



SL Vendor Price & Image Updater

Automated vendor price lists, cost of goods, and image updates

Version 1.15.5 | WordPress Plugin User Manual

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1. Overview

SL Vendor Price & Image Updater is a complete WooCommerce solution for managing vendor price lists, cost of goods, and product images with scheduling and automation. It's built for daily vendor updates, seasonal pricing, COG tracking, image management, and multi-vendor stores.

- **Price Management** — upload vendor CSV/XLSX files, smart SKU matching, instant price comparison, bulk product updates, cost-of-goods tracking
- **Automation** — schedule future updates, automatic execution, email confirmations with CSV attachments, a complete audit trail
- **Image Updates** — auto-match from your media library, replace placeholders, bulk processing, custom filename patterns, exportable results

Since the last major guide: hierarchical category dropdowns (parent → child) are now available anywhere you filter by category, and large-catalog CSV downloads use a POST-based request instead of a URL query — this avoids the "414 URI Too Long" error that could previously occur when exporting thousands of products at once.

2. Quick Start

1. Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater** in the WordPress admin menu.
 2. Click **Choose File** and select your vendor price CSV/XLSX.
 3. Review the price comparison table.
 4. Select products to update, or click Select All.
 5. Configure options: skip price, skip COG, multiplier.
 6. Enable email notification and enter your email, if wanted.
 7. Click **Update Selected Products**.
- You'll receive an email with a CSV attachment confirming exactly what changed.

3. Update Vendor Prices

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater** — this is the main page, and the first of the plugin's six admin pages.

3a. Price & Cost of Goods Updates

Vendor Updater

Price Updates

Scheduled Updates

Image Updates

Settings

Vendor Price & Image Updater

Price & Cost Updates

Vendor File

vendor-price-list-sept.csv

Category (optional)

RegularApeks

Product	SKU	Old Price	New Price	Change
Apeks XTX200	REG-XTX200	\$489.00	\$465.00	-\$24.00
Apeks Flight	REG-FLIGHT	\$299.00	\$310.00	+\$11.00
Mares Abyss	REG-ABYSS	\$399.00	\$399.00	no change

Update Selected Products

Price & Cost Updates — old vs. new price comparison before you commit.

File Upload

Format	Extensions	Notes
CSV	.csv	Most common, fastest processing
Excel	.xlsx, .xls	Direct from vendor exports
TSV	.tsv	Tab-separated values

Your file must contain a **SKU** column, plus at least one of **Price** or **Cost**:

SKU, Price, Cost

ABC-123,99.99,45.00

Smart SKU Matching

The plugin matches SKUs by removing spaces, dashes, and underscores, comparing case-insensitively, and handling parent/child (variation) products automatically. "ABC-123", "abc123", "ABC 123", and "abc_123" are all treated as the same SKU.

Update Options

Option	Use case
Skip Price Update	Update only cost of goods, when the vendor provides COG but you set your own retail pricing
Skip COG Update	Update only prices, without changing recorded costs
Use COG Multiplier	Auto-calculate price from cost (default 2.0 = 100% markup) — only applies when the uploaded price is \$0. Formula: Price = COG × Multiplier

Checking "Use COG Multiplier" reveals a Multiplier field: the number input (defaulting to 2.0) stays hidden and disabled until you check this box — once checked, it appears so you can set your own markup instead of the default.

Two More Cards Can Appear After You Review Changes

Once you upload and compare a price file (Step 2, Review Changes), the plugin checks your file against your store in two additional directions beyond simple price matches — either or both of these cards appear automatically, only when there's actually something to show:

- **Import New Products** (green card) — appears only if your uploaded file contains SKUs that don't exist in WooCommerce yet. Shows the count found, and lets you assign them all to a category, apply the same COG Multiplier logic as above for any \$0 rows, choose to import immediately or schedule it, and optionally get an email notification when the import finishes. Click **Import Selected Products** to create them as real WooCommerce products.
- **Manage Missing Products** (red card) — appears only if your store has products that were *not* found anywhere in the uploaded file at all — typically because the vendor no longer carries them. Shows the count, and lets you move them to a category, choose how to handle their other category assignments (keep as-is / remove from all others / remove from others only if stock is at 0), and set stock management and backorder behavior — with *separate* settings for products that still have stock versus ones that don't, so you don't have to treat a sold-out item the same as one you're fully done selling. Click **Move Selected Products** to apply.

This is different from the standalone Manage NLA Products page (Section 4): these two cards are automatic and file-driven — they appear based on comparing whatever you just uploaded against your store, with no separate list to prepare. Use Manage NLA Products instead when you have your own explicit list of discontinued items, independent of any particular price update.

3b. Category & Brand Filtering

Category Exclusion keeps specific categories out of an update — for example, excluding "Clearance" to protect special pricing you've set manually. Category pickers throughout the plugin show the full parent → child hierarchy, so you can target a subcategory precisely.

Brand Filtering restricts an update to a single brand — ideal for multi-vendor stores where each brand ships its own price list.

3c. Scheduling & Automation

1. Upload the vendor price list as normal and review the comparisons.
2. Select the products to update.
3. Under **Apply Changes**, choose **Immediately** or **Schedule for specific date/time**. Picking the scheduled option reveals a date/time picker field directly beneath it, hidden by default since it's irrelevant until you actually choose to schedule.
4. Check **Send email notification** if wanted — this reveals an email address field (pre-filled with your admin email, but editable) right beneath it, for the same reason: no point showing an email field until you've said you want one.
5. Click **Update Selected Products** and confirm the schedule.

The **Schedule Manager**, shown at the top of the page, lists every upcoming update: scheduled date/time, original filename, number of products, notification email, and actions to cancel or reschedule.

A WP-Cron reliability notice can appear here too: if the plugin detects a sign that your site's background scheduling might not be running reliably, a yellow warning box appears above the scheduling options explaining the issue and showing the exact server cron command to add instead (the same one covered below). It only shows up when relevant — most sites with regular traffic never see it, since WordPress's own visit-triggered cron handles it fine.

How Scheduling Works Under the Hood

Unlike a simple WP-Cron event, the plugin saves the complete product data to a dedicated table (`wp_svpu_scheduled_products`) so the update survives server restarts and is available when the cron job actually executes, with automatic cleanup afterward.

For better reliability, set up a real server cron job rather than relying on WordPress's visit-triggered cron:

```
define('DISABLE_WP_CRON', true); in wp-config.php, plus a server crontab entry like:
*/5 * * * * wget -q -O - https://yoursite.com/wp-cron.php?doing_wp_cron
```

The plugin respects your WordPress timezone (Settings → General → Timezone) for both displaying and executing scheduled times.

3d. Email Notifications

Notifications are sent within 1-2 minutes of an immediate update, or immediately after a scheduled update executes — only if the notification box was checked. Each email includes a subject like "Price Update Complete - [Your Store Name]" and a CSV attachment with:

Column	Description
Product ID / SKU / Product Name	Identifies the product
Old Price / New Price / Price Change	Full before/after comparison
Old COG / New COG / COG Change	Cost of goods before and after
Updated At	Timestamp of the update

Install an SMTP plugin: without one, emails sent via WordPress's default wp_mail() may not arrive or may land in spam. WP Mail SMTP, Fluent

SMTP, Post SMTP, and Easy WP SMTP are all good options.

4. Manage NLA Products

yourstore.com/wp-admin — Manage NLA Products

Manage NLA (No Longer Available) Products

Step 1: Upload NLA Products List
Download CSV Template
Match Products By: SKU (Recommended)

Step 3: Configure Bulk Updates

- Move to Category: Clearance/Discontinued
- Remove Other Categories (unless in stock)
- Catalog Visibility: Hidden
- Stock Management: Disable
- Allow Backorders: Do not allow

Apply Bulk Updates to Selected

Manage NLA Products — upload, review, then configure a batch of settings to apply at once.

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater → Manage NLA Products**. Use this when a vendor discontinues products — "NLA" stands for No Longer Available. Rather than editing each discontinued product by hand, upload a list and apply a consistent set of changes (category, visibility, stock handling) to all of them at once.

Step 1: Upload the NLA List

1. Click **Download CSV Template** if you need a starting point — it includes SKU, Name, and ID columns with example rows.
2. Choose your CSV file. It only needs at least one of SKU, Name, or ID — you don't need all three.
3. Set **Match Products By**: SKU (recommended), Product Name, or Product ID.
4. Click **Upload and Find Products**.

Step 2: Review Found Products

A table lists every product matched from your file, with stats showing how many were found versus not found. Select the products you actually want to apply bulk updates to — not every matched product has to be included.

Step 3: Configure Bulk Updates

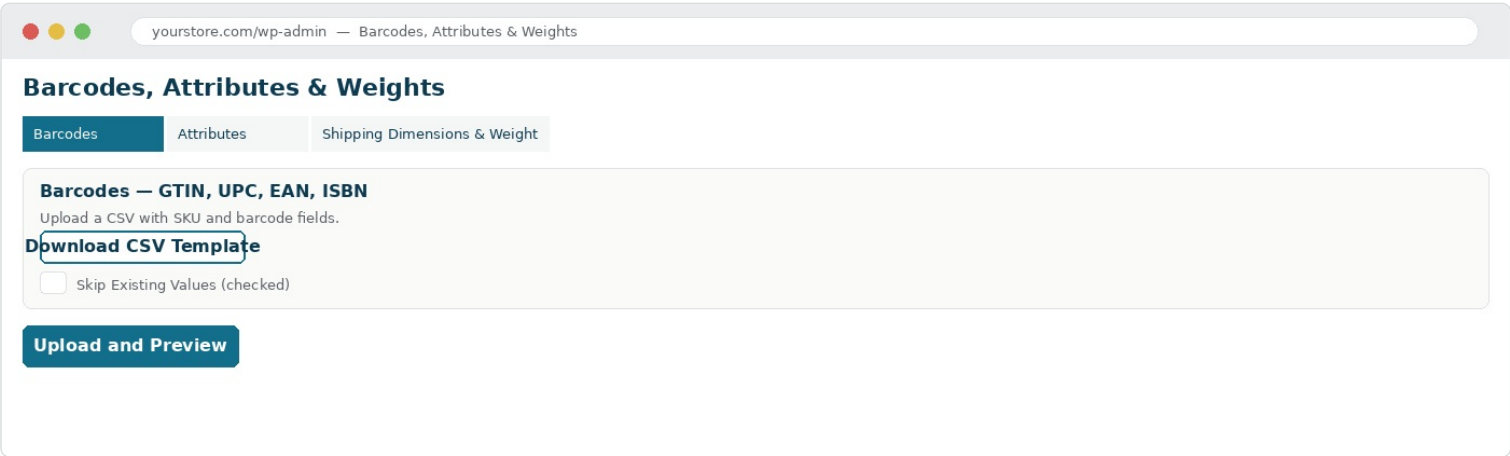
Every setting here is optional and independent — leave any of them on "No Change" to skip that particular update:

Setting	What it does
Move to Category	Adds selected products to this category (e.g. "Discontinued" or "Clearance") — doesn't remove existing categories by itself
Remove Other Categories	Strips every other category from selected products, leaving only the one set above. Products with stock (Qty > 0) are protected from this and keep their existing categories, unless you uncheck that protection.
Catalog Visibility	Shop and search results / Shop only / Search results only / Hidden
Visibility for Products with Stock	Checking this box reveals a second visibility dropdown beneath it, hidden until you opt in — lets you set a different visibility specifically for any selected product that still has stock, rather than treating in-stock and out-of-stock items the same
Stock Management	Enable or disable WooCommerce stock tracking for these products
Allow Backorders	Do not allow / Allow, but notify customer / Allow

1. Configure whichever settings you need.
2. Click **Apply Bulk Updates to Selected Products** — the button stays disabled until at least one product is selected in Step 2.

Products with remaining stock are protected by default: both "Remove Other Categories" and the stock-based visibility override exist specifically so you can discontinue a product line going forward without immediately hiding or reorganizing units you can still sell — genuinely out-of-stock items get the full treatment, while anything you can still sell keeps its normal categories and visibility until it actually runs out.

5. Barcodes, Attributes & Weights



Barcodes, Attributes & Weights — three sub-tabs, each its own CSV-driven bulk update.

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater → Barcodes, Attributes & Weights**. This page bulk-updates three different kinds of product data, all matched by SKU from a CSV you upload — click the tab for whichever one you need; they work independently of each other.

5a. Barcodes — GTIN, UPC, EAN, ISBN

1. Click the **Barcodes** tab.
2. Click **Download CSV Template** for a starting file with the right columns: SKU (required) plus any of GTIN, UPC, EAN, ISBN (optional — include only the ones you're updating).
3. Check **Skip Existing Values** (on by default) to only fill in barcode fields that are currently blank, leaving any product that already has a value untouched. Uncheck it to overwrite existing values too.
4. Choose your file and click **Upload and Preview**.
5. Review the matched products, select which ones to update (or Select All), and click **Apply Barcode Updates**.
6. Export either the updated products or the unchanged ones to CSV afterward if you want a record.

5b. Product Attributes

1. Click the **Attributes** tab.
2. Click **Download CSV Template**. Beyond the required SKU column, every other column header must be an attribute slug — the same format WooCommerce itself uses, e.g. `pa_color`, `pa_brand`, `pa_size`.
3. Check **Skip Existing Values** (on by default) to only fill in an attribute where a product currently has none set.
4. Upload, preview, select, and apply — the same flow as Barcodes above.

Not sure what your attribute slugs are? Check **Products → Attributes** in WordPress — each one shown there has its own slug (usually `pa_` followed by the attribute name), and that's exactly what the column header needs to match.

5c. Shipping Dimensions & Weight

1. Click the **Shipping Dimensions & Weight** tab.
2. Upload a CSV with SKU plus Weight, Length, Width, and/or Height columns — include only the ones you're updating.
3. Check **Skip Existing Values** to only fill in blank fields, same as the other two tabs.
4. Upload, preview, select, and apply.

This is the CSV-driven version of dimensions/weight — Category Corrections (Section 6e) has a second, category-wide version of this same tool that sets one dimension set across every product in a category, without needing a CSV at all. Use whichever fits how your data is organized.

6. Category Corrections

yourstore.com/wp-admin — Category Corrections

Category Corrections

Five independent tools, each scoped to one category at a time:

Remove Other Categories

Select Category ->

Catalog Visibility

Select Category ->

Edit Taxes

Select Category ->

Stock Settings

Select Category ->

Shipping Dimensions & Weight

Select Category ->

Category Corrections — five independent tools, each scoped to one category you select.

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater → Category Corrections**. Unlike Barcodes/Attributes/Weights (Section 5), nothing here needs a CSV upload — every tool works by picking one category and applying a change to every product inside it directly. Five separate tools live on this one page, each with its own category selector and its own Apply button.

6a. Remove Other Categories

1. Select a category.
2. **Preserve Categories for Products with Stock** is checked by default — products with Qty > 0 keep all their existing categories untouched. Uncheck it to strip every product in the category regardless of stock.
3. Click **Remove Other Categories**. Every matching product is left in only the category you selected.
4. Export the changed products, or the preserved (stock-protected) ones, to CSV afterward.

6b. Catalog Visibility

1. Select a category and a new **Catalog Visibility**: Shop and search results / Shop only / Search results only / Hidden.
2. Optionally check **Use different visibility setting for products with Qty > 0** — this reveals a second visibility dropdown, hidden until checked, letting you set a separate visibility just for in-stock items in that category.
3. Click **Update**.

6c. Edit Taxes

1. Select a category, then set **Tax Status** (Taxable / Shipping only / None) and/or **Tax Class** (Standard, or any custom tax class configured in WooCommerce).
2. Click **Update Tax Settings**.

6d. Stock Settings

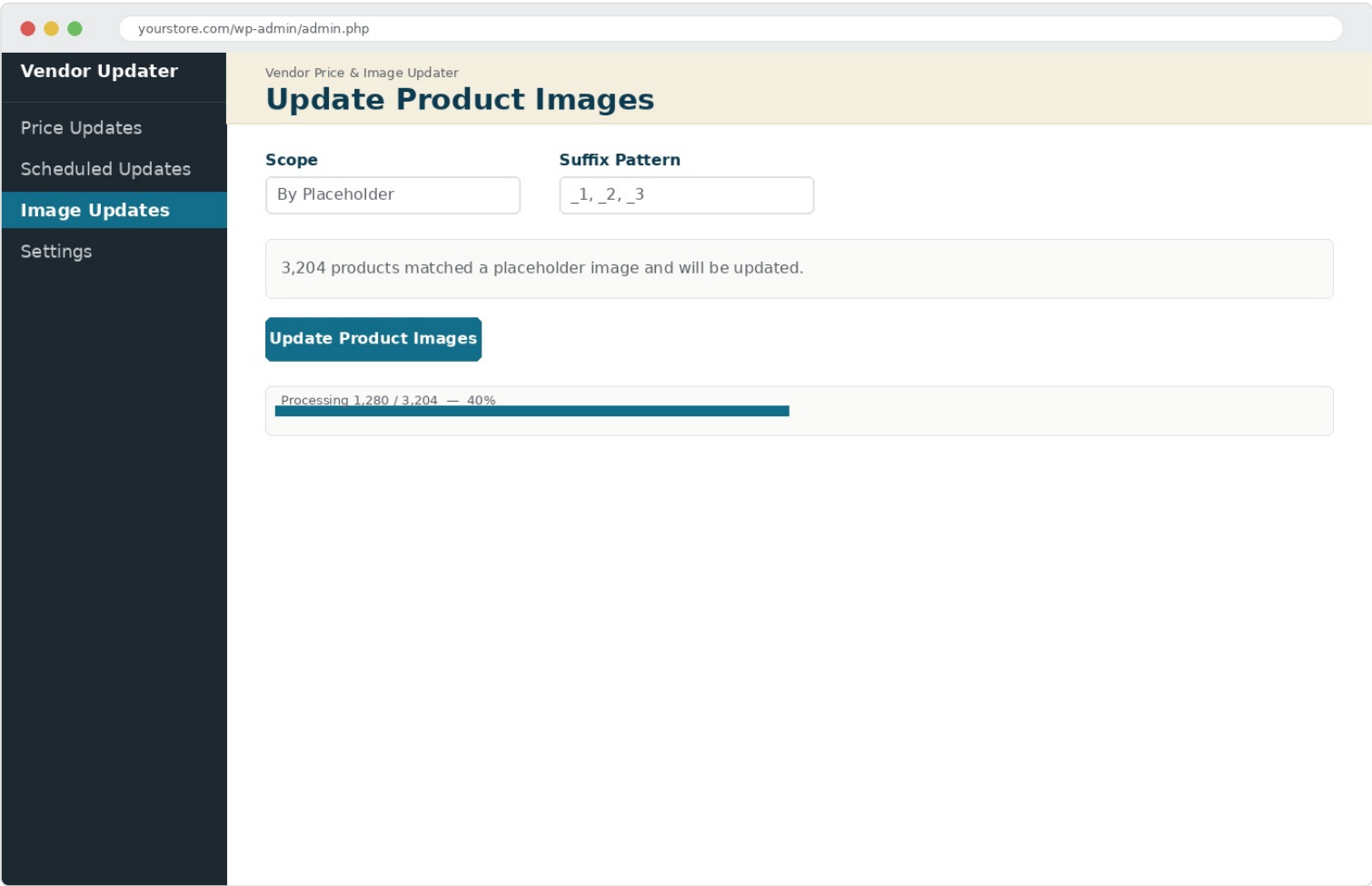
1. Select a category, then set **Stock Management** (enable/disable) and/or **Allow Backorders** (Do not allow / Allow, but notify customer / Allow).
2. Optionally check **Use different stock management setting for products with Qty > 0** — this reveals a second pair of stock management and backorder dropdowns, hidden until checked, for separate handling of items currently in stock.
3. Click **Update Stock Settings**.

6e. Shipping Dimensions & Weight

1. Select a category.
2. **Skip Existing Values** is checked by default — only products with a blank/zero value for a given field get filled in. Uncheck to overwrite every product's value in that category.
3. Enter any combination of **Weight**, **Length**, **Width**, and **Height** — leave any field blank to skip it entirely; you don't have to set all four at once.
4. Click **Update Dimensions & Weight**.

Every tool here exports its own CSV: after applying a change, an Export Changed Products CSV button (and, where relevant, an Export Preserved/Unchanged CSV) appears — a straightforward way to keep a record of exactly what was touched by each bulk action.

7. Image Updates



Update Product Images — scope, suffix pattern, and a live progress bar for bulk processing.

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater** → **Update Product Images**.

Step 1: Choose Which Products to Update

1. Pick a selection method: **Category** (selected by default, showing a category dropdown), **All Products**, or **Upload CSV**.
2. Choosing **Upload CSV** reveals a file picker and a Download Template button beneath it, hidden until you select that option — the file needs a SKU, Product ID, or Product Name column.

Step 2: Optional Filters

Two independent checkboxes narrow the selection further, on top of whatever you picked in Step 1:

- **Products with no images** — limits to products that currently have no image at all
- **Products with placeholder image** — checking this reveals a dropdown beneath it (hidden otherwise) listing common placeholder filenames (e.g. "PRODUCT-IMAGE-COMING-SOON.png," WooCommerce's own default placeholder) plus a **Select Custom Image from Media Library...** option. Choosing that custom option reveals a further "Choose Placeholder Image" button and preview area, letting you pick any image from your media library as the one to search for — for a placeholder that isn't one of the common defaults.

Step 3: Image Settings

1. **Match Images By** — SKU (default), Product ID, or Product Name; whichever you choose is what the plugin looks for in each image's filename.
2. **Image Suffix Format** — how multiple images per product are named in your media library:
 - **_image#** (default) — e.g. `WS51MBK18_image1`, `WS51MBK18_image2`
 - **(#)** — e.g. `WS51MBK18 (1)`, `WS51MBK18 (2)`
 - **Custom** — selecting this reveals a text field (hidden otherwise) where you define your own pattern using `#` for the number (e.g. `-photo#`). As you type, a live example preview appears beneath it showing exactly what a matched filename would look like with your pattern applied — so you can confirm it's right before running anything.

Step 4: Run the Update

1. Click **Update Product Images** and watch the progress bar.
2. Export the results to CSV when finished.

Image Matching

The plugin searches your media library for images matching the exact SKU (`ABC-123.jpg`), a numbered suffix (`ABC-123_1.jpg` , `ABC-123_2.jpg`), or your custom pattern (`ABC-123-front.jpg` , `ABC-123-side.jpg`).

Placeholder Replacement

Select a placeholder image (Step 2 above), and every product currently using that placeholder gets its matched real image applied automatically wherever a match is found — this is the reverse direction of Add Placeholder Images (Section 8), which assigns a placeholder in the first place.

Bulk processing handles 10,000+ products with batching to prevent timeouts, real-time progress tracking, and an exportable results CSV. Variations are supported, including their own image galleries.

8. Add Placeholder Images

Go to **Vendor Price & Image Updater → Add Placeholder Images**. This is the reverse direction of Update Product Images (Section 7): instead of replacing a placeholder with real matched photos, this tool quickly assigns one placeholder image to a batch of products that don't have a real photo yet — much faster than leaving them with WooCommerce's default image, and a useful stop-gap while you wait on real vendor photos.

Step 1: Select a Placeholder Image

1. Click **Select Placeholder Image** — this opens the standard WordPress media library picker.
2. Choose (or upload) the image you want to use as a stand-in, and confirm. A preview appears once selected.

Step 2: Select Products

Two radio buttons choose how you pick products — selecting one swaps which fields are shown beneath it, so only the relevant option is ever visible:

- **Upload CSV** (selected by default) — shows a file picker and a Download Template button; upload a file with a Product ID or SKU column
- **Select by Category** — switches the visible field to a category dropdown instead of the file upload, letting you pick a category directly (each one shown with its product count)

Step 3: Apply

1. Click to apply the placeholder to every selected product.

This tool vs. Update Product Images' "By Placeholder" scope (Section 7): they run in opposite directions. Add Placeholder Images *assigns* a placeholder image to products that don't have a real one yet. Update Product Images' "By Placeholder" scope does the opposite — it finds products currently showing a specific placeholder and *replaces* it with a real matched photo from your media library, once one becomes available. Use this section first while you're waiting on vendor photos, then Section 7 later once the real images arrive.

9. Troubleshooting & Quick Reference

Issue	What to check
SKU not matching despite looking correct	Remember matching strips spaces/dashes/underscores and ignores case — check for typos in the actual digits/letters instead.
Price came out as \$0 or unexpectedly high	Check whether "Use COG Multiplier" is enabled and whether the uploaded price column was actually blank/zero.
Scheduled update didn't run	Confirm WordPress cron is firing (site traffic) or set up a server cron job as described in Section 3c.
Emails not arriving	Install an SMTP plugin (Section 3d) — default wp_mail() delivery is unreliable on many hosts.
CSV export fails on a large catalog	Update to the current version — large exports now use a POST-based download instead of a URL query, avoiding "414 URI Too Long" errors.
Update prices from a vendor file	Upload CSV/XLSX → review comparison → select products → Update Selected Products
Update cost only, not retail price	Check "Skip Price Update"
Schedule a future price change	Select products → "Schedule for specific date/time" → set date/time → Update Selected Products
Replace all placeholder images	Update Product Images → Scope: By Placeholder → select placeholder → Update Product Images

SL Vendor Price & Image Updater is part of the Streamline plugin suite from Streamline Diving.