

# FIRMWARE RELEASE BULLETIN

## New! Taktis EN13 firmware release

In line with our program of continuous product development Kentec have released a new firmware version EN-00.13.R001 for the Taktis EN Addressable fire alarm control panels and Vision repeaters.

Release date: 15/04/2024

Firmware EN-00.13.R001 brings many new features to the Taktis fire alarm control panel along with product improvements which are detailed in this bulletin.

To successfully use EN-00.13.R001 it will be necessary to update your LE2 configuration software to version 3.428.

### New features

#### Enhanced Cause and Effects (C&E)

EN-13.00.R001 firmware increases the powerful cause and effect capabilities of the Taktis control panel with the following range of additions:

##### *C&E by device event type*

Loop devices can now be configured with independent C&E rules based on the device state. This means a device can have different independent C&E rules for Activated, Pre-Alarm, fault, or disabled states.

##### *C&E by zone event type*

Panel zones can now be configured with independent C&E rules based on the zone state. This means a zone can have different independent C&E rules for Fire, Disabled, In Test or Fault. The zone cause can also be configured to specific device types in the zone i.e., Detection Devices, Call Points, or switched inputs. This allows separate independent cause and effects based on the type of device which has triggered the zone event i.e., A different cause and effect can be configured for a zonal event triggered by a Manual Call Point, Detection device, or Switched input.

##### *NOT operator*

Taktis C&E rules are normally based on the AND/OR operators where all elements of the cause need to be active to initiate the effect (AND), or where any one of the cause elements need to be active to initiate the effect (OR). EN-13.00.R001 now provides the facility for rules to be configured based on the NOT operator where the effect will be initiated if the cause is not active. This can be a useful feature when monitoring a piece of equipment which needs to provide an indication in its normal state i.e., A sprinkler pump.

### *System inputs*

A new set of system inputs have been added to the C&E rules allowing the ability to create C&E for non-device specific events. System inputs that can be used as a cause in a C&E rule are listed below:

- User login
- Memory write enable switch active
- Mains fault
- Battery disconnected
- Network fault
- Earth fault
- All sounders disabled
- Buzzer disabled
- Earth fault disabled
- Access level 2
- Access level 3
- Access level 4
- Common/Any active fault
- Common/Any active disablement
- Common/Any active fire
- Panel buzzer active

### **Alarm Management Features**

#### *Hotel mode*

Hotel mode is an alarm management feature that can be useful in hotels, residential buildings, or HMOs to help prevent disruption due to unwanted alarms leading to unnecessary evacuations. Hotel Mode is configured as a cause and effect to achieve the following:

A detector in hotel mode activates, the panel cause and effect will be configured to activate the local sounder(s) only (i.e., sounder(s) in the same room as the detector) the control panel will show a technical alarm and will start the pre-configured hotel mode investigation timer (30 – 300secs) after the timer elapses the panel will check the detector level. If the detector level has returned to normal (i.e. An unwanted alarm and the cause has been dealt with) the panel will automatically reset to normal and local sounders will turn off. If after the elapsed time period, the detector is still in alarm state the panel will instigate a full alarm condition and evacuation.

#### *Alarm Acknowledgement feature (AAF)*

This is similar to hotel mode however using the Alarm Acknowledgement feature to provide the ability to silence the alarm in the area of activation i.e. by use of a pushbutton connected to a panel/loop input.

Using the alarm acknowledgement feature when the alarm activates i.e. in an apartment/flat the local sounder will activate, no other sounders. The occupant of the flat will have 60 secs to acknowledge the alarm by activation of a silence alarms pushbutton provided in the flat/apartment. This will start an investigation period of 30-300 secs where the situation can be investigated/dealt with i.e. if the detector has been triggered by cooking, clear the smoke from the room/detector by ventilating etc. Once the investigation timer has elapsed if the detector smoke level has dropped below the alarm threshold, the fire alarm system will return to normal operation without the need for an unnecessary evacuation. If after the investigation time the detector smoke level is still above the alarm threshold the panel will instigate a full alarm condition and evacuation.

### Loop data testing

This is a new engineer facility available at Access Level 3 only.

The loop data test menu option allows the user to view loop diagnostic data to identify any issues with the quality of the loop data signal. The control panel will continuously log communication data between the control panel and loop devices, incrementing a "Good" counter for each valid communication and a "Bad" counter for any error detected. A quality percentage figure will also be displayed between "Good" and "Bad" readings as well as a Peak Current reading for the loop while in test mode.

This feature is useful in determining whether any issues experienced are due to bad data on the loop, which could be caused by a faulty loop device, electrical noise etc.

### Detector sensitivity/mode change via a switched input

It is now possible to change detector sensitivity upon activation of a switched input as opposed to using the Day/Night settings. This feature allows users to change the detector sensitivity or mode of operation as required where allowing them to manage specific events such as the following examples:

- Theatres – changing a multi-sensor device to heat only during performances with stage pyrotechnics.
- Churches/Cathedrals – Change detector sensitivity or mode during services where incense is burned.
- Warehouses – Change detector mode in loading and unloading areas when vehicles are present.

An output from a security system can be connected to an input on the fire alarm system to change detector sensitivity or mode when the building is opened (security system disarmed) and the building is closed (security system armed).

To achieve the change of sensitivity or mode via an input, cause and effect will be required defining the input which contributes to the cause and the detection devices to be changed.

The sensitivity/mode change will remain set until the triggering input has been cleared and will override any day/night mode time settings which may have been configured. Once the input has been cleared the detection device will return to its automatic Day/Night mode setting.

It is also important to note that to avoid conflicts detection devices can only be included in one "Detector sensitivity/mode change via a switched input" cause and effect.

### Contaminated device menu

This is a new engineer facility in Access Level 3 which will highlight to service/maintenance engineers which detectors are showing high levels of contamination and require cleaning or changing. Detection devices that have reached their contamination compensation limit.

### Support for new Hochiki Devices

This firmware provides full support for the following Hochiki devices:

- CHQ-WSB2                      Wall Sounder Beacon
- CHQ-MRC2(SCI)              Mains Relay Controller with SCI
- CHQ-MRC2(SCI)/FS        Fail Safe Mains Relay Controller with SCI
- CHQ-FTM                      4-20mA Input Module
- CHQ-DIM2(SCI)              Dual Input Module with SCI
- FIREBeam                      Addressable Beam Detector
- Ekho EK-WL8-TRH          Ekho Wireless Translator

## Notable improvements

### K-System and Hochiki sensors - Default 10 sec delay

The default configuration associated with K-System and Hochiki detection devices has been amended to have a 10 second delay as default. This means detection devices will only activate a fire event if the analogue value exceeds the fire threshold for a duration of 10 secs. If the analogue value drops below the fire threshold within the 10 secs the device will not activate an alarm. This is to assist in the prevention of unwanted alarms.

If utilising alarm verification functions such as AAF (Alarm Acknowledgement Function) or Hotel Mode, it may be advisable to remove the 10 sec delay, as it can impact the expected functionality of these features.

### K-System and Hochiki Sounder Synchronisation

Improvements have been made to the synchronisation of K-System and Hochiki sounders, ensuring whatever mode the sounders are configured i.e. continuous or intermittent they will synchronise accordingly. This has added a new configuration option to the panel's menu settings "Loop Synchronisation Type" with configurable options of "Normal", "Translated", and "Adjusted". "Loop Synchronisation type" is configurable per loop, with the settings described below:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Normal -<br>same              | Synchronisation of the sounders is not maintained and sounders and the synchronisation will drift over time. Beacons will remain synchronised to EN54, 1 second flash rate. This is the same as all previous Taktis panel firmware.   |
| Translated -<br>set<br>than 1 | Sounders synchronisation will be maintained by the panel ensuring no drift over time. All beacons will remain synchronised to EN54, 1 second flash rate. Important to note sounders to continuous operation may glitch during a re-synchronisation and tone patterns longer than 1 second will be truncated or re-started.              |
| Adjusted -                    | Sounder synchronisation will be adjusted to match the repeat period or cadence of the tone being played. Synchronised beacons will with a rate determined by the sounder tone/pattern selected. Important depending on the sounder tone used the flash rate of the beacon may be outside the requirements of EN54, 1 second flash rate. |

The recommended setting is "normal", "Translated" and "Adjusted" settings are application or region specific settings.

### Disabling – EN54-2 compliance

A change has been made regarding the disabling of individual items i.e. detectors, sounder circuits etc. Under the requirements of EN54-2 it is not acceptable to disable individual devices or circuits at access level 2. Therefore, the ability to disable individual devices has been moved to Access Level 3. A warning message will appear if an individual disablement is attempted at level 2.

Global disabling is still available at access level 2 i.e. disabling all sounders etc.

Important to note when disabling active sounders at access level 2 the sounders will silence, if sounders are enabled while the alarm is still active the sounders will resound.

**Taktis – Enable keyswitch**

It was highlighted that when the enable keyswitch was operated enter access level 2, the display incorrectly showed the status as logged out. This has been corrected and when the keyswitch is operated the status will correctly show “Key User : Key Level 2”

**Zone test via cause and effect**

It is possible on the Taktis to place zones in test via a cause and effect rule, however it was recently found that this only worked up to zone 250 and did not work for zones above 250. Zones above 250 did not enter or display as being in test mode when the cause and effect rule was activated.

This has been corrected so that all zones when put into test mode via activation of a cause and effect rule will enter and display for test mode.

It is strongly recommended that Taktis panels in the field be upgraded to the latest firmware at the earliest opportunity. Upgrading panel firmware in the field ensures access to the latest features and improvements.

To obtain the latest firmware files along with advice and instructions on upgrade requirements please contact our Technical Support department.

Should you require info on any of our products please contact your sales representative.

Regards

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