# **SQL CHECK Constraint**

**SQL CHECK Constraint:**

1. The CHECK constraint is used to limit the value range that can be placed in a column.
2. If you define a CHECK constraint on a column it will allow only certain values for this column.
3. If you define a CHECK constraint on a table it can limit the values in certain columns based on values in other columns in the row.

**SQL CHECK on CREATE TABLE**

1. The following SQL creates a CHECK constraint on the "Age" column when the "Persons" table is created. The CHECK constraint ensures that the age of a person must be 18, or older:  
   MySQL:

|  |
| --- |
| CREATE TABLE Persons (  ID int NOT NULL,  LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  FirstName varchar(255),  Age int,  CHECK (Age>=18)  ); |

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| CREATE TABLE Persons (  ID int NOT NULL,  LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  FirstName varchar(255),  Age int CHECK (Age>=18)  ); |

To allow naming of a CHECK constraint, and for defining a CHECK constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:  
  
MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| CREATE TABLE Persons (  ID int NOT NULL,  LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  FirstName varchar(255),  Age int,  City varchar(255),  CONSTRAINT CHK\_Person CHECK (Age>=18 AND City='Sandnes')  ); |

**SQL CHECK on ALTER TABLE**

To create a CHECK constraint on the "Age" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:  
MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ADD CHECK (Age>=18); |

To allow naming of a CHECK constraint, and for defining a CHECK constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  ADD CONSTRAINT CHK\_PersonAge CHECK (Age>=18 AND City='Sandnes'); |

**DROP a CHECK Constraint**

1. To drop a CHECK constraint, use the following SQL:  
   SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  DROP CONSTRAINT CHK\_PersonAge; |

MySQL:

|  |
| --- |
| ALTER TABLE Persons  DROP CHECK CHK\_PersonAge; |