

## SQL Check Constraint

by Sudheer Sharma - Wednesday, November 26, 2008

<http://dwhnotes.com/data-base/sql-constraints/sql-check-constraint>

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## SQL CHECK Constraint

The CHECK constraint is used to limit the value range that can be placed in a column.

If you define a CHECK constraint on a single column it allows only certain values for this column.

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.

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## SQL CHECK Constraint on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL creates a CHECK constraint on the “P\_Id” column when the “Persons” table is created. The CHECK constraint specifies that the column “P\_Id” must only include integers greater than 0.

### My SQL:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons
(
P_Id int NOT NULL,
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255),
CHECK (P_Id>0)
)
```

### SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons
(
```

```
P_Id int NOT NULL CHECK (P_Id>0),
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255)
)
```

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
(
P_Id int NOT NULL,
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255),
CONSTRAINT chk_Person CHECK (P_Id>0 AND City='Sandnes')
)
```

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## **SQL CHECK Constraint on ALTER TABLE**

To create a CHECK constraint on the “P\_Id” column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

### **MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:**

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ADD CHECK (P_Id>0)
```

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_Person CHECK (P_Id>0 AND City='Sandnes')
```

---

## **To DROP a CHECK Constraint**

To drop a CHECK constraint, use the following SQL:

**SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:**

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CONSTRAINT chk_Person
```

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