
FAQ – Why can't I insert an AutoCAD reference file?

This may be the result of a few different causes.

One reason is that a Reference File will only be displayed in 'Rendered' views.

Another is that the AutoCAD file was created in too recent a version of AutoCAD. Try to obtain that file in an earlier version of AutoCAD, depending on the version of Tekla Structures that you are using. AutoCAD 2004 is probably OK for most users.

Yet another reason is that the AutoCAD reference file itself contains other XRef files. Try to have those XRef files removed before you insert the file.

Another cause could be that the AutoCAD file has extremely large limits, or that it has 'hidden' objects. Try to have the AutoCAD model positioned close to its own 0,0,0 point in space, rather than be hundreds or thousands of metres from the origin. Try to have all layers thawed and turned on .

Try to have all irrelevant layers thawed, turned on and deleted.

Try to have the AutoCAD model purged of all unwanted information such as dimensions and blocks. The purge command may have to be issued several times before the model has been reduced to its smallest possible size.

If the reference model has to be inserted using a scaling factor, ask for the AutoCAD file to be assigned the correct units rather than be defined as 'Unitless'.