

Character	Escape Sequence
\r	A carriage return character
\t	A tab character.
\z	ASCII 26 (Control+Z)
\N	NULL

For more information about \-escape syntax, see [Section 9.1.1, “String Literals”](#).

If the `FIELDS ESCAPED BY` character is empty, escape-sequence interpretation does not occur.

- For output, if the `FIELDS ESCAPED BY` character is not empty, it is used to prefix the following characters on output:
 - The `FIELDS ESCAPED BY` character.
 - The `FIELDS [OPTIONALLY] ENCLOSED BY` character.
 - The first character of the `FIELDS TERMINATED BY` and `LINES TERMINATED BY` values, if the `ENCLOSED BY` character is empty or unspecified.
 - ASCII 0 (what is actually written following the escape character is ASCII 0, not a zero-valued byte).

If the `FIELDS ESCAPED BY` character is empty, no characters are escaped and `NULL` is output as `NULL`, not `\N`. It is probably not a good idea to specify an empty escape character, particularly if field values in your data contain any of the characters in the list just given.

In certain cases, field- and line-handling options interact:

- If `LINES TERMINATED BY` is an empty string and `FIELDS TERMINATED BY` is nonempty, lines are also terminated with `FIELDS TERMINATED BY`.
- If the `FIELDS TERMINATED BY` and `FIELDS ENCLOSED BY` values are both empty (`' '`), a fixed-row (nondelimited) format is used. With fixed-row format, no delimiters are used between fields (but you can still have a line terminator). Instead, column values are read and written using a field width wide enough to hold all values in the field. For `TINYINT`, `SMALLINT`, `MEDIUMINT`, `INT`, and `BIGINT`, the field widths are 4, 6, 8, 11, and 20, respectively, no matter what the declared display width is.

`LINES TERMINATED BY` is still used to separate lines. If a line does not contain all fields, the rest of the columns are set to their default values. If you do not have a line terminator, you should set this to `' '`. In this case, the text file must contain all fields for each row.

Fixed-row format also affects handling of `NULL` values, as described later.



Note

Fixed-size format does not work if you are using a multibyte character set.

Handling of `NULL` values varies according to the `FIELDS` and `LINES` options in use:

- For the default `FIELDS` and `LINES` values, `NULL` is written as a field value of `\N` for output, and a field value of `\N` is read as `NULL` for input (assuming that the `ESCAPED BY` character is `\`).
- If `FIELDS ENCLOSED BY` is not empty, a field containing the literal word `NULL` as its value is read as a `NULL` value. This differs from the word `NULL` enclosed within `FIELDS ENCLOSED BY` characters, which is read as the string `'NULL'`.