



Star Chromatography Workstation

Version 6.41

GC Control Release Notes

The following information can be found in this document:

Notes for CP-3800 GC Customers
Notes for Micro-GC Customers
Notes for 3400/3600 GC Customers
Notes for Combi PAL Customers

These notes also apply to 3350 GC customers.

These notes contain information to ensure optimum operation of the above devices.

The following information can be found in other related documents:



Star Chromatography Workstation Release Notes

Information for all Star Workstation customers, including notes on running under Windows NT, and general notes on reliable operation.



Star Chromatography Workstation Upgrade Notes

For customers who are installing Version 6 on a computer where a previous version is installed. Also includes operational differences between Version 6 and previous versions not covered in other documents.

Notes for 3800 GC Customers

Concurrent Use of other Windows Applications

In general, you can use other Windows applications concurrently with the Star Workstation while a 3800 GC is logged on to System Control. Certain applications may perform functions that take extended periods of time without allowing ethernet communications to occur. If this period of time exceeds 30 seconds, the 3800 GC may disconnect from System Control. This situation is usually self-correcting—the GC will reconnect as soon as the Workstation is able to communicate again. But if a run was occurring at the time of the disconnect, that data will be lost (see *Interruptions to communication during a run*, below). To avoid such interruptions, it is recommended that you do not perform functions such as opening extremely large files in a word processor or presentation graphics application on your computer while collecting data from your 3800 GC.

Interruptions to Communication During a Run

If the 3800 GC disconnects from System Control during a run, your run on the 3800 GC will continue to completion to allow any analytes left on your column to elute. You will lose the Data File for that run. If the disconnection was due to a momentary loss of communication, the GC will log on to System Control as soon as possible and messages reflecting the disconnect and reconnect will be entered into the Message Log for that instrument. Automation will continue to the next injection. If the 3800 GC fails to reconnect, check to make sure that the communication cable has not been accidentally disconnected. If it has, reconnect the cable. If you see persistent disconnect messages, you should verify that your cables, network (if you are using one), available system resources, and hardware are all in working order. Contact your Varian representative if you can not resolve these problems yourself.

CP-8400 AutoSampler Installed on CP-3800 GC

When the CP-8400 AutoSampler is installed on the CP-3800 GC, it is controlled by the 3800 GC and will NOT appear as a separate module in the Star Workstation configuration. For the CP-8400 AutoSampler to start when a SampleList is begun, the 3800 GC must be configured as the AutoStart module for that instrument. To do this, go to the Star Workstation configuration window and drag the 3800 GC module icon into the small box labeled AutoStart Module. More information about configuring and using the CP-8400 AutoSampler with Star Workstation can be found in the [Star Workstation Data Acquisition with CP-3800 GC Control Operation Manual](#).

8200 Connected to J4-SID2

If an 8200 AutoSampler is attached to the J4-SID2 connector on the 3800 GC, the 8200 icon will *not* appear in the System Control Configuration Screen. An 8200 AutoSampler must be configured to use J4-SID1 to be remotely controlled by the Star Chromatography Workstation.

Notes for Micro-GC Customers

Selecting Pressure Units for Display

The CP-2003 and CP-4900 Micro-GC drivers can represent pressure units as psi or kPa. This setting is currently set at installation time. You can later modify this setting by editing the STAR32.INI file (use the Start=>Run... command to open STAR32.INI), to remove or modify the "MGCUPR=psi" line in the [System Control] section of the file. Legal values are kPa or psi. If the string is missing, or set to another value, the system will prompt for a setting the next time the CP-2003 or CP-4900 driver is loaded.

Power off 2002/2003 Micro-GC Before Starting the Computer

When most PCs are powered on, they transmit characters through their serial ports. If a 2002/2003 Micro-GC is connected and powered up when these characters are transmitted, it can cause the Micro-GC to lock up and stop communicating over the serial connection. To prevent this from occurring, always power off the Micro-GC before powering on the computer. Then after switching on power to the computer, turn on the power to the Micro-GC.

This is not necessary for the 4900 Micro-GC.

Notes for 3400/3600 GC Customers

Using System Control with a 3400 or 3600 GC

Before you start System Control, turn on the power to your 3400 or 3600 GC(s). Do not press RESET on the GC front panel while modules are logging into System Control, as this will disrupt serial communication.

Using System Control with an 8200 AutoSampler

If you open and close the 8200 storage module, remove the 8200 carousel, or experience an air pressure low error, you must reset the 3400 or 3600 GC from the 3400/3600 GC Status and Control window in System Control or on the front panel of the GC before you proceed.

3400/3600 GC Remote Controlled Operation

The REMOTE CONTROL LED on the front panel of the GC illuminates when a Method is downloaded (activated) from the Workstation. If you make multiple injections with that Method, the REMOTE CONTROL LED goes out after the first run. The REMOTE CONTROL LED also goes out if you press RESET (either in the GC Status and Control window in System Control or on the front panel of the GC). Whether the REMOTE CONTROL LED is on or off, however, the 3400 GC and the Star Workstation are always communicating.

Setting a Standby Temperature

The 3400 and 3600 GCs support a standby temperature that is used to keep the column oven at a suitable temperature after automation is complete. The Star Workstation cannot use the standby temperatures directly. You can, however, create a Method that will set all of the heated zones' temperatures to the desired values. Add a line at the end of your Sequence that will activate this Method. You may wish to use this Method as a "bakeout" Method to clean out the column and prepare for the next set of samples. To start this Method running, the associated SampleList should specify a single dummy injection.

8134 SSV AutoSampler Type Mismatch

If you try to download a GC Method with an 8134 SSV section to an 8134 SSV equipped GC and get an AutoSampler type mismatch error, then the System Control hardware options have not been configured for that GC module. To configure 8134 SSV Hardware for a GC module, click on the *Hardware...* button on the GC's Module Status and Control window. This will open the GC's Hardware Options dialog box. At the bottom, in the *Sampling Device* section, click on the button for *8134 Stream Selector Valve*. Immediately below this button, click on the arrow in the combo box to drop down a list of Valve configurations. Scroll through the list and click on the Valve type that matches the Valve installed on the GC. When you have finished configuring the Sampling device, click on the OK button at the bottom of the dialog box. System Control will record this configuration in the STAR32.INI file, and you will not need to reconfigure again unless you change the hardware configuration.

Using a Standalone 8200 with a 3400/3600 GC

If you are using a Standalone 8200 AutoSampler with a 3400 or 3600 GC you may, on occasion, be able to open two SampleLists for that instrument. The problem is caused when the 8200 is enabled in the 3400/3600 Method section and both the GC and the Standalone 8200 log into the same instrument. If this problem occurs, activate a Method that turns off the GC's AutoSampler and close the SampleList associated with the 3400/3600. System Control will not allow you to begin either SampleList while both are open.

Notes for Combi PAL Customers

Using a Combi PAL on a 3400/3600 GC

Version 6 of the 3400 / 3600 driver supports the addition of a Combi PAL AutoSampler to the same instrument, as long as no other AutoSampler is present.

Using a Combi PAL on a 3900 or 39XL GC

Starting with version 6.30, the drivers for the 3900 and 39XL GCs no longer claim AutoSampler capabilities unless an 8400 or 8410 is actually detected. As a result, if no AutoSampler is present, a Combi PAL AutoSampler can be configured in the instrument without any of the edits to the STAR32.INI file required by prior versions.

Agitation without Heating

Starting with version 6.41, the Combi PAL driver provides the ability to use the Agitator without heating. This mode of operation is specified in the Method.