 2:** Start the import wizard by clicking the *Import* button (  ) in the command bar, select *import run* and click *next*. Alternatively, right click on runs (  ) and select *Import runs ...* from the context menu (Figure 1).



Figure 1

- Step 3:** Select the experiment in which the run needs to be imported in the top part of the import wizard window. By default the active experiment is already selected. Browse for the file(s) to be imported by clicking the *Browse* button and select the simple file format from the *File type* drop down list (Figure 2). Optionally, the run name can be altered in the *Run name* text box.

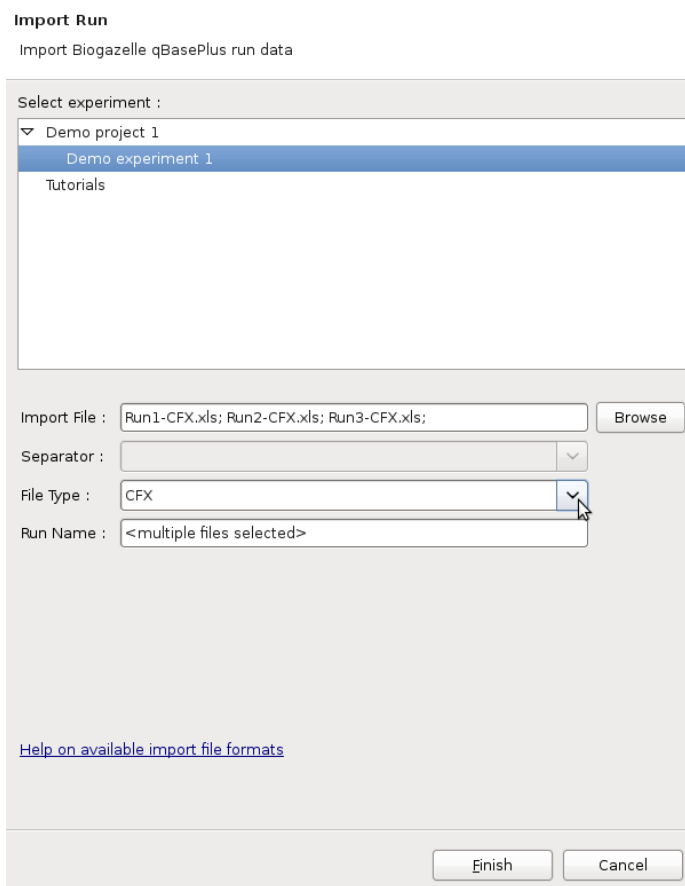


Figure 2

**Note** - Runs can only be imported into loaded (open) experiments. Closed (unloaded) experiments are not available for selection.

*Note* - Simultaneous (batch) import of multiple files, as selected in the *Browse* window, is only available for fully licensed customers or users with a temporary demo license. Users with a free license can only import runs one by one.

**Step 4:** Click *Finish* to complete the import run wizard. You will see that the imported runs are added to your experiment. An individual window is opened for every imported run to allow editing of sample and target information. In addition, the sample and target list is automatically updated with the sample and target names that are included in the imported runs.