SB - Selection Box

Selection boxes in an `INPUT` statement are available on mainframe computers only. For other platforms, selection boxes may be defined in the map editor only.

Selection boxes can be attached to input fields. They are a comfortable alternative to help routines attached to fields, since you can code a selection box direct in your program. You do not need an extra program as with help routines.

You may define a selection box clause for every `INPUT` variable of type alpha, regardless if this field is an input or output field, or both.

The syntax is:

```
SB=operand1 [,operand1]...
```

where `operand1` represents a value operand which is used to fill up the selection box with items.

Operand	Possible Structure					Possible Formats											Referencing Permitted	Dynamic Definition
operand1	C	S	A			A											yes	no

With SB, you specify the values to be displayed within the selection box.

To assign a selection box to a field:

Specify the attribute SB for an alpha `INPUT` field in your Natural program using the following example syntax:

```
INPUT #FLD (SB='value1', #ITEM1, #ITEM2(1:3), #ITEM3(*))
```

The following topics are covered below:

- Syntactical Considerations

- Runtime Considerations

Syntactical Considerations

It is possible to assign both a selection box and a help routine to a field.

Selection boxes can be defined for every variable field in an `INPUT` statement. Exceptions are the following:

System Variables	For example: `*PROGRAM`, `*COM`
Named Constants (mainframe only)	defined with a `CONST` clause of `DEFINE DATA` statement.

In addition to the `SB` attribute, other attributes can be defined as well, for example: `AD` or `CD`.

The selection box field does not have to be modifiable, as is the case with `AD=A` or `AD=M`. In other words, it is possible to provide a selection box (and select values) even for a write-protected output field, such as `AD=O`. If you use `AD=O`, the user is forced to choose from a set of predefined values, which themselves appear in a selection box.

Runtime Considerations

Selection Box Position

When a program containing a selection box is executed, the selection box is positioned on the screen according to the same positioning algorithm used for help windows; that is, the size and position of the selection box are determined automatically, "near" the field.

Selection Box Attributes

The color and intensified attributes assigned to the field are also applied to the values displayed in the corresponding selection box.

Edit Masks in Selection Boxes

If an edit mask has been defined for the field, the edit mask is applied to all selection box values.

To define an edit mask for a field:

Using the `INPUT` statement, you can define an edit mask for a field. This is demonstrated in following code example.

```
DEFINE DATA
LOCAL
1 A(A4)
END-DEFINE
MOVE 'ABCD' TO A
*
SET KEY PF1 = HELP
FORMAT KD=ON
*
INPUT A (AD=M EM=X.X.X.X SB='1234','WXYZ')
WRITE A
END
```

Selection Box Line Sizes

The line size of the selection box matches the field length to which the box corresponds.

If a value intended for the selection box exceeds the line size of the selection box, the value is truncated.

Sequence of Selection Box Values

Selection box values are displayed in the order they appear in the `SB` attribute.