

# Coding JCL Statements

## Identifier field

The identifier field indicates to the system that a statement is a JCL statement rather than data. The identifier field consists of the following: v Columns 1 and 2 of all JCL statements, except the delimiter statement, contain // v Columns 1 and 2 of the delimiter statement contain either /\* or two other characters designated in a DLM parameter to be the delimiter v Columns 1, 2, and 3 of a JCL comment statement contain /\*

## Name field

The name field identifies a particular statement so that other statements and the system can refer to it. For JCL statements, code the name as follows: v The name must begin in column 3. v The name is 1 through 8 alphanumeric or national (\$, #, @) characters. See Table 4-2 on page 4-3 for the character sets. v The first character must be an alphabetic or national (\$, #, @). v The name must be followed by at least one blank.

## Operation field

The operation field specifies the type of statement, or, for the command statement, the command. Code the operation field as follows: v The operation field consists of the characters in the syntax box for the statement. v The operation follows the name field. v The operation must be preceded and followed by at least one blank.

## Parameter, or operand field

The parameter field, also sometimes referred to as the operand field, contains parameters separated by commas. Code the parameter field as follows: v The parameter field follows the operation field. v The parameter field must be preceded by at least one blank. See "Parameter Field" on page 3-3 for details on coding the parameter field.

## Comments field

The comments field contains any information you deem helpful when you code the control statement. Code the comments field as follows: v The comments field follows the parameter field. v The comments field must be preceded by at least one blank.

Code the identifier field beginning in column 1 and the name field immediately after the identifier, with no intervening blanks. Code the operation, parameter, and comments fields in free form. Free form means that the fields need not begin in a particular column. Between fields leave at least one blank; the blank serves as the delimiter between fields.

## Exceeding 71 columns

Do not code fields, except on the comment statement, past column 71. If the total length of the fields would exceed 71 columns, continue the fields onto one or more following statements

When the total length of the fields on a control statement exceeds 71 columns, continue the fields onto one or more card images.

You can continue the parameter field or the comments field on the JCL statement

## Continuing the Parameter Field

1. Interrupt the field after a complete parameter or subparameter, including the comma that follows it, at or before column 71.
2. Code // in columns 1 and 2 of the following statement.
3. Code a blank character in column 3 of the following statement. If column 3 contains anything but a blank or an asterisk, the system assumes the following statement is a new statement. The system issues an error message indicating that no continuation is found and fails the job.
4. Continue the interrupted parameter or field beginning in any column from 4 through 16.