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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.

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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

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

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<th>ITW Service</th>
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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.

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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

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 are 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.

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

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 are 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.
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

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 one 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

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.

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**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 here.

**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

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.
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

For further information, questions and support, please contact:

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