

**a:control LITE**

**Version 1.9**

**User Manual**

Copyright © 2018 Allen Coding GmbH

# Table of Contents

## Welcome

## Basics

- Authorization overview
- Firmware update

## Control masks

- Print mode
  - Stop
  - Format (Print mode)
- Status
- Format
- Management
- Service
- Basic Setup
- Extras

## Information and contact

- Contact

## Index

## Welcome

# Welcome

## a:control LITE help

---

### Welcome to a:control LITE help.

a:control LITE contains all functions for the control, configuration and monitoring of the Allen Coding XL series.

a:control LITE has been optimized for touchscreen usage.

Within this help, you will find information and help concerning the main functions of a:control LITE.



**ALLEN CODING**  
A DIVISION OF ITW

## Basics

### Basics

**a:control LITE** provides a set of functions for the **control, configuration and monitoring of printing systems** of Allen Codings XL series  
a:control LITE contains an integrated rights management.

The following users are registered:

Standard (no password)

Operator

Manager

Service

According to your settings in the rights management, you will be asked to enter your user name and password when selecting different functions.

By default, the printing systems are controlled and configured via the **user interface for print system control(control masks)**. The user interface provides functions such as loading print formats, changing the value of variables within the print format, setting printing parameters, configuring the printing system, performing service functions and executing status requests.

See [Main mask - Print systems](#) and [Control masks](#)

## Authorization overview

# Authorization overview

The following table shows the required authorizations for the function. note that not all functions are available in the LITE version aon a: control

Description		AutoLogin	Manager	Operator	ITW Service
Application	Exit	-	-	X	X
Extras	Language	-	-	X	X
Extras	PrinterType	-	-	-	X
Extras	ProgramSettings	-	X	-	X
Formats	Counter	-	X	X	X
Formats	Delete	-	X	-	X
Formats	Download	-	X	X	X
Formats	Editor	-	X	-	X
Formats	FormatLanguage	-	X	-	X
Formats	FormatLength	-	X	-	X
Formats	GlobalVariables	-	X	-	X
Formats	Mark	-	X	X	X
Formats	Memory Mode	-	X	-	X
Formats	Number of partial advances	-	X	X	X
Formats	Offset	-	X	X	X
Formats	Postview	-	X	X	X
Formats	Print Count Reset	-	X	-	X
Formats	PrintQueue	-	X	X	X
Formats	Quantity	-	X	X	X
Formats	RibbonAdvance	-	X	-	X
Formats	RSFields	-	X	X	X
Formats	Select	-	X	X	X
Formats	Test	-	X	X	X
Formats	Testprint	-	X	X	X
Formats	Variables	-	X	X	X
HWSetup	BufferUnderrun	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Comm Interface	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Configuration	-	X	-	X

HWSetup	History	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Hysteresis	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	IM/CM	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Inhibit Level	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	IP Configuration	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Lateral Advance	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Max Machine Speed	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Max. Length	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	MinSpeed	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Motor advance	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Number of advances	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Print Level	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Print signal buffer	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Print Speed Backwards	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Prints per cycle	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Relay Level	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Reset Mainantance	-	-	X	X
HWSetup	Resistance	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Ribbon Length	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Ribbon Warning	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	RS232 Configuration	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Send Error	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Separation steps	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Serialization	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	Warning Length	-	X	-	X
Info	SystemInfo	-	X	X	X
LoadFormat	Harddisk	-	X	X	X
LoadFormat	Printer	-	X	X	X
LoadFormat	USB	-	X	X	X
Management	7 Day Batch	-	X	-	X
Management	Carriage Position	-	X	-	X
Management	Date tables	-	X	-	X
Management	Date Time	-	X	-	X
Management	Density	-	X	X	X
Management	Orientation	-	X	-	X
Management	Print End Delay	-	X	-	X
Management	Print Speed	-	X	X	X
Management	Print Start Delay	-	X	-	X
Management	Ribbon Delay	-	X	-	X
Management	Ribbon Type	-	X	-	X
Management	Thermal Bar Delay	-	X	-	X
Management	Thermal Bar Delay	-	X	-	X
	CycleEnd				
Management	Time Offset	-	X	-	X
Overview	Extras	-	X	X	X
Overview	Formats	-	X	X	X

Overview	HWSetup	-	X	X	X
Overview	Management	-	X	X	X
Overview	Password	-	X	X	X
Overview	PrintMode	-	X	X	X
Overview	Service	-	X	X	X
Overview	Status	-	X	X	X
Remote	Login	-	X	X	X
Service	Diagnostics	-	X	-	X
Service	Directory	-	-	-	X
Service	Error Messages	-	X	-	X
Service	Motors	-	X	-	X
Service	Restart	-	X	-	X
Service	Set Weekday	-	X	-	X
Service	TechnicalService	-	-	-	X
Service	Timing Reset	-	X	-	X
Status	DeviceInfo	-	X	X	X
Status	Error List	-	X	X	X
Status	HardwareLogFiles	-	X	X	X
Status	Logfiles	-	X	X	X
Tab	Print systems	-	X	X	X
Tab	Programs	-	X	X	X
Tab	Stick drive	-	X	X	X
HWSetup	Print	-	X	-	X
	Interrupt				
HWSetup	Encoder use	-	X	-	X
HWSetup	ReadyStrings	-	X	-	X
Extras	Font	-	X	-	X
	Manager				
Extras	Terminal	-	X	-	X
Extras	Firmware	-	X	-	X
Extras	Backup	-	X	-	X
Extras	Restore	-	X	-	X
Extras	Support	-	X	X	X
Management	Audit Code	-	X	-	X
Formats	Standby	-	X	X	X
Service	SRAM	-	-	-	X
Service	Autoprint	-	X	-	X

## Firmware update

### Firmware update

A firmware update can be done with the help of a USB stick. To do this, please copy the firmware file (for example Firmware\_atouch\_lite\_1.8.18.0411.atouch) to an empty USB stick and insert it into a started a: touch LITE device. After a confirmation message the update will start. This update may take several minutes. The device restarts automatically. Therefore, do not switch off the device by hand. A successful update is ended with a popup message. After confirming this message, the printer can be turned off safely.

## Control masks

# Control masks

On the right side of the print systems user interface, you will find the following information: printer name, type of printer, some print parameters and information regarding date and time of the selected print system.

On the left side you will find the main navigation menu. After selecting an item from the main navigation menu, a navigation submenu will open on the right side. By selecting an item from the navigation submenu you get to program masks that provide functions to control the print system. You can leave every mask and return to the previous mask by tabbing **Back** or jump to any navigation submenu by selecting an item from the main navigation menu.

A bar is located in the top of the screen that always displays your current location in the menus.

Overview of the main navigation menu:

-  [Print System](#)
-  [Status](#)
-  [Format](#)
-  [Management](#)
-  [Service](#)
-  [Basic Setup](#)
-  [Extras](#)

## Print mode

### Print mode

In the upper corner of the main navigation you will find a smaller button with the name of the selected print system.

Selecting the button will show information such as printer name, printer type, several printer parameters and information concerning date and time of the selected print system on the right side of the screen.

The button indicates red if any error is occurring in the print system. If any error exists, the right side of the screen will show a list of errors for the current print system, that is divided into the tabs Pending Errors and Error log.

The tab Pending Errors shows the current pending errors as specific buttons. Selecting a button will show additional information concerning the selected error. Selecting the button **Help** will show information about the cause of the error and about how to troubleshoot it. Selecting **Error Reset** acknowledges the error on the print system if the cause of the error is eliminated.

In the tab Error log you will find a log of all occurred errors with information about date, time and error number.

#### ***Load format***

Formats can be loaded from a hard disk, from an USB stick drive or from the printer memory. Select the desired button from **Print system**, **PC hard disk** or **USB stick drive** (if available), select the desired format from the list and press **Load format**.

Formats can be loaded from hard disk or USB stick drive as .imp files or .acc files (a:design2).

Subdirectories are displayed with the name of the directory between the symbols < and >.

If the format contains variable fields (input variables or counter), these are prompted for input automatically after the format has been loaded.

## Stop

Stop

Upon request, the print mode will be exited. You can return to print mode when you select a print format again.

(C) 2018 Allen Coding GmbH

## Format (Print mode)

Format (Print mode)

### ***Load format***

Formats can be loaded from a hard disk, from an USB stick drive or from the printer memory. Select the desired button from ***Print system***, ***PC hard disk*** or ***USB stick drive*** (if available), select the desired format from the list and press ***Load format***.

Formats can be loaded from hard disk or USB stick drive as .imp files or .acc files (a:design2). Subdirectories are displayed with the name of the directory between the symbols < and >. If the format contains variable fields (input variables or counter), these are prompted for input automatically after the format has been loaded.

### ***Preview***

a:control LITE is trying to generate a preview as exactly as possible. Above the displayed print image, you can save the image to a USB stick or zoom in or out.

### ***Ribbon advance*** (only IM)

Lets you increase or decrease the value of the ribbon advance that is by default sent with the format.

***Ribbon rewind*** (only CM)

Lets you adjust the value for the ribbon rewind in order to save ribbon.

***Move***

Lets you move the position of the loaded format horizontally and when in IM mode also vertically within the limits of the print area. Allows you to process a test print.

Within this, you can do a test print.

***Test print***

A print command can be sent for the current print format. The printer will trigger a print.

***Format length***

Lets you edit the format length which is by default sent with the format.

# Status

## Status

This screen shows global information about the printer status, the pending and occurred errors.

### ***Printer status***

The current printer status (information about the firmware version, interface, print format and printer parameters) is read out and displayed.

### ***Error list***

Selecting this button will display the error list of the currently selected print system, that is divided into the tabs Pending errors and Error log.

The tab Pending Errors shows the current pending errors as specific buttons. Selecting a button will show additional information concerning the selected error. Selecting the button **Help** will show information about the cause of the error and about how to troubleshoot it. Selecting **ErrorReset** acknowledges the error on the print system if the cause of the error is eliminated.

In the tab Error log you will find a log of all occurred errors with information about date, time and error number.

# Format

## Format

### ***Copy format***

Formats can be copied between PC hard disk / USB stick drive / printer. In order to copy more than one format at a time, select the formats by clicking or select all formats by clicking **Select all**. After selecting the formats, press **Copy**.

At last, choose if existing formats are to be overwritten or added to.

### ***Delete format***

Select formats to be deleted. Formats can be deleted from PC hard disk and from the print system. You can either delete on format, several or all.

### ***Global variables***

Global variables are printer specific variables whose values can be changed here. A maximum of 5 global variables is available.

### ***Test formats***

The test format are used in order to adjust and check the print system. The selected test format can be printed on the active printer by pressing the button **Print test image**.

### ***Quantity***

The input range spans from 0 to 99999. 0 means endless continuous mode.

### ***Format language***

Select the language for the abbreviated names of the month when printing dates.

# Management

## Management

### **Print speed**

You can set the desired print speed in mm/s for IM mode here. Minimal and maximal values can vary between different print systems.

In CM mode this option is only available if the rotary encoder is set to be **Inactive** in the **Basic setup**. If not, the system will detect the current speed with the help of the connected rotary encoder.

### **Backward speed** (only IM)

Here you can set the desired backward speed of the thermal print head in mm/s in IM mode.

### **Density**

You can enter the desired density in percent (0-100%).

Note: The actual density depends on the resistance of the thermal print head.

### **Orientation**

Four different format orientations are available:

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1= Normal        | readable print, not turned  |
| 2= Mirrored      | mirrored print, not turned  |
| 3= Normal+180°   | readable print, turned 180° |
| 4= Mirrored+180° | Mirrored print, turned 180° |

### **Date / Time**

Lets you adjust the printer internal date and the printer internal time and synchronize the time with the PC clock.

### **Print delay**

In IM mode, a delay between the release of the print signal and the start of the print cycle can be set here in a range between 0-9999 ms. In CM mode a range of 0-9999 mm can bet set.

### **Thermal bar delay**

Here you can set a delay between the release of the electrovalve and the start of the print. You can set a delay in a range between 0-9999 ms (IM mode) and 0-9999 mm (CM mode).

### **Backward delay** (IM only)

You can set a delay between the end of the print and the beginning of the ribbon transport in a range

between 0-9999 ms.

### ***End cycle delay***

You can set a delay between the end of the print cycle and the release for a new print signal in a range between 0-9999 ms.

### ***Seven day batch***

Lets you set the weekday and the time at which a date field with weekly change changes.

### ***Time offset***

Set the exact time in hours and minutes at which the date changes each day.

### ***Audit Code***

Enter line number, customer ID and manufacturer ID for a specific audit code field.

### ***Sidesteps*** (only IM)

You can set the sidestep function to ***Active*** or ***Inactive*** in order to save ribbon.

If the function is active, a format that has been created with the function "Format region" (in a:design2) will be printed with lateral offset without ribbon advance. The ribbon advance will not be processed until all regions are printed on.

(C) 2018 Allen Coding GmbH

## **Service**

### **Service**

#### ***Technical Service***

You can check or set the printer type and the MAC ID in this menu as service user.

#### ***Print performance***

You can display the print performance of the thermal bar and the overall print performance and and reset the print performance of the thermal bar (in km).

These values can be reset by the service user

#### ***Diagnostics***

You can check standard basic functions of the print system and receive information about the print systems sensors and the temperature as well as the voltage of the thermal bar.

The functions in detail are:

***Cylinder (print)***

Turns the print cylinder on/off.

***Cylinder (approx)***

Turns the prestroke cylinder on/off.

***Ribbon motor***

Activates the ribbon motor for a short moment.

***Error messages***

Activate or deactivate error messages for service purpose her.

***Default settings***

You can reset the print systems parameters to default here.

The functions in detail are:

***Special parameters***

Sets the "Adjust Constants" to default.

***General parameters***

Sets the "General Constants" to default.

***Setup parameters***

Sets the "Setup Constants" to default.

***Timing parameters***

Sets the "Timing Constants" to default.

# Basic Setup

## Basic Setup

### ***IM/CM Mode***

Here you can set whether the printer should work in IM (Intermittend) mode or continuous (CM) mode. Please note that during a change, a hardware change must be made to the printer.

### ***Using ribbon***

You can define whether the print system operates with or without ribbon.

### ***Resistance***

After changing the thermal transfer bar, you define the resistance of the new thermal transfer bar here. Note: You will find the exact resistance on the label of the thermal transfer bar (R=)!

### ***Communication interface***

You can define if the print system communicated via Ethernet or via RS232 serial. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

### ***IP Configuration***

You can define the print systems IP address, subnet mask and gateway address here. After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

### ***RS232 Configuration***

You can define the baud rate of the serial interface (RS232). After changing these settings the print system has to be reconnected via the corresponding interface.

### ***Encoder (CM only)***

You can select whether a rotary encoder is used for speed detection for continuously operating printing systems or the printing speed should be set permanently.

# Extras

## Extras

### **Font Manager**

You can view, load and **Delete** printer internal fonts here. Pressing **Send** opens a dialogue where you can select the font (True Type Font) you want to send to the printer. The standard fonts of the print system are not displayed here. Additional fonts are installed (to the selected position) and displayed beginning from number 8 onwards.

Note: Fonts cannot be installed from the folder Windows/Fonts directly. Fonts need to be copied to another folder first.

### **Terminal**

A terminal application for sending texts (commands/control code) to the print system. The sent control code and the corresponding answer from the printer are always displayed in the central text field. Commands are sent to the print system via the button **Send**. Pressing **Send file** sends complete files (.imp and .txt). **Save** saves the current screen and **Clear** clears the central text field. Selecting the option **Polling** displays the polling sequences from the next sending on. You can use the button **Error reset** for a direct reset of errors.

### **Backup**

Make a backup of the formats and the current settings of the print system. If you select *Write to printer*, the backup file is saved onto the print system.

### **Restore**

You can restore a backup of the formats and the settings of an identical print system. **Info** displays details about the currently selected backup.

### **Language**

Here you can select the standard language of the device. After selection, extended UTF-8 fonts may reboot to a: control LITE to activate the font.

### **Password**

Here you can change the default password of the specified user. The service password can not be changed.

## Information and contact

# Information and contact

 [Contact](#)

(C) 2018 Allen Coding GmbH

## Contact

# Contact

For further information, questions and support, please contact:

**Allen Coding GmbH**

Friedrich-Bergius-Ring 30

97076 Würzburg

Germany

E-Mail: [support@allencoding.com](mailto:support@allencoding.com)

Web: <http://www.allencoding.com>

Tel.: +49 (0)931-25076-911

Fax: +49 (0)931-25076-50



**ALLEN CODING**  
A DIVISION OF ITW

(C) 2018 Allen Coding GmbH

# Index

## A

a:control LITE  
Allen Coding  
Audit Code

## B

Backup  
Backward delay  
Backward speed  
Basic Setup  
Basics

## C

Communication interface  
Contact  
control masks  
Copy format  
Counter  
Cylinder

## D

Date / Time  
Default settings  
Delete format  
Delete memory  
Density  
Diagnostics

## E

Encoder  
End cycle delay  
Error list  
Error log  
Error messages  
Error Reset  
Extras

## F

Factory reset  
fileparser  
firmware  
Font Manager  
Format  
Format language  
Format length  
Free space  
free version

## G

General parameters

Global variables

## **H**

Home

## **I**

Information and contact

IP Configuration

## **L**

Load format

Log file

Logoff

## **M**

main navigation

Management

Memory

Memory mode

Move

## **N**

Navigation submenu

## **O**

Orientation

## **P**

Pending Errors

Preview

Print count reset

Print delay

Print performance

Print pulse

Print Speed

Print system

Print test image

Printer status

## **Q**

Quantity

Queue

## **R**

registered version

Resistance

Restart printer

Restore

Ribbon advance

Ribbon rewind

RS field

RS232

## **S**

Setup parameters

Seven day batch

Sidesteps  
Special parameters  
Status  
Support

## **T**

Terminal  
Test formats  
Thermal bar delay  
Time offset  
Timing parameters

## **U**

Using ribbon

## **V**

Variables

## **W**

WEB Service  
Welcome

## **X**

XML file