

Main + Long Product Descriptions for CE Phoenix

Version 1.0.0

Target: CE Phoenix Cart 1.1.0.6 / PHP 8.2

Purpose

This add-on separates the concise, required product description from optional supporting detail without replacing Phoenix's native description field.

- `products_description` remains the **required main description**.
- `products_long_description` is a new **optional long description**.
- The main description can be placed beside the product gallery through the Phoenix π layout system.
- The long description appears below behind a prominent, compact **More details** button only when it contains visible text.
- Both display modules use the Phoenix π system and can be managed by a π -compatible Visual Designer.
- The native main description remains the value used by Phoenix product structured data and by integrations that read `products_description`.
- The main admin field has a prominent, colour-coded visible-text character panel above its explanatory text. It marks 500–1,000 characters as the recommended Google Merchant range and warns above the 5,000-character submission maximum.

The long description is emitted in the initial server-rendered HTML. Opening the panel does not fetch or inject its content.

Files and database safety

The package adds files only. It does not modify a Phoenix core file.

Installing either supplied display module adds this nullable, language-specific column if it does not already exist:

```
ALTER TABLE products_description
  ADD products_long_description TEXT NULL AFTER products_description;
```

Removing the modules removes their configuration entries but deliberately leaves the column and its product data in place.

Existing products are safe:

- Their current `products_description` value remains unchanged and becomes the main description.
- Their new long description is empty.
- No More details section is output until a long description is entered.

Installation

1. Back up the shop files and database.
2. Copy the contents of the package's `catalog` directory into the shop root—the directory containing `product_info.php`. No existing core files should be replaced by this package.
3. In admin, open **Modules** → **Layout**, select/filter **product_info**, and install **Main Product Description**.
4. In the same Layout section, install **Long Product Description — More details**.
5. Configure the modules in Visual Designer or Modules → Layout. The defaults place the main description in group C, alongside the usual gallery in group B, and More details in full-width group I.
6. Remove or disable Phoenix's native **Product Info Description** content module. Otherwise the required main description will appear once in the modular area and again below it.
7. Edit a product. The existing field is labelled **Main Product Description (required)** and the optional long-description field appears immediately below it.

The database column is installed by step 3 or step 4, whichever module is installed first.

Display behaviour

Main description

The Main Product Description π module reads the native `products_description` value. It supports Phoenix display groups A–I, Bootstrap content-width classes and sort order.

The field remains required by the native Phoenix product form. Its prominent counter panel appears above the explanatory text and measures visible characters rather than HTML source, so formatting tags do not inflate the number. It updates from the underlying textarea and from TinyMCE when the editor is active.

More details

The Long Product Description π module reads `products_long_description`. It returns without adding markup when the field is blank or contains only empty HTML tags.

The module uses Phoenix's existing Bootstrap collapse behaviour and utility classes, so no addition to `user.css` is required. A compact, natural-width primary button with information and chevron icons opens a full-width bordered content panel. Its settings control:

- enabled status;
- display group A–I;
- Bootstrap content width;
- whether the panel is initially open;
- sort order.

Visual Designer

Both display classes are standard child modules under `includes/modules/pi/product_info/` and expose the usual Phoenix π settings: status, display group, content width and sort order. A Visual Designer that discovers Phoenix product-info π modules can therefore discover and position both modules after they are installed. More details defaults to group I so it spans the full modular product area.

Search, feeds and Google

The main description deliberately stays in Phoenix's native field. This preserves compatibility with:

- Phoenix's Product JSON-LD header-tag module;
- Phoenix product search;
- existing integrations and feeds that read `products_description`.

The optional long description is visible to crawlers in the original page HTML even when its disclosure is closed. It is supporting landing-page content, not a second Product schema `description` property.

Google Merchant Center currently recommends descriptions around 500–1,000 characters and permits up to 5,000. The counter is guidance only; Phoenix continues to store the complete main description.

Google references:

- [Merchant Center: description text too short](#)
- [Search Central: mobile-first indexing and content in accordions or tabs](#)

Product duplication

The catalog hook adds `products_long_description` to Phoenix's native duplicate-product column list, so duplicating a product also duplicates its optional long descriptions for all languages.

TinyMCE selector note

The fields use predictable IDs and names:

- main: `pDesc-<language-code>/products_description[<language-id>];`
- long: `pLongDesc-<language-code>/products_description_long[<language-id>].`

The long field's posted name intentionally begins with `products_description`, allowing the common Phoenix TinyMCE selector for product-description textareas to detect it automatically. Its database column remains `products_long_description`.

Uninstallation

1. Remove **Long Product Description — More details** from Modules → Layout.

2. Remove **Main Product Description** from Modules → Layout.
3. Restore Phoenix's native Product Info Description module if the main description should return to its original below-product position.

The database column is retained to prevent accidental loss of product copy. Only after confirming that the data is no longer needed may it be removed manually:

```
ALTER TABLE products_description  
DROP COLUMN products_long_description;
```

Verification checklist

- Create a product: main description is required; long description is optional.
- Confirm the prominent character panel appears above the guidance, changes while typing, and ignores HTML tags.
- Confirm TinyMCE loads on both the main and long description fields.
- Edit and save different long descriptions in two languages.
- Confirm the main description appears in the configured π group.
- Confirm More details is absent for an empty long description.
- Confirm More details appears and expands for a populated long description.
- Confirm Visual Designer lists both product-info π modules and can move More details from its default group I.
- Duplicate a populated product and confirm both descriptions are copied.
- View page source and confirm both populated descriptions are present in the HTML.
- Run the product URL through Google's Rich Results Test and confirm the Product description is the required main description.

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