Automation Control Unit

User Guide

Original Instructions

Agilent Technologies

Notices

User Guide Part Number

G5500-90012

Edition

Revision C, November 2016

Contact Information

Acknowledgements

Warranty

Technology Licenses

Restricted Rights Legend

Safety Notices

Contents

Preface

This preface contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

About this guide

Who should read this guide

This guide is for people with the following job roles:

Job role	Responsibilities
Installer	Unpacks, installs, and tests the Agilent Automation Control Unit before it is used.
Integrator	Configures hardware and writes software.
Lab manager, administrator, or technician	• Manages the automation system that contains the Automation Control Unit • Develops the applications that are run on the system • Develops training materials and standard operating procedures for operators
Operator	Performs the daily production work on the system that contains the Automation Control Unit and solves routine problems.

Installers, integrators, lab managers, and administrators are users who must have technical expertise. In addition, lab managers and administrators are individuals or groups responsible for the use and maintenance of the Automation Control Unit and for ensuring that operators are adequately trained.

What this guide covers

This guide describes the following:
• Potential safety hazards of the Automation Control Unit and how to avoid them
• Specifications and requirements for the Automation Control Unit
• Mounting and connection instructions for the Automation Control Unit
• Software setup instructions
• Indicator light descriptions
• Troubleshooting procedures

What is new in this revision

Revision C contains the following changes.

Feature and description	See...
Updated the compliance description to include the RoHS compliance and the South Korean Class A EMC declaration.	"Safety and regulatory compliance" on page 2

Feature and description	See...
Revised the procedure for configuring the signal channels to specify the format requirements for naming the channels in order to use the VWorks Measurement Manager option.	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100

Related guides

This guide should be used in conjunction with the following user documents:

- *Automation Solutions Products General Safety Guide*. Provides the intended product use statement, safety label descriptions, and general safety information.
- *Automation Control Unit COM Port Setup Guide*. Intended for fully qualified and trained Agilent service engineers, this guide describes how to set up the COM port assignments on the host computer.
- *Robot user documentation*. Explains the potential safety hazards and provides instructions for setting up and operating the system robot.
- *BenchCel Microplate Handling Workstation User Guide*. Explains the potential safety hazards and provides instructions for setting up and operating the BenchCel Workstation.
- *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*. Explains how to configure the Automation Control Unit and manage the I/O signals.
- *Agilent Technologies device user documentation*. Explains how to set up and use the Agilent Technologies devices.
- *Third-party device user documentation*. Explains how to set up and use the third-party devices.

Accessing Agilent Technologies Automation Solutions user guides

You can search the online knowledge base or download the latest version of any PDF file from the Agilent Technologies website at www.agilent.com/chem/askb.

Safety information for the Agilent Technologies devices appears in the corresponding device safety guide or user guide. You can also search the knowledge base or the PDF files for safety information.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page viii
Safety precautions	"Safety information" on page 1
Site requirements and robot specifications	"Specifications" on page 25
Installation instructions	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

Reporting problems

Contacting Automation Solutions Technical Support

If you find a problem with the Automation Control Unit, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support. For contact information, see Notices on the back of the title page.

Reporting hardware problems

When contacting Agilent Technologies, make sure you have the serial number of the device ready.

Reporting software problems

When you contact Automation Solutions Technical Support, make sure you provide the following:

- Short description of the problem
- Relevant software version number (for example, automation control software, diagnostics software, and firmware)
- Error message text (or screen capture of the error message dialog box)
- Relevant files, such as log files

Reporting user guide problems

If you find a problem with this user guide or have suggestions for improvement, send your comments in an email to documentation.automation@agilent.com.

Related information

For information about...	See...
What this guide covers	"About this guide" on page vi
Safety precautions	"Safety information" on page 1
Installation instructions	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

1
Safety information

This chapter contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

General safety information

Before installing and operating the Automation Control Unit, make sure you are aware of the potential hazards and understand how to avoid being exposed to them. You must be properly trained in the correct and safe operation of the unit.

For the intended product use statement, safety label descriptions, and general safety information, see the *Automation Solutions Products General Safety Guide*.

The Automation Control Unit is a component of Agilent Technologies laboratory automation systems such as the BioCel System, Encore Multispan Workstation, BenchBot Workstation, and BenchCel Workstation. For safe operation of the system or workstation, see the system or workstation user documentation.

Safety and regulatory compliance

The Automation Control Unit complies with the applicable EU Directives and bears the CE mark. See the Declaration of Conformity or Declaration of Incorporation, as applicable, for details. The Automation Control Unit is designed to comply with the regulations and standards listed in the following table.

Regulatory Compliance	Standard
EMC	
European Union	EMC Directive 2014/30/EU
	IEC 61326-1:2012 / EN 61326-1:2013
Canada	ICES/NMB-001:2006
Australia/New Zealand	AS/NZS CISPR 11:2011
RoHS	
European Union	RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU
Safety	
European Union	Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC
	Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU
	IEC 61010-1:2001 / EN61010-1:2001 IEC 61010-2-081:2001+A1:2003 / EN 61010-2-081:2002+A1:2003
Canada	CAN/CSA-C22.2 No. 61010-1-04 CAN/CSA-C22.2 No. 61010-2-081-04
USA	ANSI/UL 61010-1:2004

Electromagnetic compatibility

If the Automation Control Unit causes interference with radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the device off and on, try one or more of the following measures:

• Relocate the radio or television antenna.

• Move the device away from the radio or television.

• Plug the device into a different electrical outlet, so that the device and the radio or television are on separate electrical circuits.

• Make sure that all peripheral devices are also certified.

• Make sure that appropriate cables are used to connect the device to peripheral equipment.

• Consult your equipment dealer, Agilent Technologies, or an experienced technician for assistance.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Agilent Technologies could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Sound emission declaration

Sound pressure: Lp < 70 dB according to EN ISO 779:2010.

Schalldruckpegel: Lp < 70 dB nach EN ISO 779:2010.

South Korean Class A EMC declaration

A 급 기기 (업무용 방송통신기자재)

This equipment is Class A suitable for professional use and is for use in electromagnetic environments outside of the home.

이 기기는 업무용 (A 급) 전자파적합기기로서 판 매자 또는 사용자는 이 점을 주 의하시기 바라 며 , 가정외의 지역에서 사용하는 것을 목적으 로 합니다 .

Related information

For information about...	See...
General safety information	"General safety information" on page 2
How to stop the system or workstation in an emergency	System or workstation user documentation
Safety interlock	"Safety interlock" on page 7
Power switch with locking mechanism	"Power switch" on page 8
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page viii

About emergency stop

About stopping the system or workstation in an emergency

An emergency stop occurs when you press the system or workstation emergency-stop button. For full instructions, see the system or workstation user documentation.

Note: The emergency stop mechanism is not affected by the INTERLOCK key setting. The system will stop even if the INTERLOCK key is set at BYPASS.

The emergency stop does the following:

- Stops all robots and devices in the system.
  - *Robots and devices that have an emergency-stop circuit and are connected to the E-STOP DEVICES ports at the Automation Control Unit.* Power is used to stop the motion of the robots and devices before motors are disabled. *z*-axis brakes, if applicable, are engaged to prevent the robot arm or pipette head from falling. Examples of the robot and devices include the system robot, BenchCel Microplate Handler, Bravo Platform, Vertical Pipetting Station, and Plate Hub Carousel.
  - *Devices connected to the red AC and DC power output ports at the Automation Control Unit.* The red AC and DC power ports are on a post-emergency-stop circuit, and power to these ports are cut during an emergency stop. Devices that are typically connected to these ports include the air distribution panel, Microplate Centrifuge, Labware MiniHub, and PlateLoc Sealer.

  Note: Devices that do *not* have an emergency-stop circuit and are connected to the blue AC and DC power ports at the Automation Control Unit are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit and will *not* be stopped by the emergency stop.
- Turns on the red E-STOP light on the Automation Control Unit and generates robot and device errors.
- Changes the blue solid RESET light to a blinking RESET light on the Automation Control Unit.

Tripped interlock—INTERLOCK key is set at NORMAL

Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain trips the safety interlock. If the INTERLOCK key is set at NORMAL, tripping the safety interlock does the following:

- Stops the robots and integrated devices that have an emergency-stop circuit.
- Allows the integrated devices that do not have an emergency-stop circuit to finish the current task, and then pauses the devices. Examples of these devices include the Centrifuge, Labware MiniHub, PlateLoc Sealer, and Labware Stacker.
- Turns on the red DOORS light or the red LIGHT CURTAIN light on the Automation Control Unit and generates a robot error.
- Changes the blue solid RESET light to a blinking RESET light on the Automation Control Unit.

All devices powered by 5 VDC and 24 VDC outputs (including the air distribution panel) are not affected by the tripped interlock.

For a description of the NORMAL interlock key setting, see "NORMAL setting" on page 48. For recovery instructions, see "Recovering from an emergency stop or tripped interlock" on page 5.

Tripped interlock—INTERLOCK key is set at BYPASS

⚠️ **WARNING** **Access to and use of the interlock key should be controlled. To avoid possible injury, the INTERLOCK BYPASS setting should be used only by personnel trained to teach robots and devices in the system or workstation. The interlock key should be removed from the Automation Control Unit when the switch is set at NORMAL and you are not teaching the robots and devices.**

If the INTERLOCK key is set at BYPASS, the robots and devices move at a significantly slower speed. Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain has no effect on the system. All robots and devices continue to move and operate at the reduced speed.

For a description of the BYPASS interlock key setting, see "BYPASS setting" on page 50.

Recovering from an emergency stop or tripped interlock

After an emergency stop, you must restore the system or workstation for normal operation.

IMPORTANT You cannot always resume or recover a protocol run after an emergency stop. You might need to rerun the protocol after restoring the system for normal operation.

Before you restore the system, make sure you remove labware that might have been dropped during the emergency stop. Also remove labware at teachpoints or other locations.

To restore the Automation Control Unit after an emergency stop:

1 Do the following as applicable:

- Reset the system or workstation emergency stop button. See the system or workstation user documentation for instructions.
- Close the system doors.
- Remove objects that are interrupting the Light Curtain.

2 On the front of the Automation Control Unit, press the **RESET** button. The flashing light in the button becomes solid.
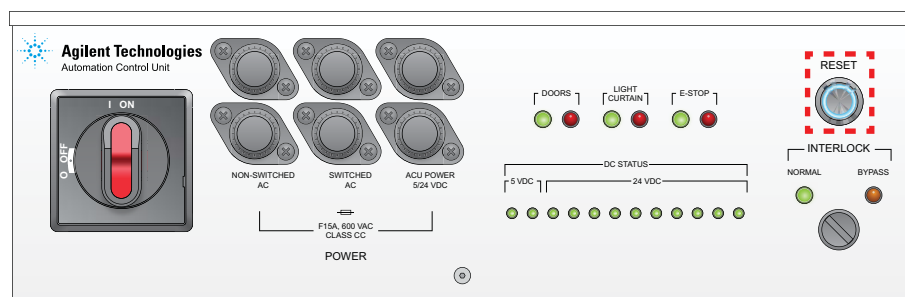
3 See the user documentation for the robots, devices, and system automation software to determine how to restore the robots and devices for normal operation.

Related information

For information about...	See...
General safety information	"General safety information" on page 2
Safety and regulatory compliance	"Safety and regulatory compliance" on page 2
How to stop the system or workstation in an emergency	System or workstation safety guide
Safety interlock	"Safety interlock" on page 7
Power switch with locking mechanism	"Power switch" on page 8
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page viii

Safety interlock

The Automation Control Unit is equipped with safety interlock features that are designed to protect you from moving-part hazards while the system is in operation. The safety interlock circuit must be closed for the system to operate.

Two interlock key settings are available:

*   *NORMAL*. The interlock is armed. Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain opens the interlock circuit, thus stopping the robots and devices that are on the circuit. Devices that are not on the circuit will finish the current task before pausing. Under normal operating conditions, the INTERLOCK key should be set at NORMAL.

*   *BYPASS*. The interlock is muted (or bypassed). Robots and devices will move at a significantly reduced speed. Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain does not open the safety interlock circuit, so the robots and devices will continue to move. Use the BYPASS key setting if you need to work inside of the system or workstation while teaching robots and devices.

⚠️ **WARNING** **Access to and use of the interlock key should be controlled. To avoid possible injury, the Interlock Bypass setting should be used only by personnel trained to teach robots and devices in the system or workstation. The interlock key should be removed from the Automation Control Unit when the switch is set at Normal and you are not teaching the robots and devices.**

For a detailed description of the two interlock modes, see "Interlock key settings" on page 45.

Related information

For information about...	See...
General safety information	"General safety information" on page 2
Safety and regulatory certifications	"Safety and regulatory compliance" on page 2
How to stop the system or workstation in an emergency	System or workstation user documentation
Power switch with locking mechanism	"Power switch" on page 8
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page viii

Power switch

⚠️ **WARNING** **The power switch turns off the Automation Control Unit output and can be configured to turn off uninterruptible power supply (UPS) output, but hazardous energy always remains present inside the UPS.**

The Automation Control Unit power switch is equipped with a locking mechanism so that your organization can implement lockout/tagout policies. By locking and placing a warning tag on the power switch after a shutdown procedure, you can prevent unsafe startup of the system or workstation that could cause injuries to operators or service personnel.

Figure Automation Control Unit power switch with locking mechanism engaged
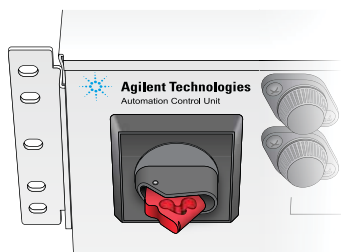
Follow the company, local, state, and federal safety standards for implementing lockout/tagout policies in your lab.

Related information

For information about...	See...
General safety information	"General safety information" on page 2
Safety and regulatory certifications	"Safety and regulatory compliance" on page 2
How to stop the system or workstation in an emergency	System or workstation user documentation
Safety interlock	"Safety interlock" on page 7
Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit	"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page viii

2
Introduction to the Automation Control Unit

This chapter contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

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About the Automation Control Unit

Description

The Automation Control Unit provides the following for Agilent Technologies laboratory automation systems:

- AC power and power distribution
- Emergency-stop function
- Safety interlock features
  - Receives safety interlock circuit signals from system doors or the Light Curtain, and transmits the signals to the lab automation software to pause the system or workstation.
  - Mutes (or bypasses) the interlock circuit, placing robots and emergency-stop controlled Automation Solutions devices in the reduced-speed mode to allow access for tasks such as teaching.
- Detection sensor features

  Transmits signals from various sensors to the controlling computer so that the software can respond and turn on or off status lights, open or close doors, and change the state of other items.

Locations

In BioCel System models, the Automation Control Unit is typically located in a cabinet below the deck. You can access the power switch, interlock switch, and the RESET button without opening the cabinet door. For more information about the system, see the system user documentation.

Figure   The Automation Control Unit in a BioCel System
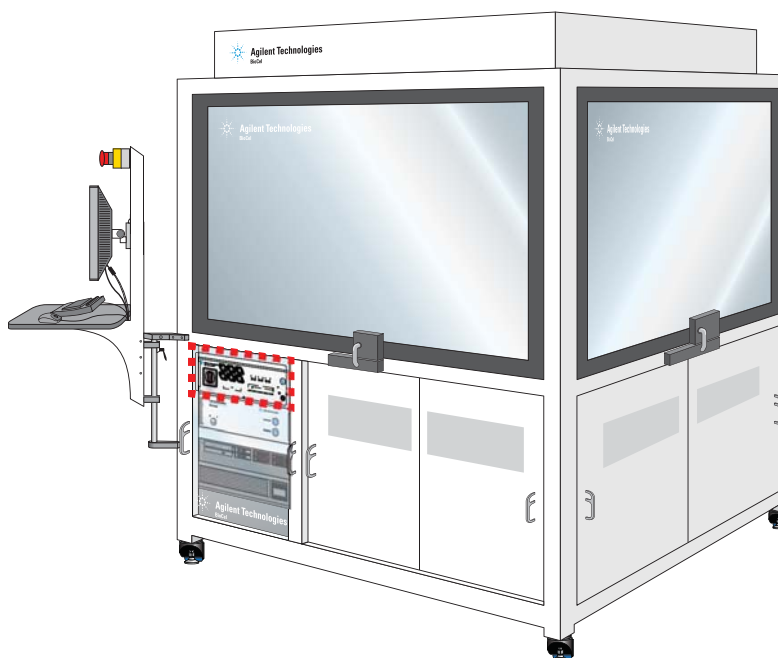
In benchtop workstations, the Automation Control Unit can be mounted in a rack under the workstation bench, or placed on a surface near the workstation. In the following example, the Automation Control Unit is placed on the workstation bench. For other placement options and requirements, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

Note: The workstation bench is not part of the workstation and is not provided.

Figure The Automation Control Unit on a workstation benchtop
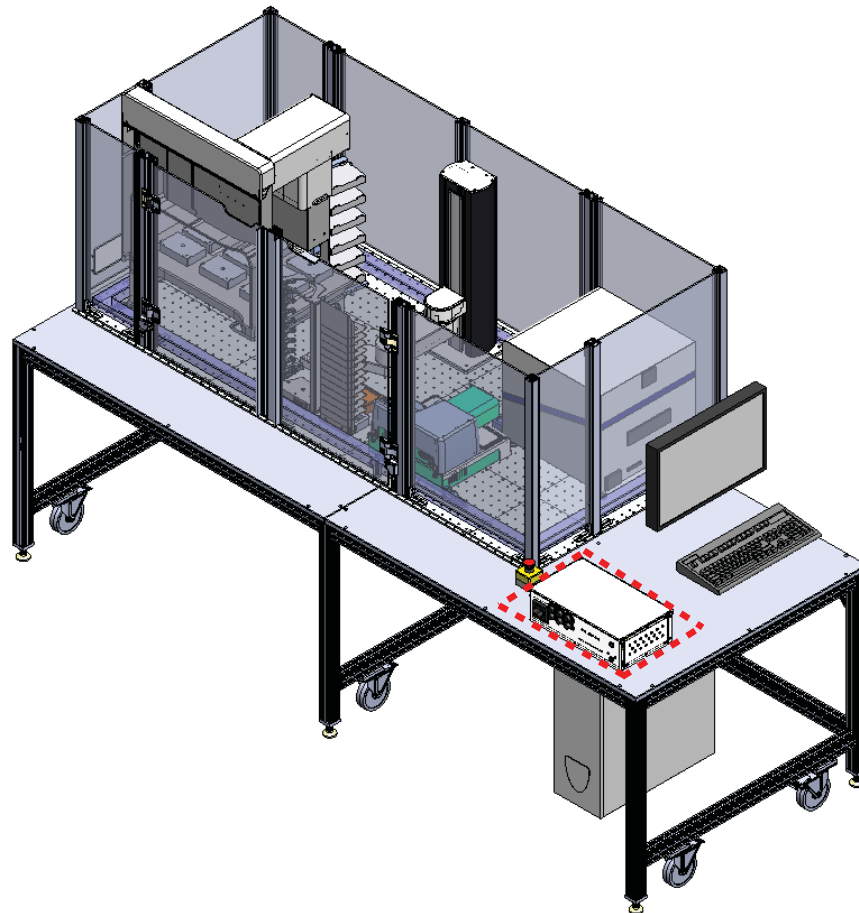
Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Automation Control Unit specifications	"Specifications" on page 25
Software that controls the Automation Control Unit	"Software overview" on page 22
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

Front panel

Description

The front panel of the Automation Control Unit consists of the following:

Item	Name	Description
1	Power switch	Turns on or turns off AC and DC power to the Automation Control Unit. If the system or workstation uses compressed air, the power switch also turns on or turns off the air supply.
		Note: The power switch is equipped with a locking mechanism that allows you to enforce lockout/tagout policies in your organization. For more information, see "Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80.
2	Fuse housings	Contains the fuses. For fuse ratings, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28.
3	Indicator lights	Indicates status of the system doors, Light Curtain, emergency-stop, and various devices connected to the 5 V and 24 V DC signal output ports. See "Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111.
4	RESET button	Resets the emergency stop relay to allow electrical current to flow to switched power outputs.
		For emergency stop recovery, see "About emergency stop" on page 4. For indicator light descriptions, see "Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111.

Item	Name	Description
5	INTERLOCK key switch	Arms or bypasses the safety interlock.
		For a description of the interlock modes, see "Interlock key settings" on page 45.

WARNING   Access to and use of the interlock key should be controlled. To avoid possible injury, the INTERLOCK BYPASS setting should be used only by personnel trained to teach the robots and devices in the system. The interlock key should be removed from the Automation Control Unit when the switch is set at NORMAL and you are not teaching robots and devices.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit back panel features	"Back panel" on page 14
Automation Control Unit specifications	"Specifications" on page 25
Software that controls the Automation Control Unit	"Software overview" on page 22
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1
Installation instructions	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

Back panel

Description

The back of the Automation Control Unit consists of ports for the following:
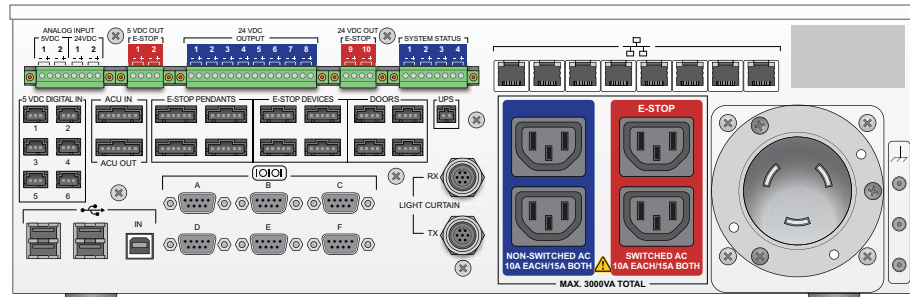
- • "AC power" on page 14
- • "UPS" on page 15
- • "Safety equipment" on page 16
- • "Ethernet communication" on page 17
- • "USB communication" on page 18
- • "RS-232 communication" on page 18
- • "Analog signal input" on page 19
- • "Digital signal input and DC output" on page 20
- • "Additional Automation Control Units" on page 21

AC power

Item	Name	Description
1	NON-SWITCHED AC (2 ports)	Distributes power to devices that are: • Equipped with an emergency-stop circuit. Examples of such devices include the Direct Drive Robot, BenchBot Robot, Bravo Platform, and Plate Hub Carousel. • Not equipped with an emergency-stop circuit and have no moving parts. The NON-SWITCHED AC ports are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices that do not have an emergency-stop circuit are not affected by emergency stops and tripped interlock.
2	E-STOP SWITCHED AC (2 ports)	Distributes power to devices that are not equipped with an emergency-stop circuit but have moving parts. Examples of such devices include the Labware MiniHub, PlateLoc Sealer, and Labware Stacker. The SWITCHED AC ports are on a post-emergency-stop circuit. Power is cut from devices connected to these ports during an emergency stop.
3	AC input (1 port)	Delivers AC power to the Automation Control Unit.
4	Grounding terminals (3 terminals)	Bonds the system enclosure conductive parts to ground.

For more information, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28 and "Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56.

UPS

Item	Name	Description
1	UPS (1 port)	Optionally connects the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) emergency power off (EPO) circuit to the Automation Control Unit. The connection is only applicable in configurations where turning off the Automation Control Unit automatically turns off the UPS and any device connected directly to the UPS, such as the controlling computer. (By default, this connection is not used so that you can continue to operate the controlling computer for backing up files after turning off the Automation Control Unit.) *Note:* The UPS is included in the BioCel 1200 System and the BioCel 1800 System. It is optional in the BioCel 900 System and all workstations.

Safety equipment
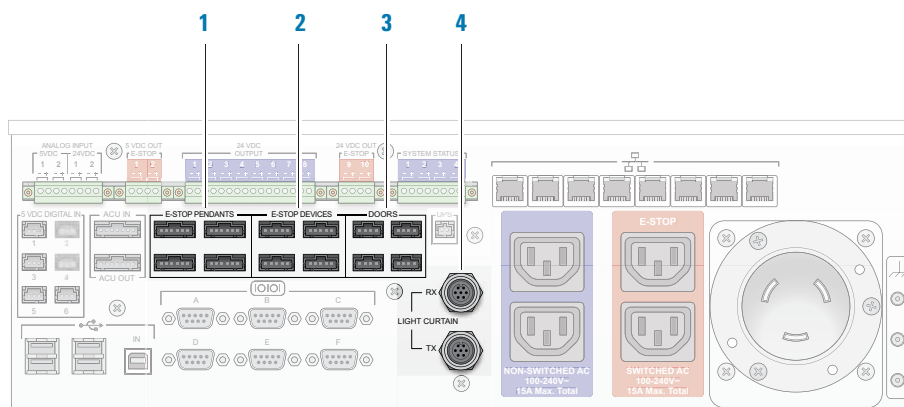
Item	Name	Description
1	E-STOP PENDANTS (4 ports)	Connects emergency-stop pendants to the Agilent Automation Control Unit.
2	E-STOP DEVICES (4 ports)	Connects device emergency-stop cables to the Automation Control Unit. The ports are only applicable to devices that are equipped with an emergency-stop circuit, such as the system robot, BenchCel Microplate Handler, Bravo Platform, Vertical Pipetting Station, and Plate Hub Carousel.

Item	Name	Description
3	DOORS (4 ports)	Connects safety-interlocked doors to the Agilent Automation Control Unit.
		Note: If your workstation employs the Light Curtain, use the Light Curtain ports (**4**).
4	LIGHT CURTAIN	Connects the Light Curtain to the Agilent Automation Control Unit.
		• *TX.* The transmitter cable connects to the TX port.
		• *RX.* The receiver cable connects to the RX port.
		Note: If your workstation employs a shield, use the Doors ports (**3**).

IMPORTANT Unused safety equipment ports must have the supplied jumpers installed.

For more information, see "Emergency-stop ports" on page 32, "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72, and "Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63.

Ethernet communication
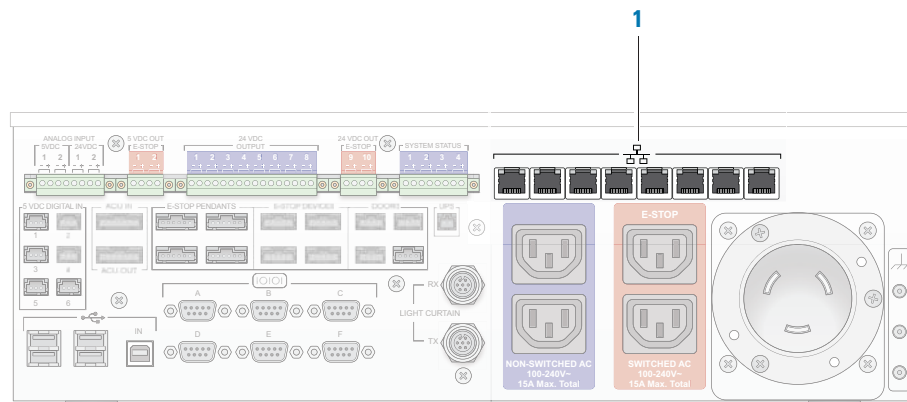
Item	Symbol	Description
1	(8 ports)	Connects the controlling computer and devices that require Ethernet communication.

For more information, see "I/O ports" on page 35 and "Connecting the computer" on page 70.

USB communication

The USB ports are provided in case you have devices that require USB communication.
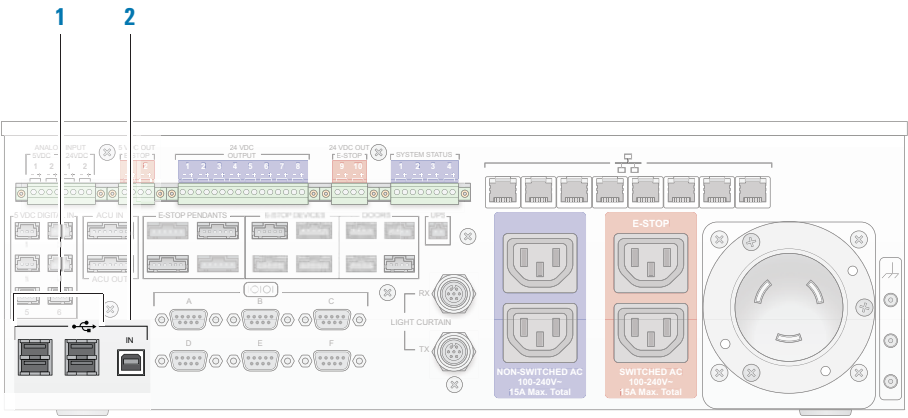
Item	Symbol	Description
1	⋆⟵⟶ (4 ports)	Connects up to four USB devices. *Note:* You can connect a USB hub to one of the ports to expand the number of available ports.
2	⋆⟵⟶ IN (1 port)	Connects to a USB port on the controlling computer. Use this port only if you require communication with devices that are connected to the USB and RS-232 ports.

For more information, see "I/O ports" on page 35 and "Connecting integrated devices" on page 67.

RS-232 communication
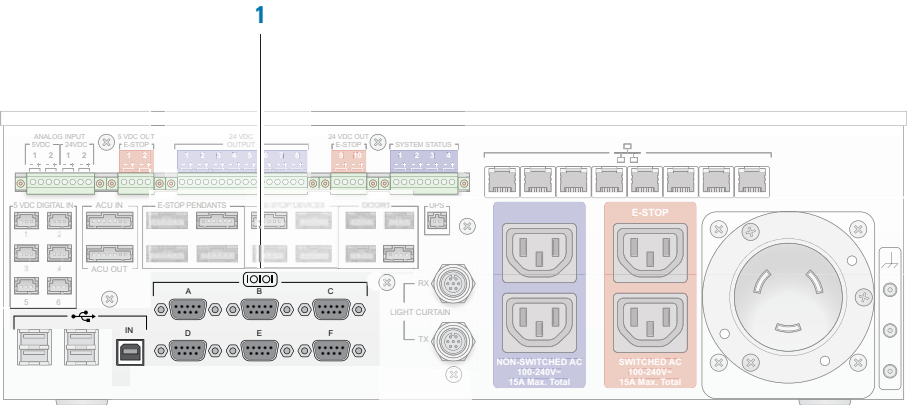
Item	Symbol	Description
1	[IOIOI] (6 ports)	Connects devices that require RS-232 communication. **IMPORTANT** To communicate with the RS-232 devices, you must connect the controlling computer to the USB IN port.

For more information, see "I/O ports" on page 35, and "Connecting integrated devices" on page 67.

Analog signal input
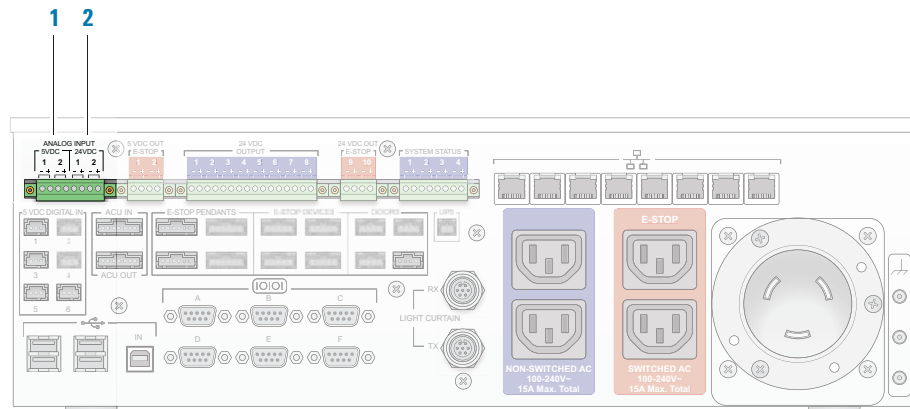
Item	Name	Description
1	ANALOG INPUT 5 VDC (2 ports)	Accepts up to 5 VDC per port.
2	ANALOG INPUT 24 VDC (2 ports)	Accepts up to 24 VDC per port.

For more information, see "I/O ports" on page 35 and "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72.

Digital signal input and DC output

Item	Name	Description
1	5 VDC DIGITAL IN (6 ports)	Supplies up to 5 VDC per port and accepts TTL/CMOS logic input signals.
2	5 VDC OUT E-STOP (2 ports)	Supplies up to 5 VDC per port. *Note:* The 5 VDC OUT E-STOP ports are on a post-emergency-stop circuit. Power is cut from devices connected to these ports during an emergency stop.
3	24 VDC OUTPUT (8 ports) and 24 VDC OUT E-STOP (2 ports)	Supplies up to 24 VDC per port. *Note:* Ports 1 through 8 are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are not affected by emergency stops and tripped interlock. Ports 9 and 10 are on a post-emergency-stop circuit. Power is cut from devices connected to these ports during an emergency stop.
4	SYSTEM STATUS (4 ports)	Connects the multicolor or other status lights that require up to 24 VDC. Note: The SYSTEM STATUS ports are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are not affected by emergency stops and tripped interlock.

For more information, see "I/O ports" on page 35 and "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72.

Additional Automation Control Units

In a system where multiple BioCel units are connected and an Automation Control Unit is installed in each unit, use the ACU IN and ACU OUT connections on the back to connect the units in series.
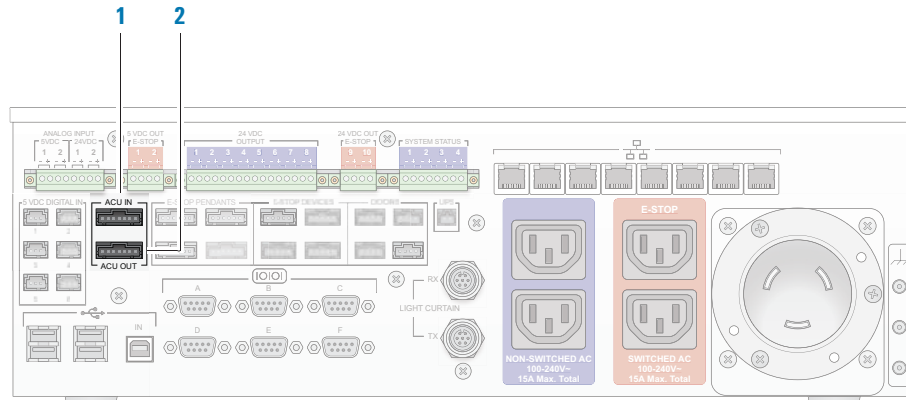
Item	Name	Description
1	ACU IN	Connects to another Automation Control Unit.
2	ACU OUT	Connects to another Automation Control Unit.

Note: Only one computer is required to communicate with and control the connected units.

For more information, see "ACU ports" on page 42 and "Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit front panel features	"Front panel" on page 12
Specifications	"Specifications" on page 25
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1
Interlock key settings	"Interlock key settings" on page 45
Installation procedure	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53
Setup procedure	"Setting up the Automation Control Unit" on page 77
Fuse replacement procedure	"Replacing fuses" on page 135

Software overview

About this topic

You use the lab automation software to configure the Automation Control Unit and manage the I/O signals.

This topic provides an overview of the following VWorks software components:

*   "ACU Diagnostics" on page 22
*   "IO Manager" on page 23

For information about other lab automation software, see the user documentation for the software.

ACU Diagnostics

You use the ACU Diagnostics software to:

*   *Establish communication with the Automation Control Unit.* You create a profile to set up communication between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer.

*   *Configure the I/O signal channels.* You can name the signal channels so that they are easily identifiable in the VWorks software IO Manager, protocol tasks, and when diagnosing problems. You can also specify whether a signaling device should be turned on at startup.

You can access ACU Diagnostics from within the VWorks software only. For instructions, see "Setting up the Automation Control Unit" on page 77.
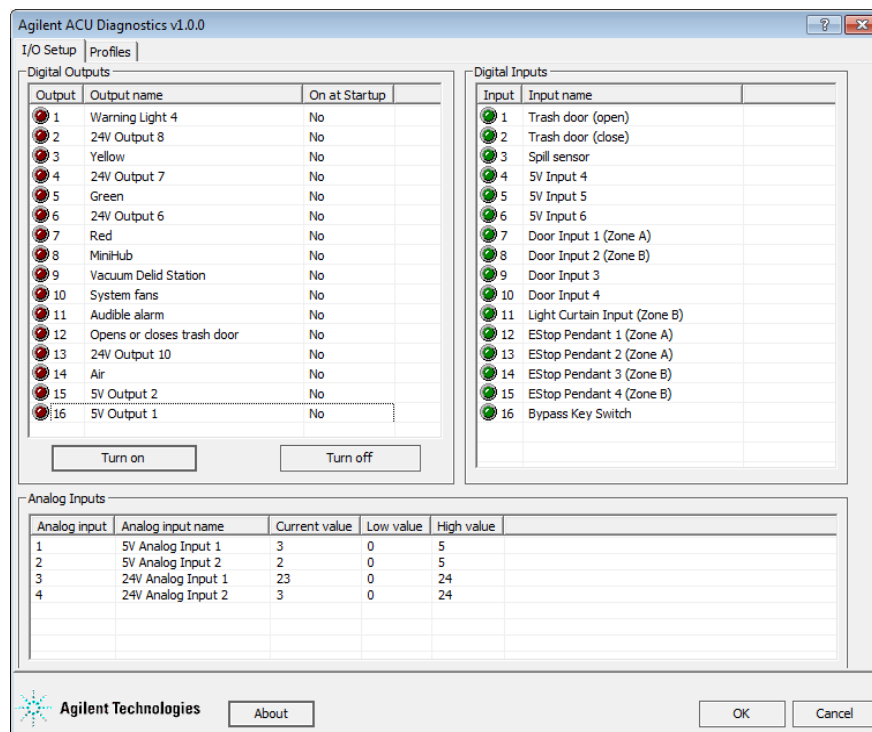
IO Manager

After you configure the Automation Control Unit in ACU Diagnostics, you can use the VWorks software IO Manager to manage the I/O signals. For example, you can specify which channels to use for the multicolor status lights, pass-through gates, and spill-detection sensor.

For instructions on how to use the VWorks software I/O Manager, see the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*.
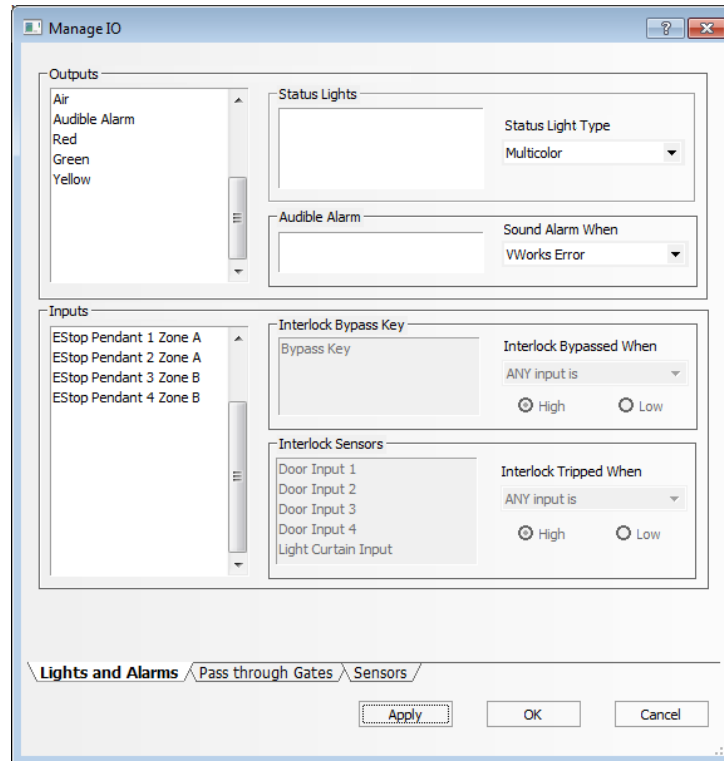
Related information

For information about...	See...
VWorks software instructions	*VWorks Automation Control User Guide*
Other automation software instructions	Automation software user documentation
Automation Control Unit description	"About the Automation Control Unit" on page 10
Automation Control Unit specifications and requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43
Hardware components	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
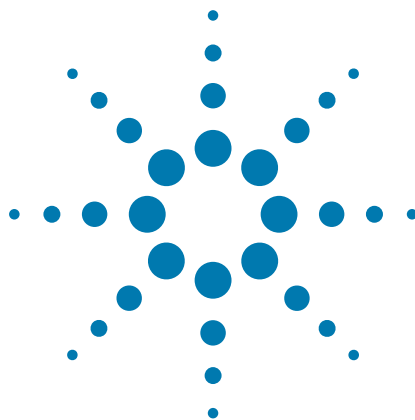
3
Specifications

This chapter provides the specifications for the Automation Control Unit and contains the following topics:

For site preparation and installation requirements, see the site-specific documentation provided by Automation Solutions. The site-specific documents address different system or workstation configurations and requirements. If you have questions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

Agilent Technologies

Dimensions

Figure Automation Control Unit front view
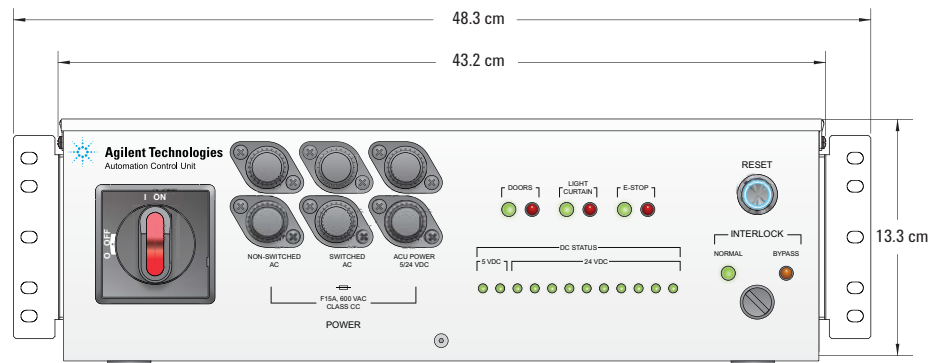
Figure Automation Control Unit top view

Dimension	Value
Width:	
Without mounting brackets	43.2 cm (17.0 in)
With mounting bracket	48.3 cm (19.0 in)
Depth	29.7 cm (11.7 in)
Height	13.3 cm (5.3 in)
Weight	4.5 kg (10.0 lb)

The Automation Control Unit has two mounting brackets that are 3 rack units (or 3 U) tall and permit the unit to be mounted in a standard 19-inch rack. Mounting screws and washers are provided.

IMPORTANT   *Workstations*. To ensure adequate ventilation, provide at least 15 cm (6 in) of clearance on all sides of the Automation Control Unit.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

Electrical requirements

About this topic

This topic presents the electrical requirements for the following:

AC mains input

IMPORTANT Do not use an extension cord to connect the Automation Control Unit to the wall receptacle.

Requirement	Value
Voltage	100–240 VAC
Frequency	50/60 Hz
Current (maximum)	
Systems	
100–127 V	30 A
200–240 V	16 A (20 A in the U.S. and Canada)
Workstations	
100–127 V	20 A
200–240 V	15 A (13 A in the U.K.)
Fuses	600 VAC, 15 A, class CC, time delay
Chassis input receptacle	
Systems	
100–127 V	NEMA L5-30P
200-240 V	IEC 60320 C20*
Workstations (all)	IEC 60320 C20*
Wall receptacle**	Single dedicated receptacle suitable for rated voltage and maximum current
Facility branch circuit breaker***	
Systems	
100–127 V	30 A, rated continuous use
200–240 V	16 A, rated continuous use (20 A, rated continuous use, in the U.S. and Canada)
Workstations	
100–127 V	20 A, rated continuous use
200–240 V	20 A (or 16 A, rated continuous use)

* 20 A rated cords will be supplied to labs in North America. For labs in other countries, the appropriate cords will be provided.

** The receptacle must be the only receptacle on a dedicated electrical circuit protected by the facility circuit breaker. The receptacle must be properly grounded.

*** The circuit breaker protects the electrical circuit from damage caused by overload or short circuit.

UPS

IMPORTANT   The UPS must connect directly to the wall receptacle that is on a dedicated and grounded electrical circuit protected by the facility circuit breaker. Do not use an extension cord to connect the UPS to the dedicated circuit.

The UPS is supplied in the BioCel 1800 System and the BioCel 1200 System. The UPS is optional in the BioCel 900 System and workstations.

One of two types of UPS is installed with your system:

- *110–127 V UPS*. Has a permanently attached power cord with a NEMA L5-30P plug. Make sure your wall receptacle or junction box can accommodate this plug.

- *200–240 V UPS*. Has a detachable, country-specific power cord that is supplied with your system.

The following diagram shows the connection sequence when a UPS is installed with the Automation Control Unit.
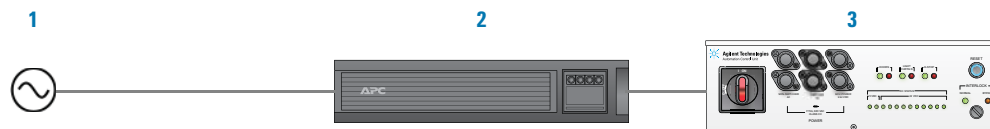
Item	Name	Description
1	AC source	The wall receptacle in the lab. See "AC mains input" on page 28 for the wall receptacle and circuit breaker requirements.
2	UPS	The UPS that is supplied in the BioCel 1800 System and the BioCel 1200 System, and optionally installed in the BioCel 900 System and workstations.
3	Automation Control Unit	The Automation Control Unit that is installed in the system or workstation.

For detailed connection instructions, see "Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56. For detailed site preparation and installation requirements, see the site-specific documentation provided by Automation Solutions. The site-specific documents address different system configurations and requirements. If you have questions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

AC output to devices

The two AC outputs from the Automation Control Unit will always be the same voltage and frequency as the AC input from the UPS or from the AC mains wall receptacle. Each of the two outputs is rated as follows:

Requirement	Value
Voltage	100–240 VAC
Frequency	50/60 Hz
Current (maximum)	
Non-switched AC input	10 A (each receptacle), 15 A (total)
Switched AC input	10 A (each receptacle), 15 A (total)
Chassis output receptacle	IEC 60320 C13

CAUTION   Check the electrical requirements of integrated devices before connecting them to the Automation Control Unit. Connecting incompatible devices might damage the Automation Control Unit and the devices.

DC output to devices

All DC outputs are rated as follows:

Requirement	Value
Voltage	5 VDC and 24 VDC
Current (maximum)	1.5 A
Fuses (self resetting)*	
Voltage (maximum)	33 V
Current (hold)	1.85 A at 23 °C
Current (trip)	3.70 A at 23 °C

* Not replaceable

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32

For information about...	See...
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

Environmental requirements

Ambient environment

IMPORTANT The Automation Control Unit must operate within the temperature and humidity specifications stated in the following table.

Operating	Recommended range
Temperature	5–40 °C
Humidity	10–95% RH, non-condensing
Storage (non-operating)	**Recommended range**
Temperature	-40–70 °C
Humidity	95% RH at 65 °C, non-condensing

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

Emergency-stop ports

About this topic

This topic presents the specifications for the following ports:

Emergency-stop pendants

The **E-STOP PENDANTS** ports are 6-pin receptacles located on the left side of the back panel. The ports connect up to four emergency-stop pendants to the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT   Unused ports must have the supplied jumpers installed.
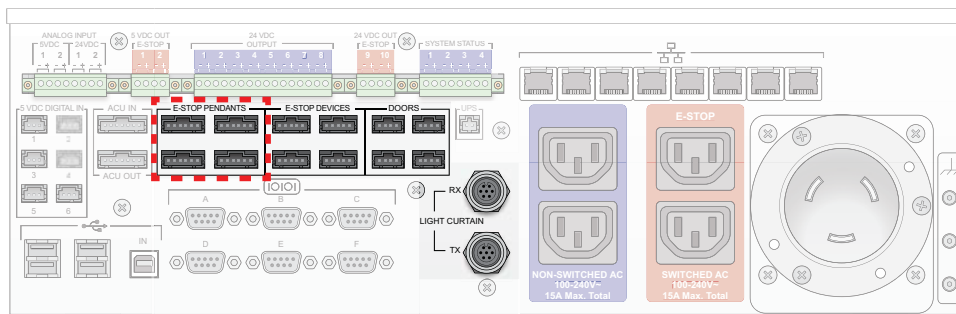
Doors

The **DOORS** ports are 4-pin receptacles located on the left side of the back panel. The ports connect up to four safety-interlocked doors to the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT   Unused ports must have the supplied jumpers installed.

Light Curtain

The **LIGHT CURTAIN** ports are two M12 (8-pin circular) receptacles located on the left side of the back panel. The **RX** port connects the receiver post to the Automation Control Unit. The **TX** port connects the transmitter post to the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT   Unused ports must have the supplied jumper installed. The Light Curtain jumper must be installed in the RX port.

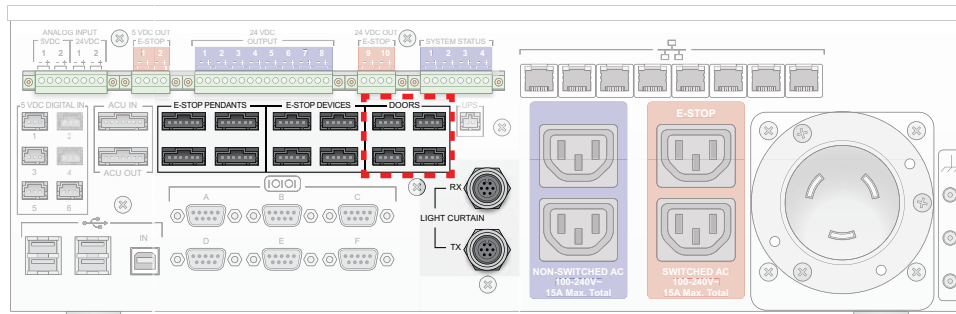> **CAUTION**   Do not install the jumper at the TX port. Installing the supplied jumper at the TX port can disable the Light Curtain circuit and damage the Automation Control Unit.
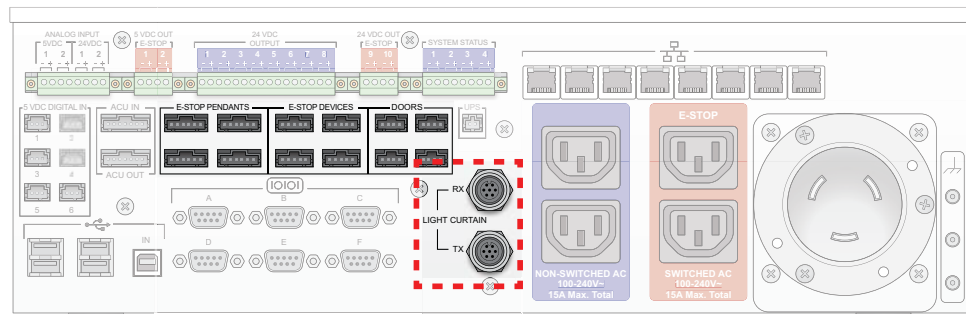
E-Stop Devices

The **E-STOP DEVICES** ports are 5-pin receptacles located on the left side of the back panel. The ports connect up to four devices equipped with an emergency-stop circuit to the Automation Control Unit.

Note: Jumpers are not required for unused E-STOP DEVICES ports.
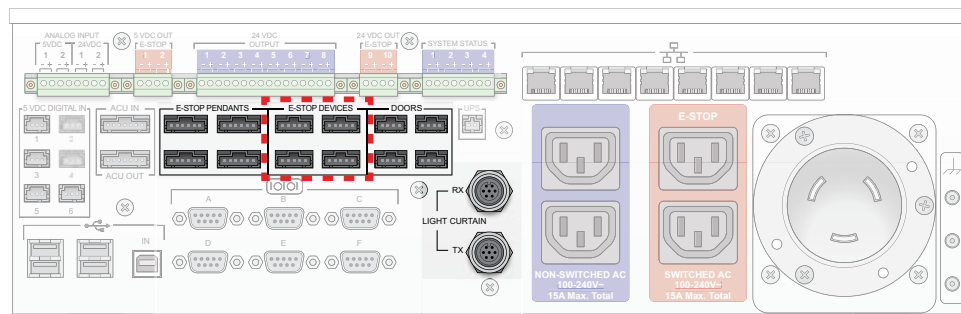
Contact Automation Solutions Technical Support if the number of devices equipped with an emergency-stop circuit exceeds the number of E-STOP DEVICES ports available.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Connecting the safety equipment to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

I/O ports

About this topic

This topic presents the specifications for the following ports:

- "Ethernet" on page 35
- "USB" on page 35
- "Serial" on page 36
- "General I/O" on page 36

Ethernet

The Ethernet (⊞) ports are RJ-45 receptacles located above the three power ports on the back panel. The Ethernet ports connect the controlling computer and up to seven devices that require Ethernet communication to the Automation Control Unit.
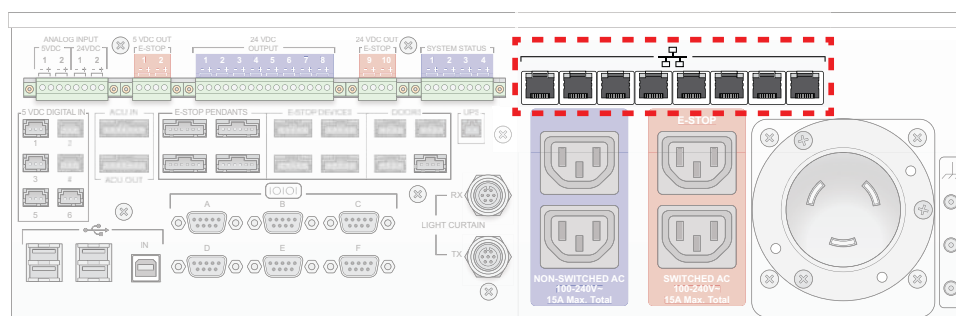
USB

The USB (•←⊷) ports are located on the lower left side of the back panel. The output ports accept up to four standard-sized type-A USB connectors. The input port accepts one type-B USB connector.
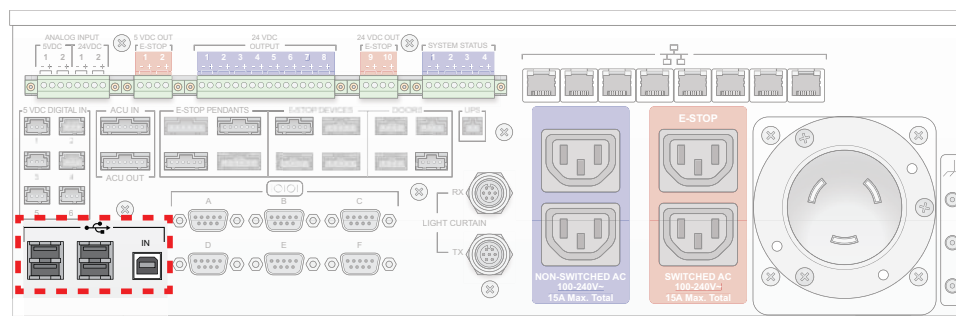
Serial

The serial ($\boxed{\text{IOIOI}}$) ports are 9-pin male DE-9 receptacles located on the lower left side of the back panel. The serial ports connect up to six devices that require serial communication to the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT   To communicate with the serial communication devices, you must connect the controlling computer to the USB IN port.
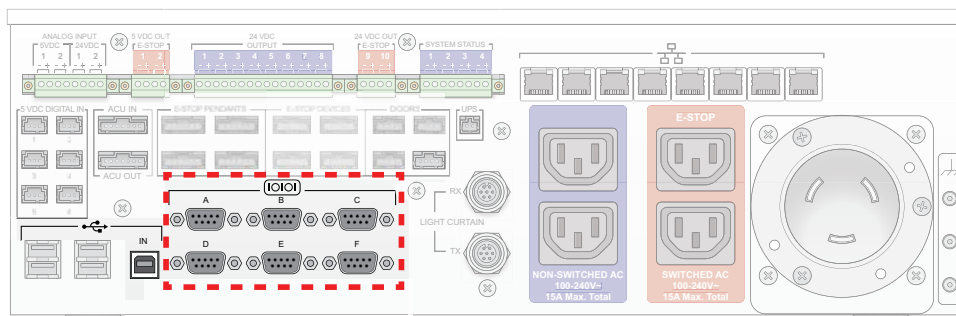
General I/O

The general I/O ports are:

- "5 VDC and 24 VDC analog input" on page 36
- "5 VDC digital input" on page 37
- "5 VDC output" on page 38
- "24 VDC output" on page 38
- "24 VDC output to system status devices" on page 39

5 VDC and 24 VDC analog input

The **5 VDC** and **24 VDC ANALOG INPUT** ports are receptacles in an 8-pin fixed terminal block located on the upper left side of the back panel. Each of the two 5 VDC ports accepts an analog signal up to 5 VDC. Each of the two 24 VDC ports accepts an analog signal up to 24 VDC. The analog signals are processed by 12-bit analog-to-digital converters in the Automation Control Unit.
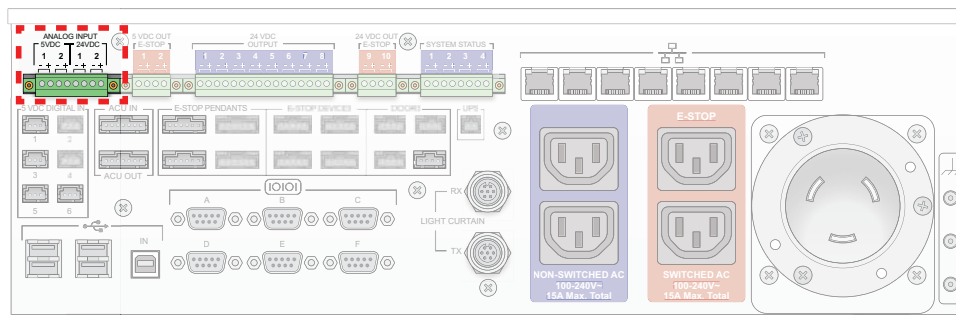
The following diagram shows the connector pinout.
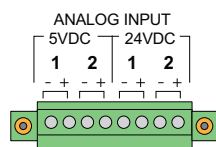
Pin	Assignment	Purpose
–	Reference terminal	Serves as the common return path for current in the circuit. **IMPORTANT** Make sure the reference terminal is connected to the chassis ground.
+	+5 VDC or +24 VDC ADC input	Accepts 5 or 24 VDC ADC signals.

5 VDC digital input

The **5 VDC DIGITAL IN** ports are 3-pin receptacles located on the far left side of the back panel. Each of the six ports is rated at 5 VDC and accepts TTL/CMOS logic signals.
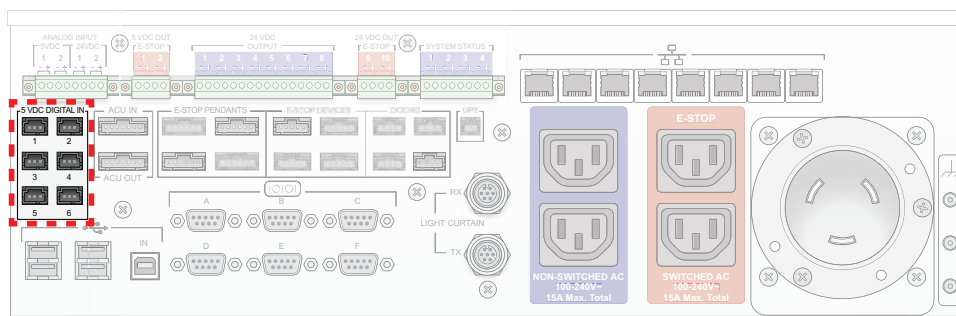
The following diagram shows the connector pinout.
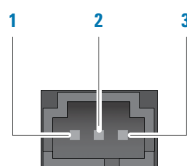
Pin	Assignment	Purpose
1	Reference terminal	Serves as the common return path for current in the circuit.
2	Sensor input	Accepts TTL/CMOS logic signals from the connected device.
3	+5 VDC power terminal	Supplies 5 VDC to the connected device.

5 VDC output

The **5 VDC OUT E-STOP** ports are receptacles in a 4-pin fixed terminal block located on the upper left side of the back panel. Each of the two ports is connected to a pull-up power supply that is rated at 5 VDC and supplies up to 1.5 A to the connected device.
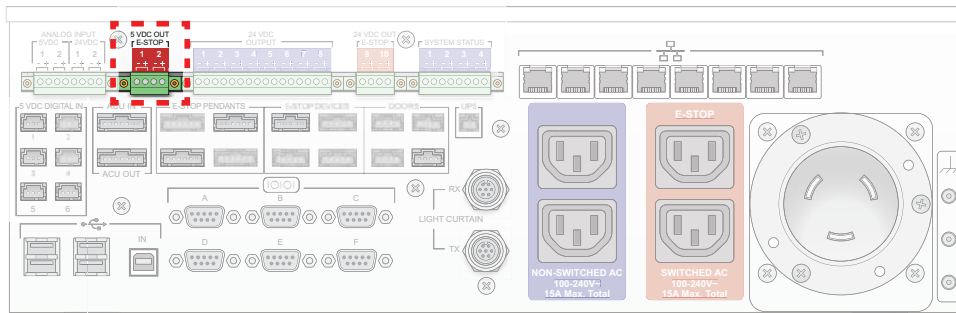
Note: The 5 VDC OUT ports are on a post-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are affected by emergency stops.

The following diagram shows the connector pinout.
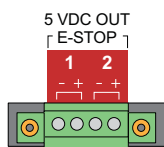
Pin	Assignment	Purpose
–	Reference terminal	Serves as the common return path for current in the circuit.
+	+5 VDC power terminal	Supplies 5 VDC switched output to the connected device.

24 VDC output

The **24 VDC OUTPUT** ports are receptacles in two fixed terminal blocks located on the upper left side of the back panel:

•   16-pin terminal block (ports 1 through 8)

•   4-pin terminal block (ports 9 and 10)
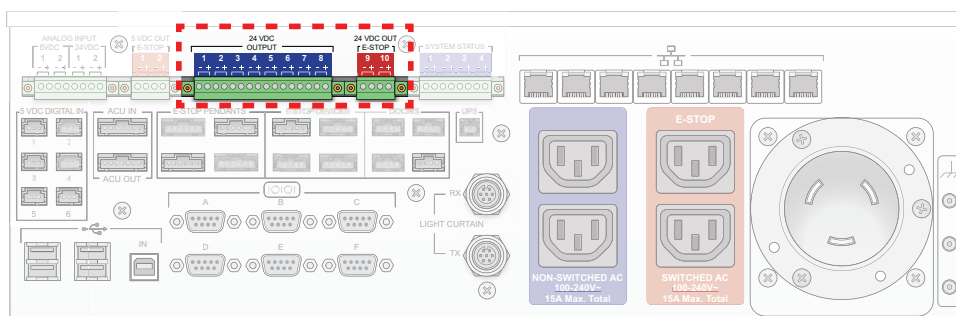
Each of the 10 ports is connected to a pull-up power supply that is rated at 24 VDC and supplies up to 1.5 A to the connected device.

Note: Ports 1 through 8 are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are not affected by emergency stops. Ports 9 and 10 are on a post-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are affected by emergency stops.

The following diagram shows the connector pinout.
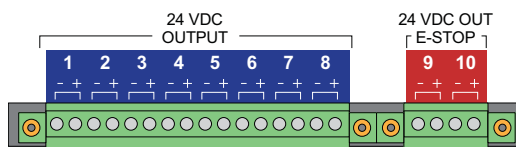
Pin	Assignment	Purpose
–	Reference terminal	Serves as the common return path for current in the circuit.
+	+24 VDC power terminal	Supplies 24 VDC non-switched (blue ports) or switched (red ports) output to the connected device.

24 VDC output to system status devices

The **SYSTEM STATUS** ports are receptacles in an 8-pin fixed terminal block located at the top center of the back panel. Each of the four ports is connected to a pull-down power supply that is rated at 24 VDC and supplies up to 1.5 A to the connected status light device.
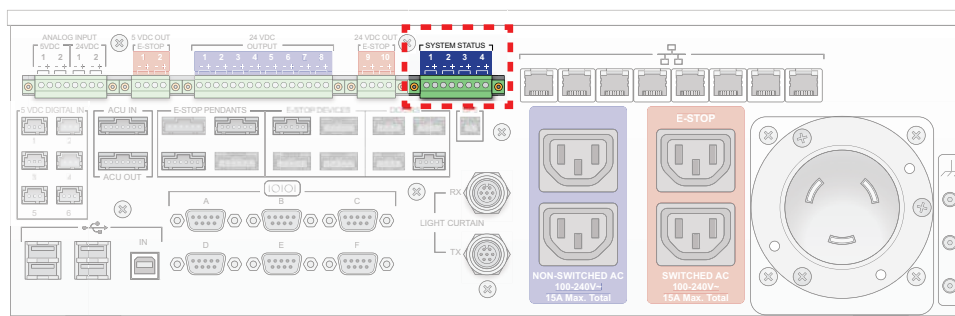
Note: The SYSTEM STATUS ports are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Therefore, devices connected to these ports are not affected by emergency stops.

The following diagram shows the connector pinout.
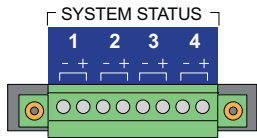
Pin	Assignment	Purpose
–	Reference terminal	Serves as the common return path for current in the circuit.
+	+24 VDC power terminal	Supplies 24 VDC non-switched output to the connected device.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

UPS port

Description

The **UPS** port is a 2-pin receptacle located at the center of the back panel. The port connects the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) emergency power off (EPO) circuit to the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT   The UPS port has normally open (NO) contacts, and the EPO circuit should be normally open. Do not connect the UPS port to a normally closed (NC) circuit.
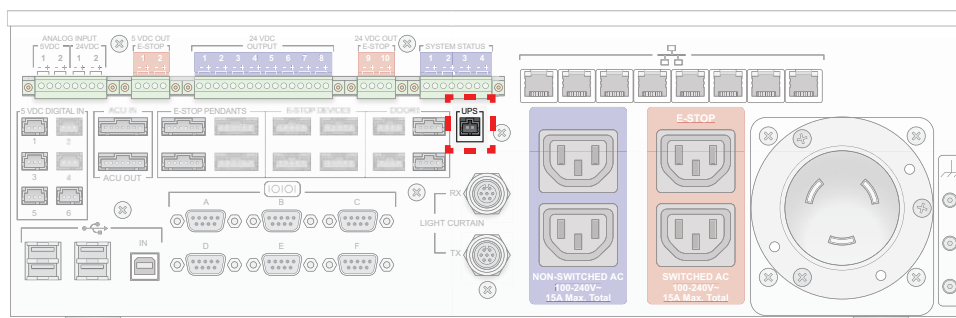
The UPS port connection is only applicable in configurations where turning off the Automation Control Unit automatically turns off the UPS and any device connected directly to the UPS, such as the controlling computer.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Connecting the UPS to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

ACU ports

Description

The **ACU IN** and **ACU OUT** ports are 7-pin receptacles located on the left side of the back panel. The ports permit you to connect multiple Automation Control Units in series.
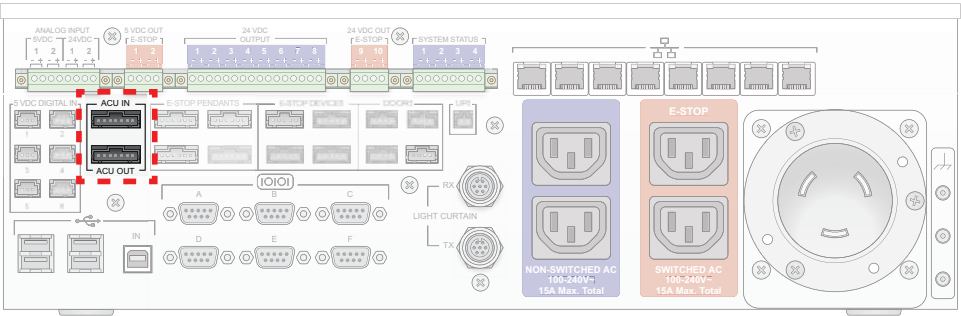
Related information

For information about...	See...
Connecting multiple Automation Control Units together	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
VWorks software requirements	"Software requirements" on page 43

Software requirements
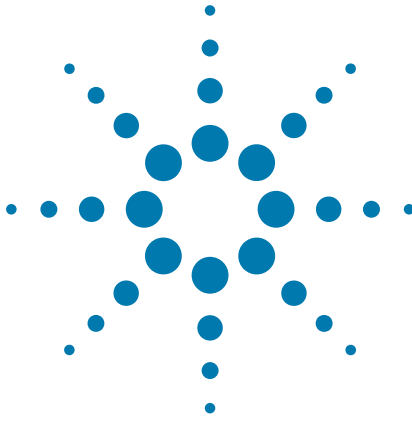
The Automation Control Unit works with the lab automation software. For the lab automation software requirements, see the software release notes or the Automation Solutions Knowledge Base at www.agilent.com/lifesciences/automation.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit dimensions	"Dimensions" on page 26
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Environmental requirements	"Environmental requirements" on page 31
Emergency-stop connections	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Signaling device connections	"I/O ports" on page 35
UPS connection	"UPS port" on page 41
ACU connections	"ACU ports" on page 42

4
Interlock key settings

This chapter contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

Overview

About the safety interlock

Designed to protect you from moving-part hazards while the system is in operation, the safety interlock circuit must be closed for the system to operate. Under normal operating conditions, opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain opens the safety interlock circuit, thus stopping the motion of the robots and devices that are on the circuit. If you bypass the safety interlock, the robots will continue to move at a reduced speed.

About the interlock switch key settings

WARNING   **Access to and use of the interlock key should be controlled. To avoid possible injury, the INTERLOCK BYPASS setting should be used only by personnel trained to teach robots and devices in the system or workstation. The interlock key should be removed from the Automation Control Unit when the switch is set at NORMAL and you are not teaching the robots and devices.**

An interlock key switch at the front of the Automation Control Unit can be set at one of the following:
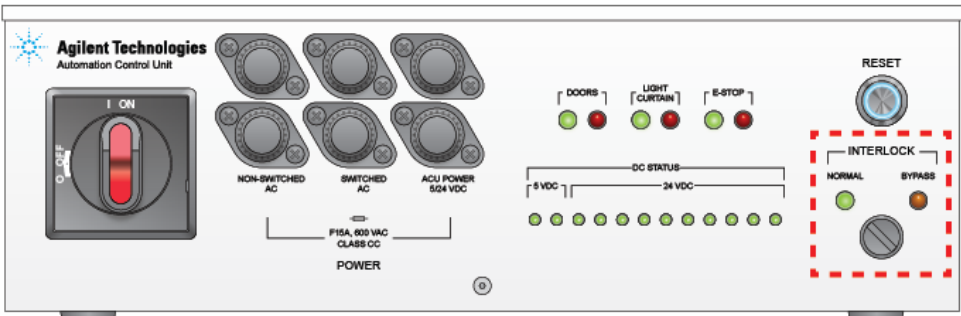
Key setting	Description
NORMAL	The interlock is armed. Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain opens the interlock circuit, thus stopping the robots and devices that are on the circuit. Devices that are not on the circuit will finish the current task before pausing. Under normal operating conditions, the INTERLOCK key should be set at NORMAL.
BYPASS	The interlock is muted (or bypassed). Robots and devices will move at a significantly reduced speed. Opening a system door or interrupting the Light Curtain does not open the safety interlock circuit, so the robots and devices will continue to move. Use the BYPASS key setting if you need to work inside of the system or workstation while teaching robots and devices.

The remaining topics in this chapter describe the behavior of the system or workstation under each key setting.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
VWorks software instructions	*VWorks Automation Control User Guide*

NORMAL setting

Setting the INTERLOCK key at NORMAL

To set the INTERLOCK key at NORMAL:

At the front of the Automation Control Unit, turn the **INTERLOCK** key to **NORMAL**. The interlock is armed.
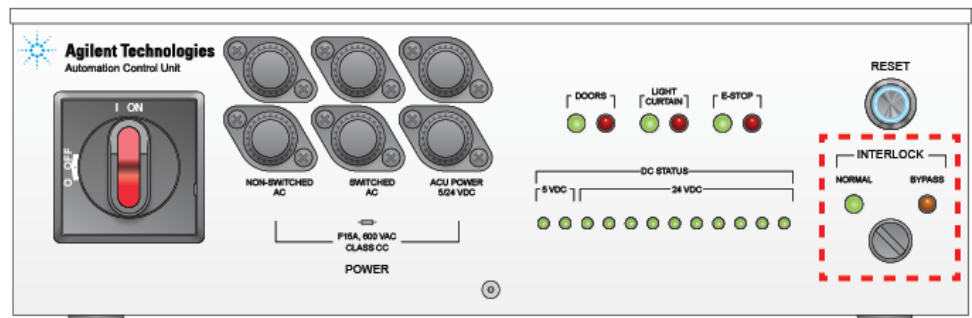
Responses to the NORMAL switch mode

The following table shows the robot and device responses to emergency stops and tripped interlock when the INTERLOCK key switch is at NORMAL.

The **Conditions** columns show the combined states of the emergency stop, Light Curtain, and system door. As a result of an emergency stop or tripped interlock, the blue light on the RESET button starts to blink. To reset the system, the operator must press the RESET button. The **Reset** column represents whether the button is pressed (1 = Pressed) or left as is (0 = As is).

The **Responses** columns show the responses of the robots, devices, and the overall system. **Interlock devices** are the robots and devices that have an emergency-stop circuit. **Switched AC/DC** are devices that do not have an emergency-stop circuit and are connected to the Switched AC, 5 VDC OUT E-STOP, or 24 VDC OUT E-STOP ports (red ports).

Note: Devices connected to the blue 24 VDC OUTPUT and SYSTEM STATUS ports are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Because these devices are not affected by emergency stops and tripped interlock, they are not represented in the table.

As a result of the combined conditions, the system can be either in the normal operating condition (System state is Normal) or paused (System state is Pause).

Table   Normal interlock key setting—responses to emergency stops and tripped interlock

Conditions					Responses		
Interlock 0 = Normal 1 = Bypass	Emergency stop 0 = Normal 1 = Stopped	Light curtain 0 = Normal 1 = Tripped	Door 0 = Closed 1 = Open	Reset 0 = As is 1 = Pressed	Interlock devices 0 = Run 1 = Stopped	Switched AC/DC 0 = On 1 = Off	System state
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Normal
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	Pause
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	Pause
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	Pause
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	Pause
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	Pause
0	0	1	1	1	1	0	Pause
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	Pause
0	1	0	0	1	1	1	Pause
0	1	0	1	0	1	1	Pause
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	Pause
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	Pause
0	1	1	0	1	1	1	Pause
0	1	1	1	0	1	1	Pause
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	Pause

Related information

| For information about…	See…
Safety interlocks	"Overview" on page 46
Bypassing the interlock	"BYPASS setting" on page 50
Automation software instructions	Automation software user documentation
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12

BYPASS setting

Setting the INTERLOCK key at BYPASS

⚠️ **WARNING** Only personnel trained to teach robots and devices in the system or workstation should have access to the interlock key or should be allowed to set the INTERLOCK key switch at BYPASS. Do not bypass the safety interlock under normal operating conditions.

To set the INTERLOCK key switch at BYPASS:

At the front of the Automation Control Unit, turn the **INTERLOCK** key to **BYPASS**. The interlock is muted.
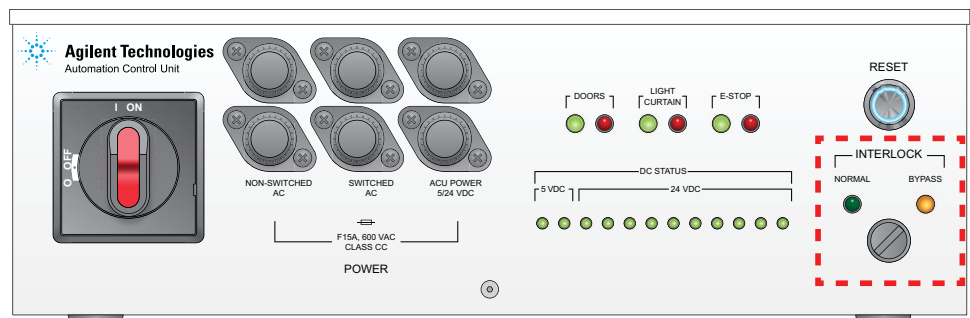
Responses to the BYPASS switch mode

The following table shows the robot and device responses to emergency stops and tripped interlock when the INTERLOCK key switch is at BYPASS.

The **Conditions** columns show the combined states of the emergency stop, Light Curtain, and system door. The **Reset** column represents whether the RESET button is pressed (1 = Pressed) or left as is (0 = As is).

Note: When the INTERLOCK key is set at BYPASS, opening the system door or interrupting the Light Curtain does not cause the blue light on the RESET button to blink.

The **Responses** columns show the responses of the robots, devices, and the overall system. **Interlock devices** are the robots and devices that have an emergency-stop circuit. **Switched AC/DC** are devices that do not have an emergency-stop circuit and are connected to the Switched AC, 5 VDC OUT E-STOP, or 24 VDC OUT E-STOP ports (red ports).

Note: Devices connected to the blue 24 VDC OUTPUT and SYSTEM STATUS ports are on a pre-emergency-stop circuit. Because these devices are not affected by emergency stops and tripped interlock, they are not represented in the table.

Notice that when the interlock key is set at BYPASS and the emergency-stop button is not pressed, the robots will disregard operator-specified speed settings and move at a reduced speed (System state is Reduced speed).

Table   Bypass interlock key setting—responses to emergency stops and tripped interlock

Conditions					Responses		
Interlock 0 = Normal 1 = Bypass	Emergency stop 0 = Normal 1 = Stopped	Light curtain 0 = Normal 1 = Tripped	Door 0 = Closed 1 = Open	RESET 0 = As is 1 = Pressed	Interlock devices 0 = Run 1 = Stopped	Switched AC devices 0 = On 1 = Off	System state
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	Reduced speed
1	0	1	1	1	0	0	Reduced speed
1	1	0	0	0	1	1	Pause
1	1	0	0	1	1	1	Pause
1	1	0	1	0	1	1	Pause
1	1	0	1	1	1	1	Pause
1	1	1	0	0	1	1	Pause
1	1	1	0	1	1	1	Pause
1	1	1	1	0	1	1	Pause
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Pause

Related information

For information about...	See...
Safety interlocks	"Overview" on page 46
Arming the interlock	"NORMAL setting" on page 48
Automation software instructions	Automation software user documentation
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12

5

Installing the Automation Control Unit

The Agilent lab automation system or workstation will be installed for you. If you have questions about the installation, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

WARNING **Changing the installed system or workstation might invalidate the safety compliance and lead to personal injury or equipment damage. In Europe, any changes might invalidate Agilent's Declaration of Conformity and require the person making the changes to assume responsibility as manufacturer of the system or workstation according to the Machinery Directive.**

This chapter provides general device connection instructions in case you need to troubleshoot connection problems. Mounting instructions are also provided.

IMPORTANT The connections can vary slightly by system or workstation configuration. See your system-specific connection documentation provided by Automation Solutions. If you have questions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

This chapter contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack

About this topic

The Automation Control Unit can be mounted in a standard 19-inch rack. In all BioCel System models, the Automation Control Unit is always rack mounted. In other systems and benchtop workstations, the Automation Control Unit can be mounted in a rack under the workstation bench or placed on a surface near the workstation.

This topic explains how to do the following:

For mounting specifications, see "Dimensions" on page 26. For site preparation and installation requirements, see the site-specific documentation for the system or workstation provided by Automation Solutions. The site-specific documents address different system configurations and requirements. If you have questions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

*   Automation Control Unit
*   18-8 SS pan-head Phillips machine screws (4)
*   M05 split-lock washers (4)
*   M05 flat washers (4)
*   #2 cross-head screw driver (not supplied)

Before you start

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

IMPORTANT   To facilitate the mounting or removal procedure, disconnect all cables from the back panel.

Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard 19-in rack

The Automation Control Unit has two mounting brackets so that you can mount it on a standard 19-inch rack. The Automation Control Unit should always be mounted so that the main power switch is 0.6 m to 1.7 m above the floor. The following diagram shows an example of how you can mount the Automation Control Unit.
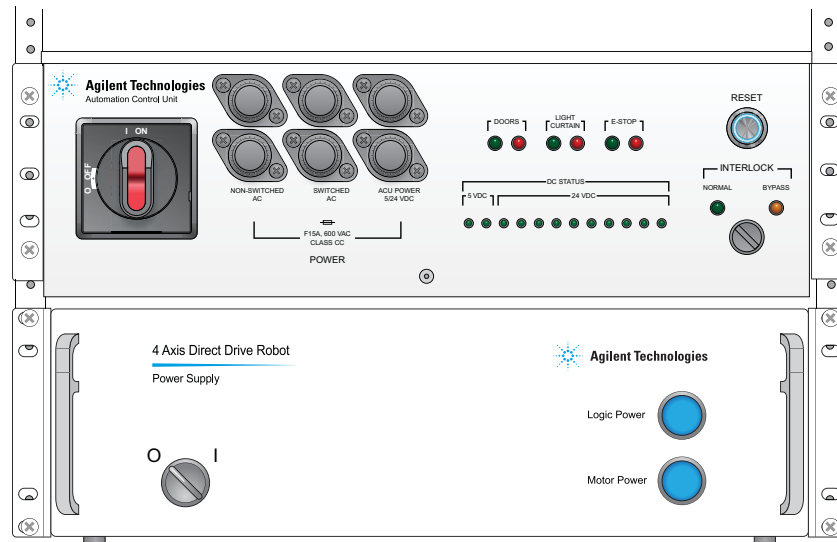
To mount the Automation Control Unit on a standard mounting rack:

1 Insert each pan-head screw through a split-lock washer first, and then through a flat washer.

2 Align two holes in each mounting bracket with two holes in the rack.

3 Insert the screw-washer assembly into each hole and tighten using the screwdriver.

Removing the Automation Control Unit from its rack

To remove the Automation Control Unit from its rack:

Using the screwdriver, loosen the screws that are holding the Automation Control Unit to the rack. Be sure to support the weight of the Automation Control Unit as you loosen the screws.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Automation Control Unit specifications	"Specifications" on page 25
Hardware components	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14

Connecting the AC power and the UPS

About this topic

Power is supplied to the Automation Control Unit in one of two ways:

- Directly from the grounded power source (wall receptacle) in your lab.
- From the UPS that can provide backup power to your system when the main power source fails, such as during a power outage.

Your system can be configured with or without a UPS. This section provides connection instructions for both configurations.

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Automation Control Unit AC power input cord (supplied)
- Blue power strips for non-switched AC output (up to two, supplied)
- Blue power-output cords for the non-switched AC power strips (supplied)
- Red power strips for switched AC output (up to two, supplied)
- Red power-output cords for the switched AC power strips (supplied)
- Integrated device's AC power cord (supplied)

If your system is configured with a UPS, make sure you have the following:

- UPS (supplied)
- Emergency power-off (EPO) cable (supplied upon request)
- Serial communication cable (supplied)
- UPS power cord (supplied or attached to the UPS)

Note: The EPO cable is applicable in configurations where turning off the Automation Control Unit automatically turns off the UPS and any device that is connected directly to the UPS, such as the controlling computer. By default, this connection is not used so that you can continue to operate the controlling computer for backing up files after turning off the Automation Control Unit.
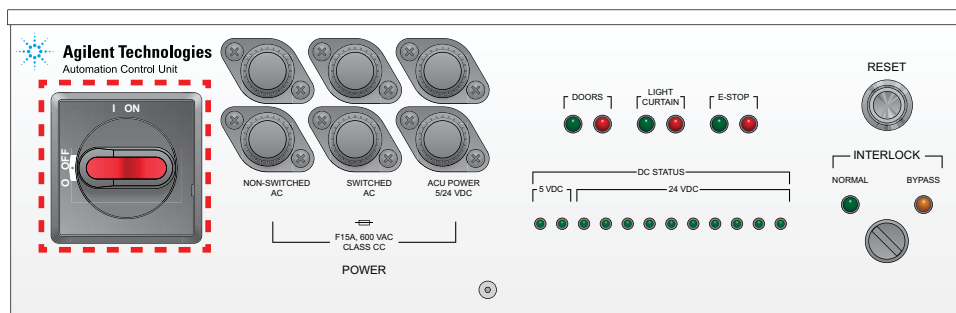
Before you start

Make sure your site meets the electrical requirements. See "Electrical requirements" on page 28.

⚠️ **WARNING**   **If your system is configured with a UPS, make sure the UPS is turned off. See the UPS user documentation for instructions.**

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Make sure the power switch on the front of the Automation Control Unit is set at OFF (O).**

Workflow

Step	For this task...	See...
1	Connect the Automation Control Unit to the AC power source.	One of the following: • "Connecting the Automation Control Unit directly to the power source (no UPS)" on page 57 • "Connecting the Automation Control Unit to the power source (with UPS)" on page 58
2	Connect the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports.	"Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59

Connecting the Automation Control Unit directly to the power source (no UPS)

To connect the Automation Control Unit directly to the power source:
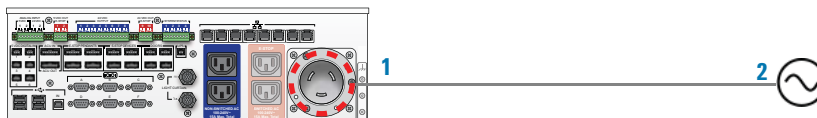
1 Plug the female end of the supplied Automation Control Unit power cord into the AC power port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1**).

2 Plug the male end of the power cord into an appropriate, grounded wall receptacle (**2**).

WARNING The wall receptacle must be the only receptacle on a dedicated electrical circuit protected by the facility circuit breaker. The wall receptacle must be properly grounded.

WARNING The wall receptacle must be protected by a branch circuit breaker. For the circuit breaker requirements, see **"Electrical requirements" on page 28**

Connecting the Automation Control Unit to the power source (with UPS)

To connect the Automation Control Unit to the power source:
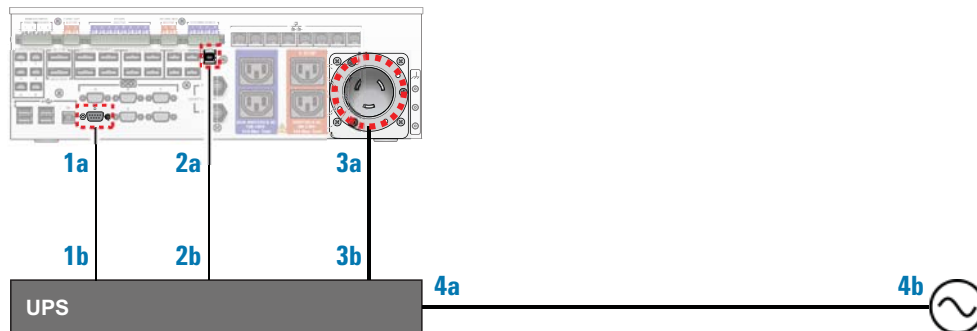
1 With the serial communication cable:

  a Plug one end of the cable into the serial port (▭) on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1a**).

  b Plug the free end of the cable into the serial port at the UPS (**1b**). See the UPS user documentation for details.

2 *Optional.* With the UPS emergency power-off (EPO) cable:

  a Plug one end of the EPO cable into the **UPS** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**2a**)

  b Plug the free end of the EPO cable into the EPO port at the UPS (**2b**). See the UPS user documentation for details.

  IMPORTANT The UPS port has normally open (NO) contacts, and the EPO circuit should be normally open. Do not connect the UPS port to a normally closed (NC) circuit.

  Note: With the EPO connection, turning off the Automation Control Unit automatically turns off the UPS and any device connected directly to the UPS, such as the controlling computer.

3 With the supplied Automation Control Unit power cord:

  a Plug the female end of the power cord into the AC power port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**3a**).

  b Plug the male end of the power cord into a power output receptacle at the UPS (**3b**). See the UPS user documentation for details.

4 With the UPS power cord:

  a Plug the female end of the UPS power cord into the AC power inlet port at the UPS (**4a**).

   Note: This step might not be necessary for some UPS units, because the power cord is attached.

  b Plug the male end of the UPS power cord into an appropriate, grounded wall receptacle (**4b**).

⚠️ **WARNING**   **The wall receptacle must be the only receptacle on a dedicated electrical circuit protected by the facility circuit breaker. The wall receptacle must be properly grounded.**

⚠️ **WARNING**   **The wall receptacle must be protected by a branch circuit breaker. For the circuit breaker requirements, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28.**

Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports

The AC power output ports are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

Before you start

CAUTION   Check the electrical requirements of the devices before connecting them to the Automation Control Unit. Connecting incompatible devices might damage the Automation Control Unit and the devices. For the Automation Control Unit electrical requirements, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28.

Before you start, group the devices into the following categories:

- *Devices that have an emergency-stop circuit.* Examples of these devices include the system robot, BenchCel Microplate Handler, Bravo Platform, Plate Hub Carousel, and Vertical Pipetting Station. You will connect these devices to the blue NON-SWITCHED AC port or blue power strip.

- *Devices that do not have an emergency stop circuit but have moving parts.* Examples of these devices include Labware MiniHub, PlateLoc Sealer, and Labware Stacker. You will connect these devices to the red SWITCHED AC port or red power strip.

- *Devices that do not have moving parts and should remain on regardless of the system or workstation state.* An example of these devices include the controlling computer. In systems, the hood lights, the under-deck lights, fans, and docking tables that have the QuickDock feature are also included in this category. You might want these devices to remain on even if the system or workstation is turned off. You will connect the controlling computer directly to the UPS or external power source. You will connect the lights, fans, and QuickDock to the blue NON-SWITCHED AC port or blue power strip.

Procedure

To connect the integrated devices:
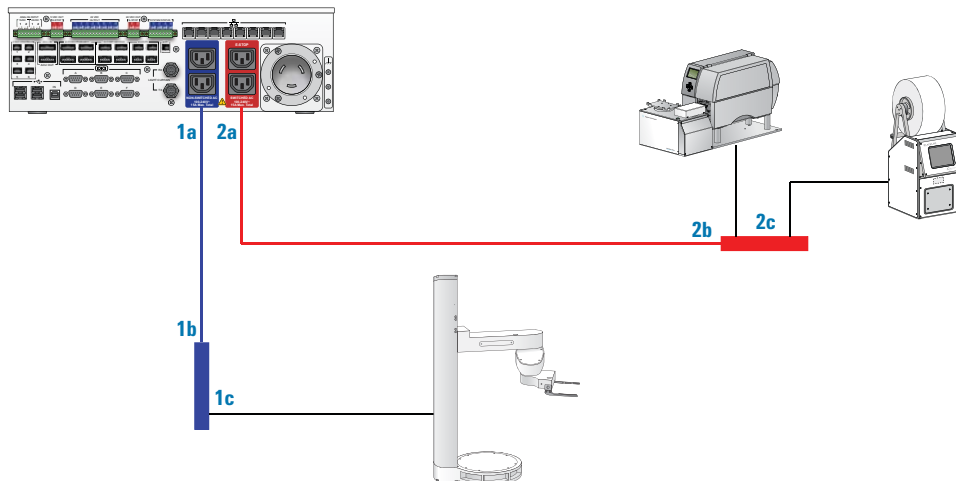
1 For AC power out to devices with an emergency-stop circuit or without moving parts:

   a Plug the male end of the blue power-output cords for the non-switched AC power strips into the **Non-Switched AC** (blue) power ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1a**).

   b Plug the female end of the blue power cords into the inlet at the end of the power strips (**1b**).

   c Connect power cords from the devices to the power strip outlets (**1c**).

2 For AC power out to devices without an emergency-stop circuit and with moving parts:

   a Plug the male end of the red power-output cords for the switched AC power strips into the **E-Stop Switched AC** (red) power ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**2a**).

   b Plug the female end of the red power cords into the inlet at the end of the power strips (**2b**).

   c Connect power cords from the devices to the power strip outlets (**2c**).

**3** To connect the controlling computer:

Systems with UPS:
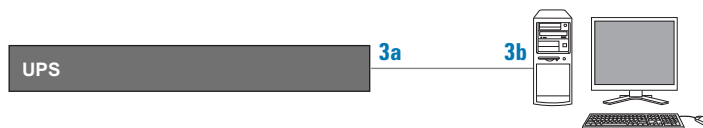
   a Plug the male end of the computer and computer monitor power cords into available power output ports on the back of the UPS. See the UPS user documentation for details.

   b Plug the female end of the computer power cord into the power inlet port at the computer. Plug the female end of the computer monitor power cord into the power inlet port at the computer monitor. See the computer user documentation for details.

Systems without UPS:

Connect the computer and computer monitor to an external power source.

4 *BioCel System only*. To connect the lights, fans, docking tables that have the QuickDock feature, and devices that require up to 24 VDC but do not have moving parts and should remain on regardless of the system state:
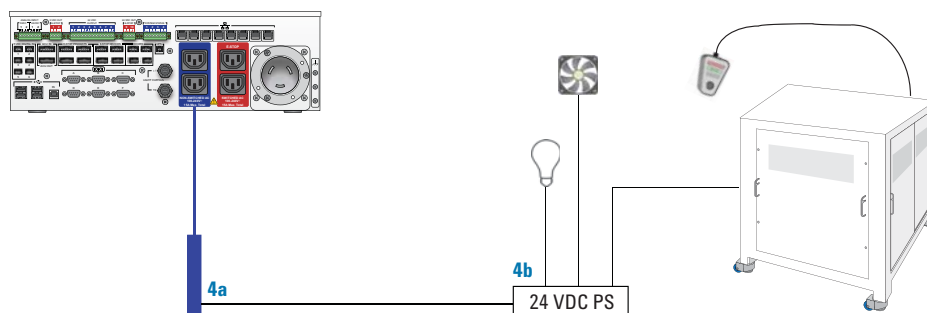
a Connect the 24 VDC power supply to an available outlet at the blue non‑switched AC power strip. In systems, the 24 VDC power supply is mounted at the top of the electronics cabinet.

b Connect the lights, fans, and QuickDock to the 24 VDC power supply.

To connect the device communication and emergency‑stop cables, see "Connecting integrated devices" on page 67.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
Electrical requirements	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Connecting the safety equipment	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Connecting the computer	"Connecting the computer" on page 70
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal‑generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75

For information about...	See...
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54

Connecting the safety equipment

About this topic

This topic explains how to do the following:

- "Connecting the emergency-stop pendants" on page 63
- "Connecting the system door interlock-sensor cables" on page 64
- "Connecting the Light Curtain cables" on page 65

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Emergency-stop pendants with cables (supplied)
- E-Stop jumpers (supplied)

If your system is equipped with doors, make sure you have the following:

- System door interlock-sensor cables (supplied)
- Door jumpers (supplied)

If your system or workstation is equipped with the Light Curtain, make sure you have the following:

- Light Curtain transmission and receiver cables (supplied)
- Light Curtain jumpers (supplied)

⚠️ **WARNING**   **The jumpers are only for unused safety equipment ports. To avoid possible injury, always connect all the safety equipment as instructed.**

Before you start

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

Make sure:

- Each system door interlock-sensor cable is connected to the sensor on the door hinge.
- The Light Curtain transmission and receiver cables are connected correctly to the Light Curtain posts.

Connecting the emergency-stop pendants

The ports for the emergency-stop pendants are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

To connect emergency-stop pendants:
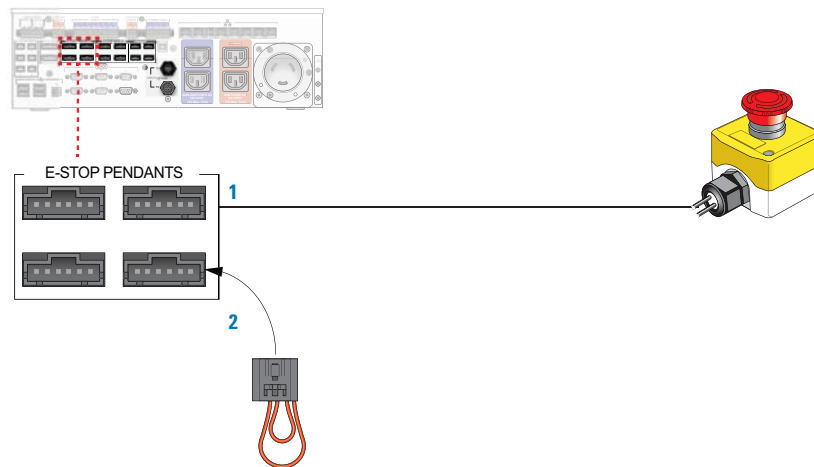
1   Connect the free end of the pendant cables to available **E-STOP PENDANTS** ports (**1**).

2   Install the E-Stop jumpers at unused **E-STOP PENDANTS** ports (**2**).

Connecting the system door interlock-sensor cables

The procedure in this section is only applicable for systems with doors.

The ports for the system door interlock-sensor cables are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.
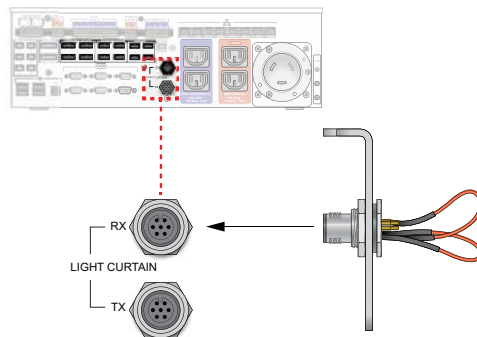
To connect the doors:
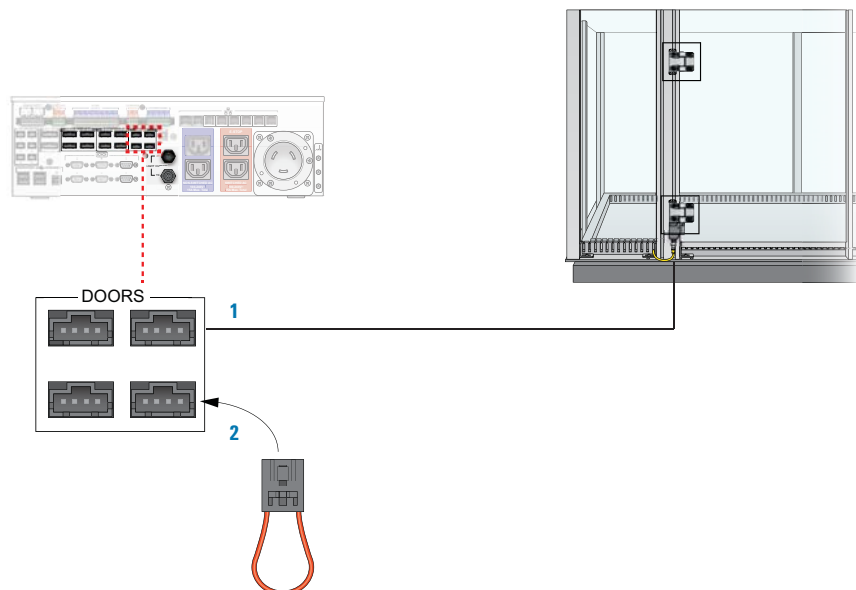
1   Connect the free end of the interlock-sensor cables to available **DOORS** ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1**).

2   Install the Door jumpers at unused **DOORS** ports (**2**).

Connecting the Light Curtain cables

The procedure in this section is only applicable for systems with the Light Curtain.

The ports for the Light Curtain cables are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

IMPORTANT If your system or workstation does not have a Light Curtain, be sure to install the Light Curtain jumper at the **LIGHT CURTAIN RX** port.

CAUTION Do not install the Light Curtain jumper at the LIGHT CURTAIN TX port. Doing so can disable the Light Curtain circuit and damage the Automation Control Unit.

To connect the Light Curtain:
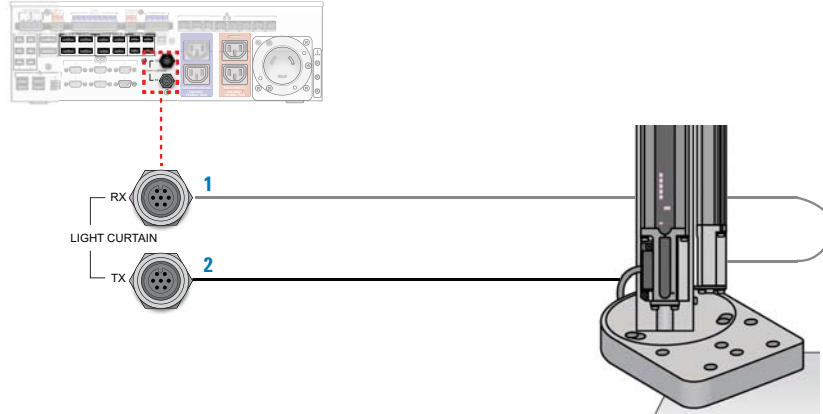
1 Connect the free end of the receiver cable to the **LIGHT CURTAIN RX** port (**1**).

2 Connect the free end of the transmission cable to the **LIGHT CURTAIN TX** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**2**).

Related information

For information about...	See...
Emergency-stop ports	"Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
Connecting the AC power	"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56
Connecting the computer	"Connecting the computer" on page 70
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54

Connecting integrated devices

About this topic

How you connect the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit depends on whether the device has an emergency-stop circuit. This topic presents instructions for devices with and without an emergency-stop circuit.

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Device's communication cable:
    - Ethernet cables (supplied)
    - Serial cables (supplied)
    - USB cables
        - USB type A cables (for the USB OUT ports; supplied)
        - USB type B cable (for the USB IN port; supplied)
- E-Stop Device cables (for devices with an emergency-stop circuit; supplied)

Before you start

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the device before performing any procedure.**

Make sure the devices are connected to the Automation Control Unit AC power-output ports. See "Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59.

Connecting integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit

The communication and emergency-stop ports for the integrated devices are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

To connect integrated devices:
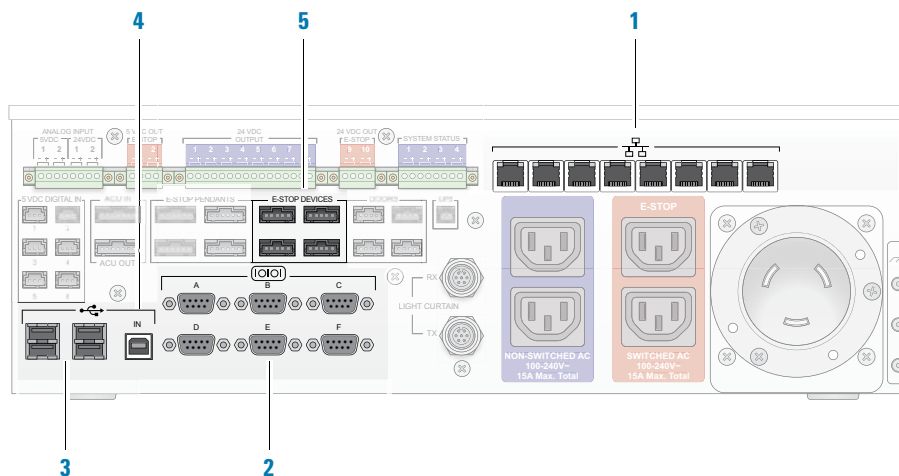
1 For devices that require Ethernet communication (including the serial hub, or COMTROL):

   a Connect the Ethernet cable to one of the available Ethernet ($\frac{□}{□□}$) ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1**).

   b Connect the free end of the Ethernet cable to the appropriate port at the device. See the device user documentation for instructions.

2 For devices that require serial communication:

   a Connect the serial cable to one of the available serial ports (IOIOI) on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**2**).

   b Connect the free end of the serial cable to the appropriate port at the device. See the device user documentation for instructions.

   c Record the device-port pairings. You will use this information when you determine the COM port used by the device and when configuring the device in the lab automation software. To determine the COM port used, see "About configuring serial communication devices" on page 107. To configure the device in the lab automation software, see the device user documentation.

3 For devices that require USB communication:

   a Connect the USB type A cable to one of the available USB ports (⎓) on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**3**).

   b Connect the free end of the USB cable to the appropriate port at the device. See the device user documentation for instructions.

4 If you have serial or USB communication devices:

   a Connect the USB type B cable to the USB IN port (⎓ **IN**) on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**4**).

   b Connect the free end of the USB cable to the correct USB port at the controlling computer.

      IMPORTANT Make sure you connect the devices to the correct ports at the computer. All ports at the computer are clearly labeled.

5 For devices that have an emergency-stop circuit:

a Connect the E-Stop Device cable to an available **E-STOP DEVICES** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (5).

b Connect the free end of the E-Stop Device cable to the emergency-stop or pendant port at the device. See the device user documentation for instructions.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Ports for integrated devices	• "I/O ports" on page 35 • "Emergency-stop ports" on page 32
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
Connecting the AC power	"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56
Connecting the safety equipment	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Connecting the computer	"Connecting the computer" on page 70
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54

Connecting the computer

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Computer (supplied)
- Ethernet cable (supplied)

Before you start

⚠️ **WARNING** **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

In systems that have a UPS, make sure the computer is connected to the UPS. See "Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59.

Procedure

The Ethernet and USB ports are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

To connect the computer:
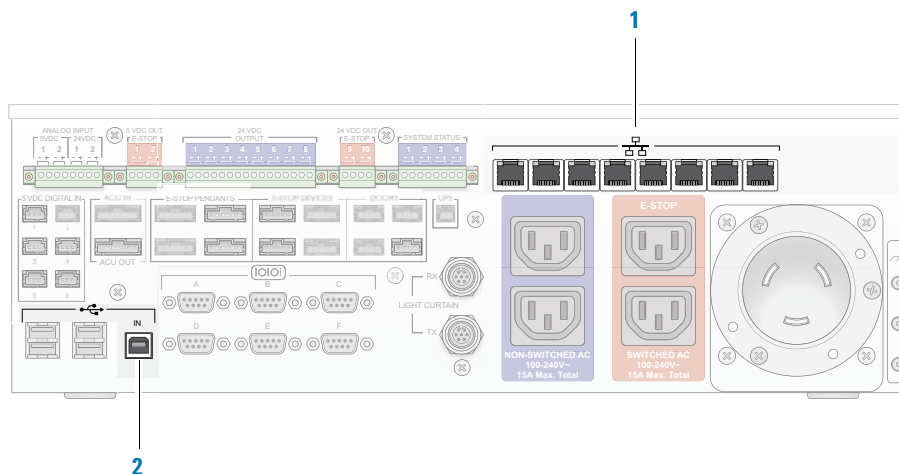
1 For communication with the Automation Control Unit:

   a Connect one end of the Ethernet cable to an available Ethernet (⊞) port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1**).

   b Connect the free end of the Ethernet cable to an Ethernet port at the computer. See the computer user documentation for details.

2 If you have serial or USB communication devices, make sure you connect the computer to the USB IN port (⟍ **IN, 2**). For details, see "Connecting integrated devices" on page 67.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Ethernet ports	"I/O ports" on page 35
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting the safety equipment	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Connecting the AC power	"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56

Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Signal-generating or other device (e.g. audio alarm, system status lights, hood lights, Weigh Pad, trash door, and so on)
- Device's power or I/O cable

Before you start

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the device before performing any procedure.**

Do the following:

- For devices that require power from the Agilent Automation Control Unit:
  - Determine whether the device requires 5 VDC or 24 VDC.
  - Determine whether the device should be on pre- or post-emergency-stop circuit.
- If you are adding a third-party device, review the port pinouts. For pinout information, see "I/O ports" on page 35.

  CAUTION   The function of the pin in the port must match the function of the mating pin in the device's connector. If the functions of the mating pins do not match, the device might fail or become damaged.

Procedure

The ports for signaling and miscellaneous devices are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

To connect signaling devices:
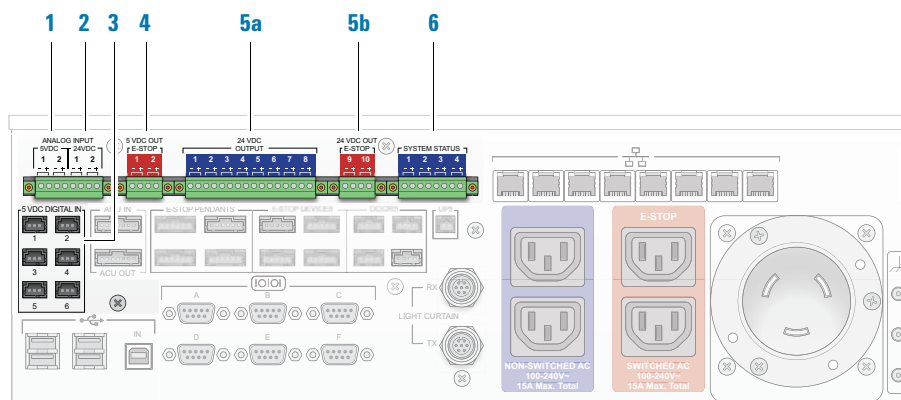
1 For 5 VDC analog signal devices:

   a Connect one end of the device cable to an available **5 VDC ANALOG INPUT** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**1**).

   b Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate analog signal output port on the 5 VDC analog device. See the device user documentation for details.

2 For 24 VDC analog signal devices:

   a Connect one end of the device cable to an available **24 VDC ANALOG INPUT** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**2**).

   b Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate analog signal output port on the 24 VDC analog signal device. See the device user documentation for details.

3 For 5 VDC signal devices that will transmit signals to the Automation Control Unit:

   a Connect one end of the device cable to an available **5 VDC DIGITAL IN** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**3**).

   b Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate digital signal output port on the 5 VDC digital signal device. See the device user documentation for details.

4 For devices that require up to 5 VDC from the Automation Control Unit:

   a Connect one end of the device cable to an available **5 VDC OUT** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**4**).

   b Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate power supply port on the 5 VDC device. See the device user documentation for details.

5 For devices that require up to 24 VDC from the Automation Control Unit:

   a *Devices that should be on pre-emergency-stop circuit.* Connect one end of the device cable to an available blue **24 VDC OUTPUT** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**5a**). Audio alarm devices should connect to one of these ports.

   b *Devices that should be on post-emergency-stop circuit.* Connect one end of the device cable to an available red **24 VDC OUT E-STOP** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**5b**).

   c Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate power supply port on the 24 VDC device. See the device user documentation for details.

6 For system status light devices:

   a Connect one end of the device cable to an available **SYSTEM STATUS** port on the back of the Automation Control Unit (**6**).

   b Connect the free end of the cable to the appropriate input port on the status light device. See the device user documentation for details.

Related information

For information about...	See...
I/O ports	"I/O ports" on page 35
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
Connecting the safety equipment	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Connecting the computer	"Connecting the computer" on page 70
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54

Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit

About this topic

In large systems, you can connect a second Automation Control Unit in series so that an emergency stop will affect all connected units.

Tools and components

Make sure you have the following:

- Additional Automation Control Unit that will be connected
- ACU cables (supplied)

Before you start

> ⚠️ **WARNING**   **Always turn off the Automation Control Unit and disconnect it from the power source before performing any procedure.**

Procedure

The ports for the Automation Control Unit connections are located on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

To connect an additional Automation Control Unit:
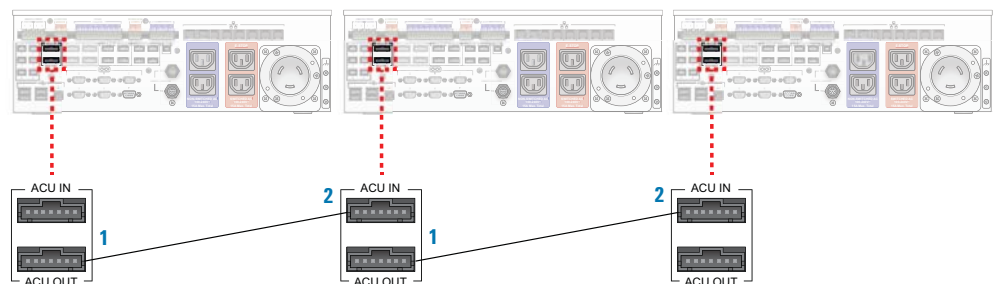
1   Connect one end of the ACU cable to the **ACU OUT** port on the back of an Automation Control Unit (**1**).

Note: The first unit in the series does not use the ACU IN port.

2   Connect the free end of the ACU cable to the **ACU IN** port on the back of the next Automation Control Unit (**2**).

Note: The last unit in the series does not use the ACU OUT port.

3   Repeat steps 1 and 2 for additional units.

Related information

For information about...	See...
ACU ports	"ACU ports" on page 42
Automation Control Unit hardware overview	• "Front panel" on page 12 • "Back panel" on page 14
Connecting the safety equipment	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Connecting the computer	"Connecting the computer" on page 70
Connecting the integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Connecting I/O signaling devices	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Connecting additional Automation Control Units	"Connecting an additional Automation Control Unit" on page 75
Connecting USB devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Mounting the Automation Control Unit	"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54

6
Setting up the Automation Control Unit

This chapter explains how to set up the Automation Control Unit using the VWorks software and ACU Diagnostics.

This chapter contains the following topics:

For instructions on setting up the Automation Control Unit using other automation software, see the user documentation for the software.

WARNING **Only administrators and trained personnel should perform the procedures in this chapter.**

Agilent Technologies

Setup workflow

About this topic

This topic presents the workflow for setting up the Automation Control Unit using the VWorks software.

Workflow

The following table presents the steps for setting up the Automation Control Unit. After setting up the Automation Control Unit for the first time, you will not likely change any of the settings in the procedure. If you add a signal-generating device, you can edit the profile and proceed from step 9.

Step	For this task…	See…
1	Turn on the Automation Control Unit.	"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80
2	Turn on the controlling computer.	Computer user documentation
3	Add the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software device file.	"Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84.
4	Create a profile for the Automation Control Unit.	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
5	Set up communication with the Automation Control Unit.	"Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92
6	Save the profile.	"Saving the profile" on page 97
7	Initialize the profile.	"Initializing the profile" on page 98
8	Configure the signal channels.	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
9	Set the maximum current threshold.	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
10	Manage the signal channels in the IO Manager.	*VWorks Automation Control User Guide*

If you want to edit, delete, rename, or create a new profile using an existing profile, see "Editing and managing profiles" on page 96.

IMPORTANT   After setting up the Automation Control Unit, you can configure the integrated devices in the system or workstation. Before configuring serial communication devices, review the information in "About configuring serial communication devices" on page 107.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Installing the Automation Control Unit	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53
Viewing indicator lights	"Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111
Troubleshooting the Automation Control Unit	"Troubleshooting" on page 119
Managing signal channels	Lab automation software user documentation, such as the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*
Setting up serial and USB devices in systems and workstations	• "About configuring serial communication devices" on page 107 • Device user documentation • Lab automation software user documentation

Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit

About the power switch

The Automation Control Unit power switch is equipped with a locking mechanism that prevents unsafe startup of the system or workstation.

Figure   Automation Control Unit power switch with locking mechanism
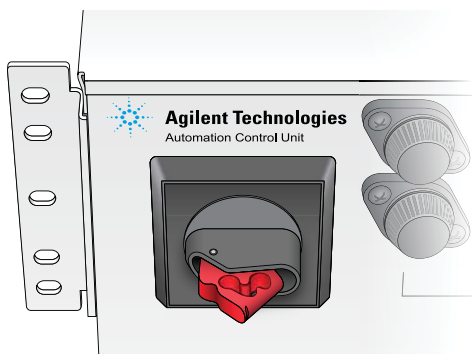
If your lab has a lockout/tagout policy, be sure to refer to the policy before turning on or turning off the Automation Control Unit.

Turning on the Automation Control Unit

This section explains how to turn on the Automation Control Unit only. For the full system or workstation startup procedure, see the system or workstation user documentation.

Turning on the Automation Control Unit initiates the system startup process. Robots and devices might move during startup.

WARNING   To prevent potential injuries, make sure no one is inside the system or workstation before you turn on the Automation Control Unit.

WARNING   Follow your organization's lockout/tagout policy, if applicable.

To turn on the Automation Control Unit:

1 At the front of the Automation Control Unit, turn the power switch clockwise to the **ON** (**I**) position.
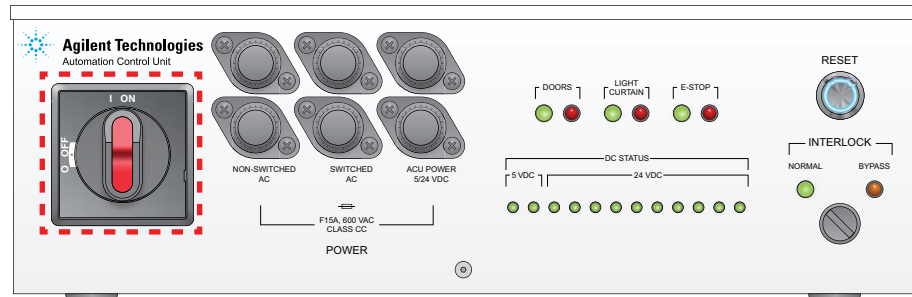
2 Turn on the UPS, if applicable.

If the UPS emergency power-off (EPO) connection is used, you must first reset the UPS EPO, and then turn on the UPS. For instructions, see the UPS user documentation.

If the Automation Control Unit turns on successfully, you should hear the fan inside the unit turn on. After a few seconds, the indicator lights on the front panel turn on and show the current state of the system or workstation. See "Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111.

Note: If you have configured the air supply to turn on at startup, turning on the Automation Control Unit also turns on the air supply. For information about configuring the air supply at startup, see the "Configuring the signal channels" on page 100.

Turning off the Automation Control Unit

This section explains how to turn off the Automation Control Unit only. For the full system or workstation shutdown procedure, see the system or workstation user documentation.

Be aware that the system or workstation configuration can affect the shutdown procedure:

- If the system or workstation has a UPS, and the computer is connected directly to the UPS:
  - *If the UPS emergency power off (EPO) cable is not installed (default setup).* The computer will remain on after the system or workstation is shut down.
  - *If the UPS EPO cable is installed.* Turning off the Automation Control Unit will turn off the UPS and the computer. Make sure you properly shut down and turn off the computer before shutting down the system.
- If the system or workstation does not have a UPS, and the computer is connected directly to the Automation Control Unit:

  Turning off the system or workstation will automatically turn off the computer. Make sure you properly shut down and turn off the computer before shutting down the system or workstation.
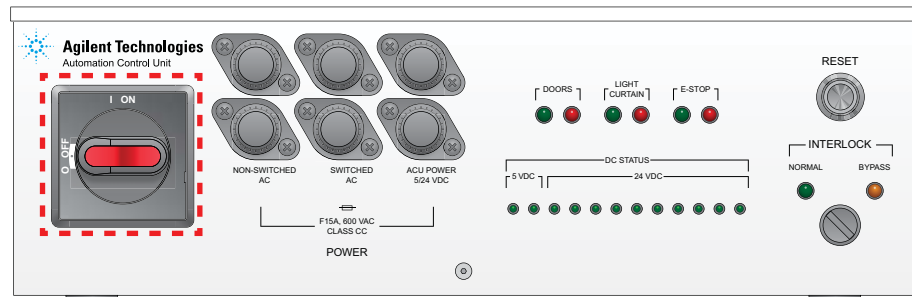
⚠️ **WARNING**   **Follow your organization's lockout/tagout policy, if applicable.**

To turn off the Automation Control Unit:

1 At the front panel of the Automation Control Unit, turn the power switch counterclockwise to the **OFF** (**O**) position. The indicator lights on the front panel and the fan inside of the unit turn off.

Note: Turning off the Automation Control Unit turns off the air supply.

2 Turn off the UPS.

3 To lock the power switch, pull out the tab in the knob, and then insert your lock into one of the two holes in the tab.
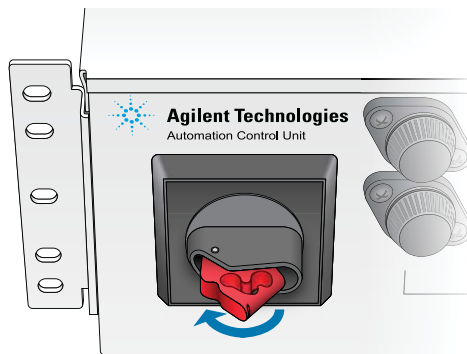
Related information

For information about...	See...
Viewing indicator lights	"Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111
Interlock key settings	"Interlock key settings" on page 45
Adding the Automation Control Unit to a device file	"Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Naming signal channel	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100

For information about…	See…
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
Managing the signal channels	Lab automation software user documentation, such as the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*
Troubleshooting	"Troubleshooting" on page 119

Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software

About this topic

This topic explains how to add and delete the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software device file.

For information about how to set up the Automation Control Unit using other lab automation software, see the user documentation for the software.

Devices and device file defined

What is a device?

A device is an item in your lab automation system that has an entry in the VWorks software device file. A device can be a robot, an instrument, or a location in the system that can hold a piece of labware. The following are some examples of devices:

- Automation Control Unit
- BenchBot Robot
- Labware MiniHub
- Platepad
- A third-party device

What is a device file?

To communicate with and to control the Automation Control Unit, robot, and integrated devices, the VWorks software uses a device file that contains the following information:

- List of devices the software will communicate with and control
- Profile of each device (communication method, unique device configuration information)
- Properties of each device

You provide the device information in the VWorks software. The device information is stored in a device (.dev) file that is located in a folder you specify when saving the file.

For detailed information about device files and associations with profiles, and other VWorks components, see the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

Adding the Automation Control Unit in a device file

This section explains how to add an Automation Control Unit to an existing device file.

If you are setting up your automation system for the first time, you need to create a new device file, and then add the Automation Control Unit, robot, and integrated devices to this file. For instructions on creating a new device file, see the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

Note: The Automation Control Unit is called ACU in the VWorks software.

To add an ACU to an existing device file:

1 In the **VWorks** window, open the device file.

2 In the **Available Devices** area, double-click the ACU device icon
( ). Alternatively, you can drag the icon from the **Available Devices** area into the **Device File** area.
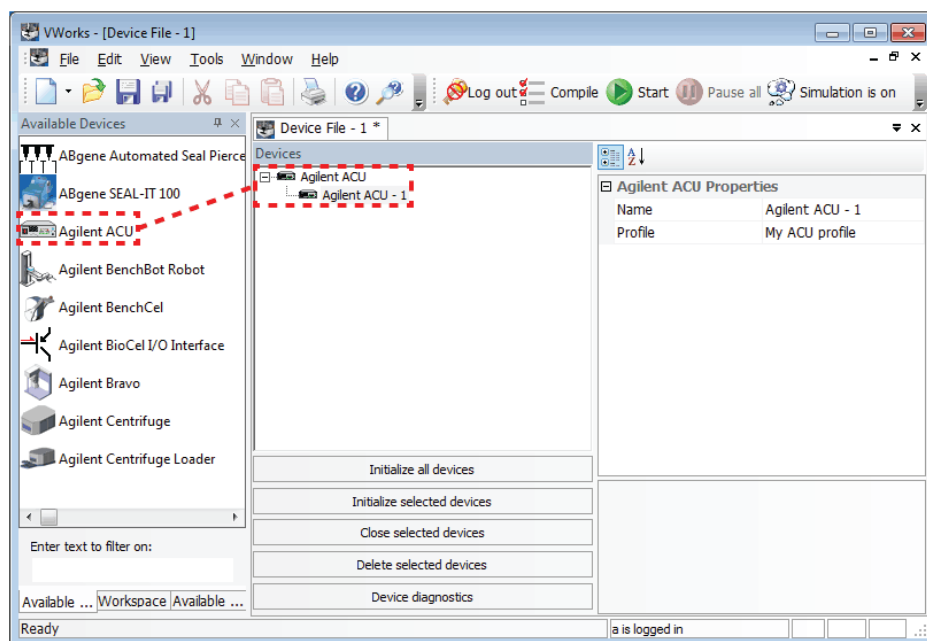
Notice that the first ACU device is labeled ACU-1. If you add another ACU, it will appear as ACU-2.

If you do not see ACU in the **Available Devices** list, check that the ACU plugin file (ACU.dll) is stored in the following folder:
...\Agilent Technologies\VWorks\Plugins folder.

If you added the ACU plugin file in the Plugins folder and you have already started the VWorks software, be sure to reload the plugin. To do this, close any open device files and protocol files, and then select **Tools > Reload Plugins.**

3 In the device properties area, type a **Name** for the device.

In the following example, the name for the ACU is My ACU.
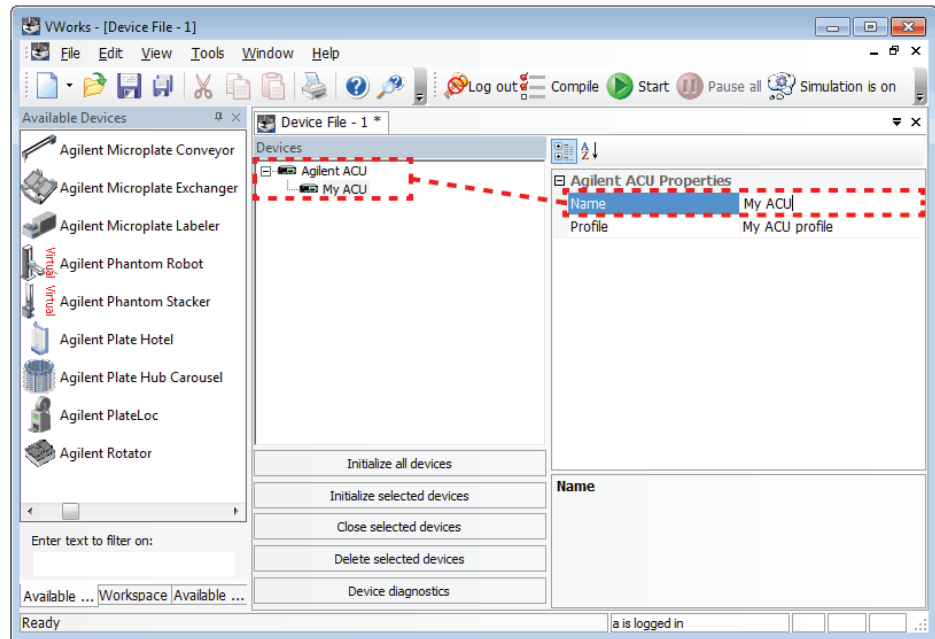
4 Select the **Profile**.
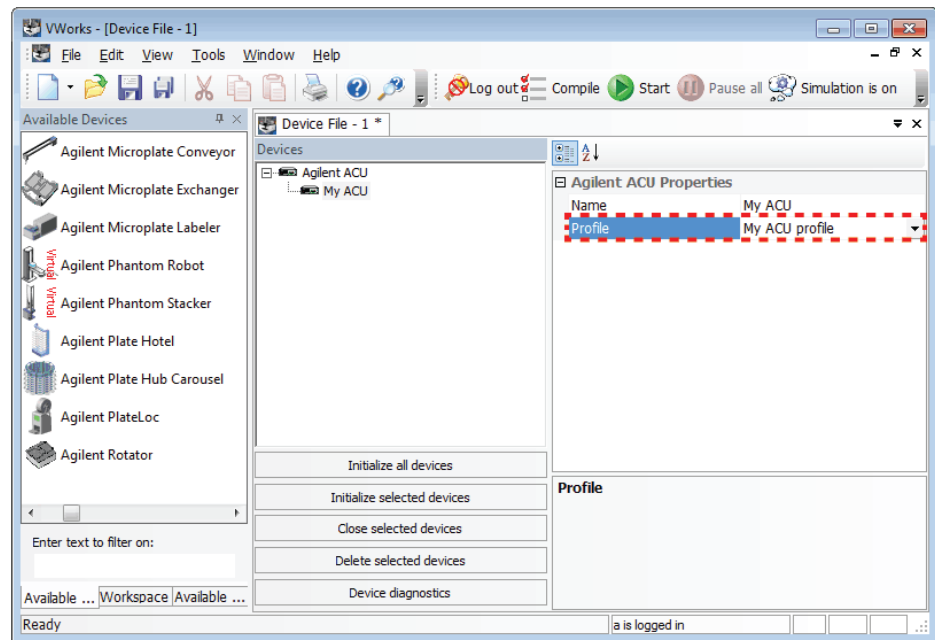
If the profile you want does not appear in the list, or if no profile appears in the list, you need to:

a Create a profile. See "Creating ACU profiles" on page 89.

b Set up communication with the Automation Control Unit. See "Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92.

c Save the profile. See "Saving the profile" on page 97.

d Return to this step to select the profile.

Without the profile, you will not be able to establish communication with the Automation Control Unit.

5 If you have more than one Automation Control Unit in the system, repeat steps 2 through 4 to add more ACUs.

6 Select **File > Save** to save the device file.

7 In the **Device File** area, select the ACU, and then click **Initialize selected devices** to establish communication with the Automation Control Unit.

If an initialization error message appears, see "Troubleshooting" on page 119 for instructions.

IMPORTANT Make sure the Automation Control Unit is turned on before you initialize the device. For instructions, see "Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80.

Deleting an Automation Control Unit from the device file

To delete an ACU from the device file:

1 In the **VWorks** window, select the ACU device you want to delete in the **Devices** area.

2 Click **Delete selected devices.**
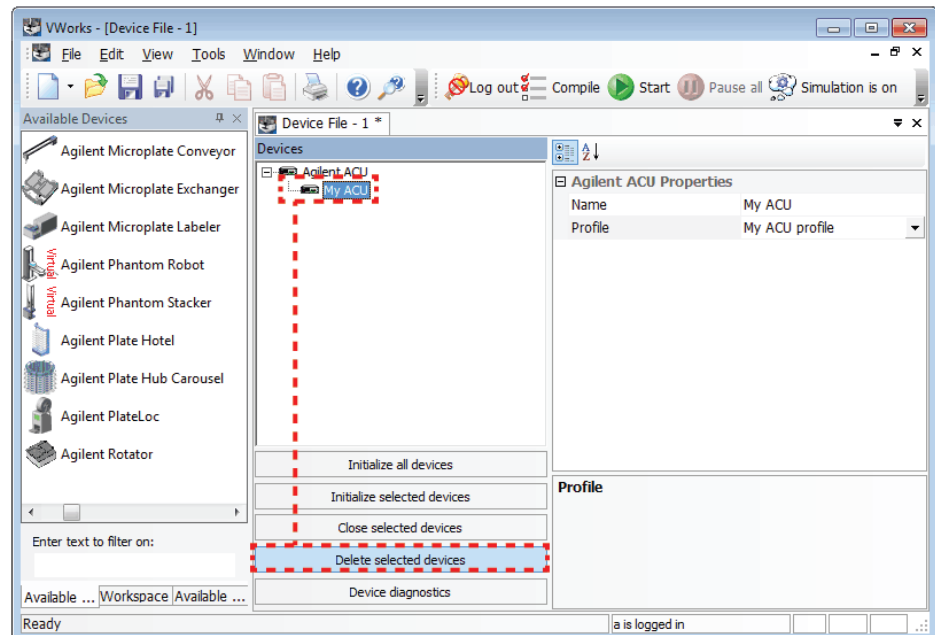
Related information

For information about...	See...
VWorks software	• *VWorks Automation Control Setup Guide* • *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*
Creating an Automation Control Unit profile	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Saving the profile	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Initializing the profile	"Initializing the profile" on page 98
Naming the signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

Creating ACU profiles

About this topic

This topic explains how to create a new profile for the Automation Control Unit. For instructions on how to create profiles for other Agilent Technologies devices, see the device user documentation. For instructions on how to create profiles for third-party devices, see the third-party device driver user guide.

About profiles

IMPORTANT Each device in the device file requires a unique profile.

A profile is a collection of settings, stored in the Windows registry, that manages how you connect to a device. A profile specifies the port or IP address used to establish communication between the device and the controlling computer.

You use ACU Diagnostics to create and manage ACU profiles.

Note: The profile is referenced by a device file. For information about device files, see "What is a device file?" on page 84. For a detailed description of the relationships between the device file and profile, see the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

Creating an ACU profile

To create an ACU profile:

1 In the **Devices** area, select the ACU device, and then click **Device diagnostics**.

The ACU Diagnostics dialog box opens.

2 If it is not already displayed, click the **Profiles** tab.

3 In the **Profile Management** area, click **Create a new profile**. The Create Profile dialog box opens.

4 Type a name, and click **OK**. The name appears in the Profile Management area.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Adding the Automation Control Unit to a device file	"Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84
Saving the profile	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Initializing the profile	"Initializing the profile" on page 98
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Naming the signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105

Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit

About this topic

When you create a profile, you must also select the Automation Control Unit with which to establish communication. This topic explains how to locate the Automation Control Unit in the system or workstation network:

- "Setting up communication with a single Automation Control Unit" on page 92
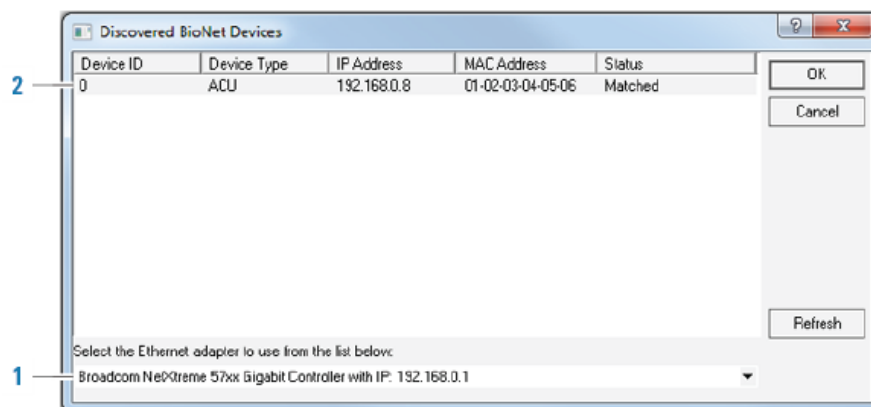- "Setting up communication with more than one Automation Control Unit" on page 93

Setting up communication with a single Automation Control Unit

To set up communication with the Automation Control Unit:

**1** In the **ACU Identifier** area, click **Find available device**.
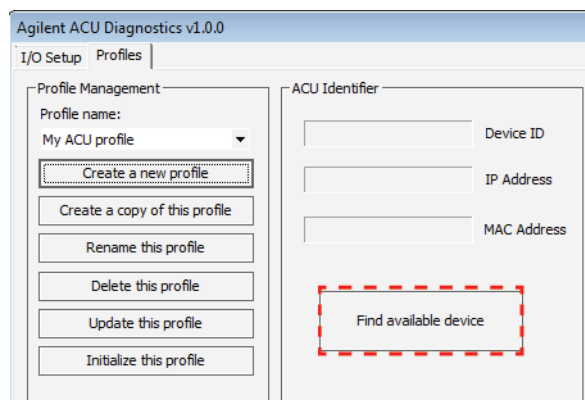
The Discovered BioNet Devices dialog box opens.

2 Select the ACU to which you want to connect:

Step	Instruction
1	In the Ethernet adaptors list, select the Ethernet card that is connected to the Automation Control Unit. A list of devices that are connected to the selected card appear in the dialog box.
2	Select the Automation Control Unit. You can use the MAC address or the IP address to identify the Automation Control Unit in the list. To correctly identify a Automation Control Unit by its MAC address, you might need to turn off all devices and, if you have more than one Automation Control Unit, all but one Automation Control Unit in the system.

3 When you are finished, click **OK** to return to the ACU Diagnostics dialog box. Notice that the device information is displayed.
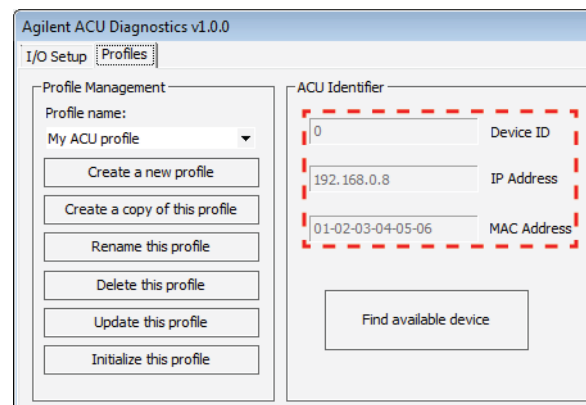
Setting up communication with more than one Automation Control Unit
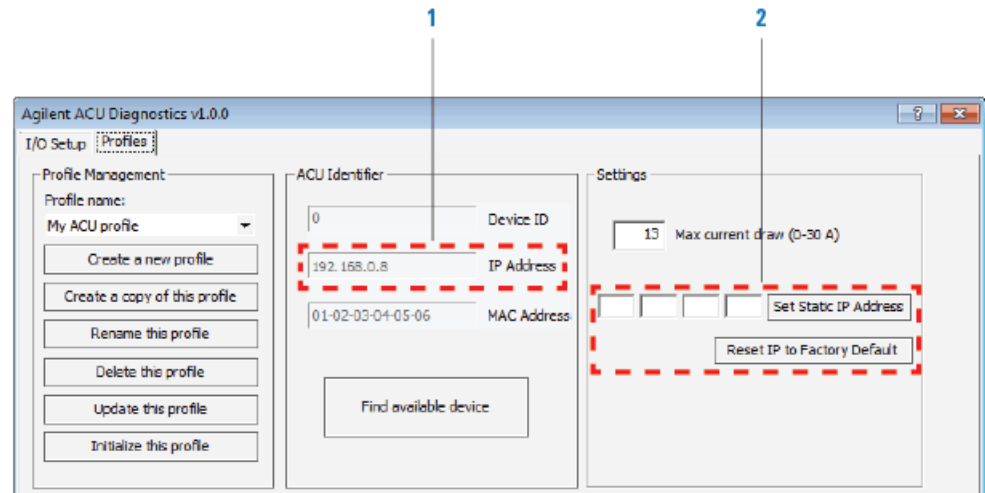
IMPORTANT Every device in the system or workstation must have a unique IP address for proper operation. Each Automation Control Unit is assigned the same IP address at the factory. Therefore, if you have more than one Automation Control Unit installed in the system or workstation, you must make sure each is assigned a unique IP address.

About the Automation Control Unit IP address

The IP address assigned to the Automation Control Unit is displayed in the **ACU Identifier** area (**1**) of the **ACU Diagnostics Profiles** tab.

The Automation Control Unit IP address is obtained in one of two ways:

- After startup, a DHCP server assigns a dynamic IP address.
- If a dynamic IP address is not assigned, the factory-default static IP address is used.

Every device in the system or workstation must have a unique IP address for proper operation. Each Automation Control Unit is shipped with the same static IP address (192.168.0.8) at the factory. If you have more than one Automation Control Unit installed in the system or workstation, you must make sure each has a unique static IP address.

To change the static IP address, use the fields in the **Settings** area (**2**). For instructions, see "Workflow" on page 94.

Note: The **ACU Identifier** area (**1**) displays only the address that is currently used, either static or dynamic.

Workflow

When setting up more than one Automation Control Unit, use the following workflow.

Step	For this task…	See…
1	Set up communication with an Automation Control Unit.	"Setting up communication with a single Automation Control Unit" on page 92
2	Change its IP address.	"Changing the IP address" on page 95
3	Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each additional Automation Control Unit.	Not applicable

Changing the IP address

To change the IP address:

1   In the **Settings** area, type the new IP address, and then click **Set Static IP Address**.
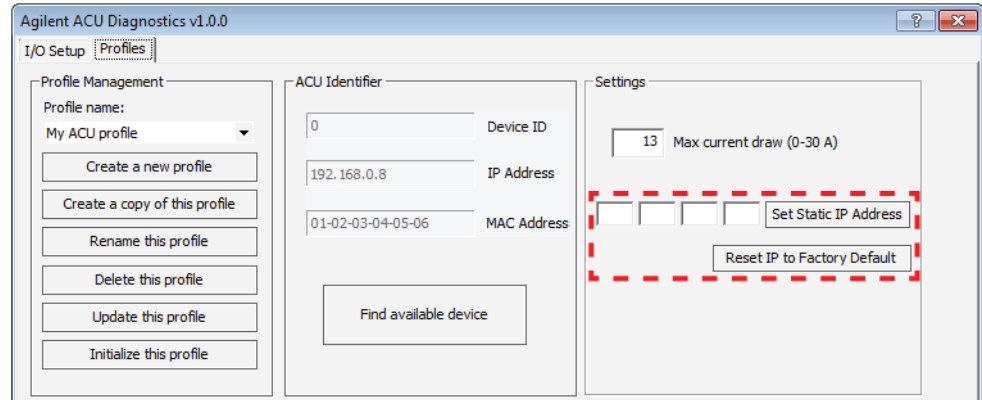
If you want to reset the IP address to the factory default (192.168.0.8), click **Reset IP to Factory Default**.

2   Restart the Automation Control Unit.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Saving the profile	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Initializing the profile	"Initializing the profile" on page 98
Naming the signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105

Editing and managing profiles

Editing profiles

To edit a profile:

1 In the **ACU Diagnostics Profiles** tab, select the profile you want to edit in the **Profile Management** area.

2 Modify the profile information.

Note: Changes you make in the profile are listed in the Modified Variables table below the Profile Management area.

Managing profiles

In the **ACU Diagnostics Profiles** tab, you can select an existing profile, and then rename, copy, or delete the profile.

Related information

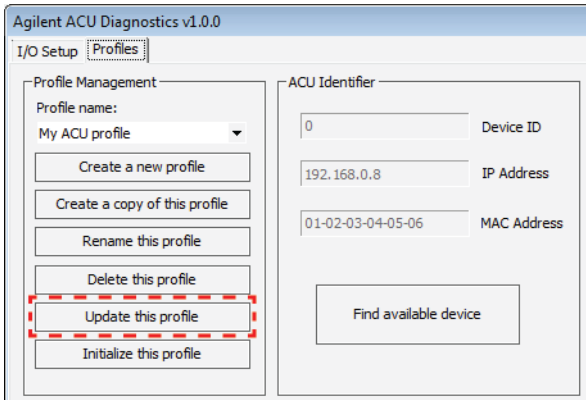| For information about...	See...
Adding the Automation Control Unit to a device file	"Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Naming signal channel	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
Managing signals	Automation software user documentation
Troubleshooting	"Troubleshooting" on page 119

Saving the profile

Procedure

After you have finished setting up or editing the ACU profile, you can save the profile.

To save the profile:

Click **Update this profile** to save the changes. When the changes are saved, the log table clears.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit	"Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92
Initializing the profile	"Initializing the profile" on page 98
Naming the signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

Initializing the profile

About the initialization process

You initialize the profile to establish communication with the Automation Control Unit.

Note: Initializing the profile establishes communication with the Automation Control Unit while you are in ACU Diagnostics only. When you return to the device file, you will need to initialize the ACU device before using the system and running protocols.

Procedure

IMPORTANT   Make sure the Automation Control Unit is turned on before you initialize the profile or the device.

To initialize the profile:

Click **Initialize this profile.** After a few seconds, a message lets you know that the initialization is successful.
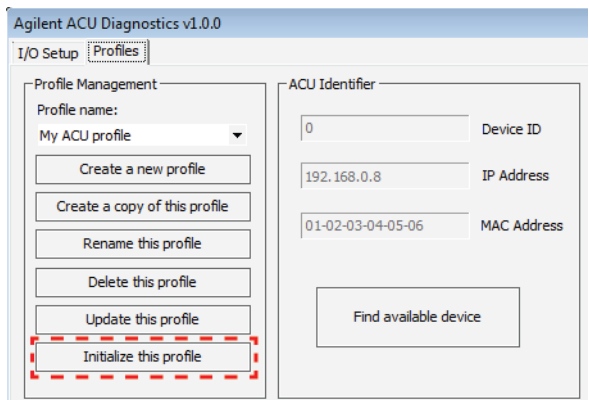
To finish the device file setup, return to "Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84 and continue from step 4. Alternatively, you can proceed to name the signal channels. See "Configuring the signal channels" on page 100.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Turning on the Automation Control Unit	"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit	"Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92

For information about...	See...
Saving the profile	"Saving the profile" on page 97
Naming the signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

Configuring the signal channels

About this topic

When you configure a signal channel, you are:

- Assigning the channel a name so that you can reference it in the IO Manager and in a protocol.

  The IO Manager allows you to specify which signals will be used to turn on lights, create sounds, open or close pass-through gates, and detect spills.

  When writing a protocol, you can add tasks to turn on or turn off a light, sound, or fan. You can also add tasks to wait for certain conditions to be met before continuing to the next task. For example, you can specify that a fan be turned on while a liquid-handling task is running. You can also specify that the temperature and humidity reach a certain level before the Main Protocol starts.

  You can set an alarm in the VWorks Measurement Manager to display an error message when a digital or analog input falls outside the range that you specify.

- Selecting channels that should always be turned on. For example, you might want the air supply to remain on.

IMPORTANT   Only channels that have user-assigned names will appear in the IO Manager.

This section explains how to name signal channels and select channels that must always remain on. For instructions on how to use the IO Manager, how to set alarms, and for the description of protocol tasks, see the *VWorks Automation Control User Guide*.

Before you start

Make sure you have initialized the desired ACU profile. The signal channels will display only if you have successfully established communication with the Automation Control Unit. See "Initializing the profile" on page 98.

Procedure

To configure the signal channels:

1   In **ACU Diagnostics**, click the **I/O Setup** tab. Three tables appear:

- *Digital Outputs*. Correspond to the 5 VDC OUT E-STOP, 24 VDC OUTPUT, and 24 VDC OUT E-STOP ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

- *Digital Inputs*. Correspond to the 5 VDC DIGITAL IN, DOORS, LIGHT CURTAIN, and E-STOP PENDANTS ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

- *Analog Inputs*. Correspond to the 5 VDC and 24 VDC ANALOG INPUT ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

Notice that the default names of the channels match the names of the I/O ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit.
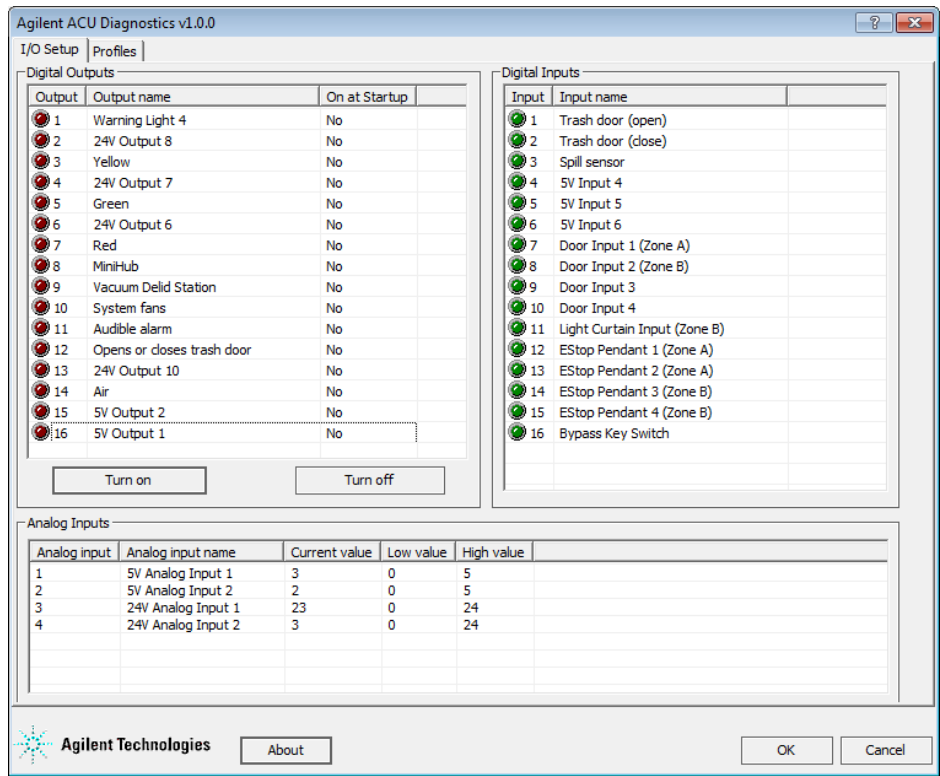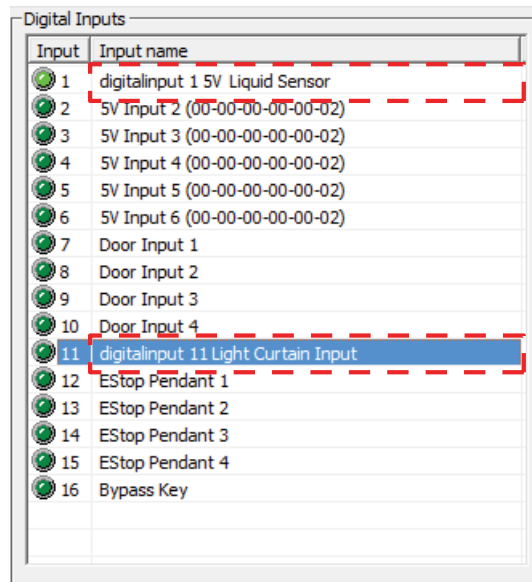

2 To name a channel, double-click a name field, and then type the name, as follows:

- Digital and analog inputs. Use the following naming format if you want to track the inputs using the VWorks Measurement Manager.

| Channel type	Naming format
Digital input	digitalinput *<input number> <input name>* In the following example, the new name for **Input 1** is digitalinput 1 5V Liquid Sensor and **Input 11** is digitalinput 11 Light Curtain Input

Analog input	analoginput *<input number> <input name>* In the following example, the new name for **Analog input 2** is analoginput 2 5V (00-00-00-00-00-02) instead of 5V Analog Input 2 (00-00-00-00-00-02).

- Digital outputs. In the following example, the new name for **Output 14** (24V Output 9) is Air.
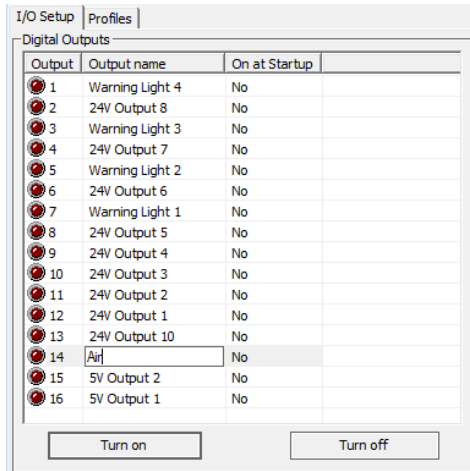
3 To verify the identity of the digital and analog input channel connections, you can change the physical state of the device and check its state in the I/O Setup tab.

Examples:

- To verify the identity of an analog input channel used for a spill-detection sensor, you can add and remove liquid at the sensor and check the changing voltage value in the **Current value** column. Adding liquid changes the value to 0. A high value displays when you remove the liquid from the sensor.

- To verify the identity of a digital input channel used for a trash door sensor, you can open and close the door and check the indicator light in the Digital Inputs table. Opening the door turns on the light, and closing the door turns off the light.

4 To verify the identity of the digital output channel connections, select an output, and then click **Turn on**. The on state should turn on the alarm or light.
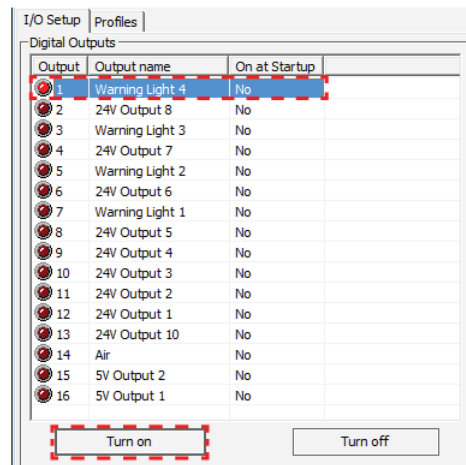
5 If you want the digital output channel to turn on during startup, select **Yes** in the **On at Startup** column. An example of a device that you want to turn on at startup is the air supply.

Select **No** if you want the channel to remain off at startup.

6 Repeat steps 2 through 5 to configure all signal channels that are in use.

7 When you are finished, click **OK** to save the changes to the profile.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit	"Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92
Saving the profile	"Saving the profile" on page 97
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105

Setting the maximum current draw threshold

About the maximum current draw threshold

You can set the maximum electrical current draw threshold so that if the current draw reaches 90% of the specified threshold, a warning message is displayed. If the current draw exceeds 95%, the protocol run pauses and an error is displayed.

You set the threshold value in the ACU Diagnostics Profiles tab. By default, the **Max current draw** value is set at 20 A. If your Automation Control Unit has a different limit, you can reset the threshold value accordingly.

Before you set the maximum current draw value, check the rating of your Automation Control Unit and the accompanying power cord. For the maximum current information, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28.

> **CAUTION** Make sure the **Max current draw** value does not exceed the maximum current specified for the Automation Control Unit and the supplied power cord. Drawing current that exceeds the maximum limit can damage the Automation Control Unit.

Procedure

To set the maximum current threshold:

1 Determine the maximum current draw for your Automation Control Unit. Refer "Electrical requirements" on page 28 for details.

2 In the **ACU Diagnostics Profiles** tab, type the maximum current value in the **Settings** area. The value you specify must be between 0 A and 30 A.
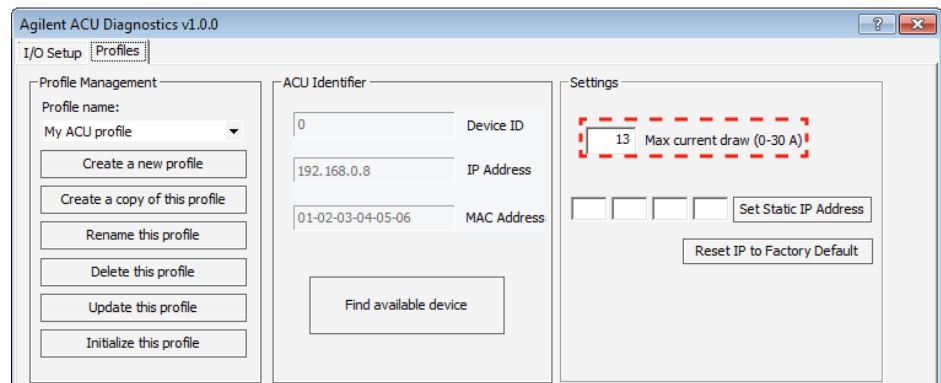
3 Click **Update this profile** to save the change.

4 To configure the audible alarm when the maximum current draw threshold is exceeded, see the lab automation software user documentation. For example, in the VWorks software, you can configure the audible alarm using the IO Manager.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit	"Setting up communication with the Automation Control Unit" on page 92
Saving the profile	"Saving the profile" on page 97
Editing and managing profiles	"Editing and managing profiles" on page 96
Checking the channel connections	"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53

About configuring serial communication devices

About this topic

> **IMPORTANT**   Make sure you read this topic before configuring the serial communication devices in your system or workstation.

You use the lab automation software to configure the integrated devices in your system or workstation. During this process, you need to establish communication with the devices.
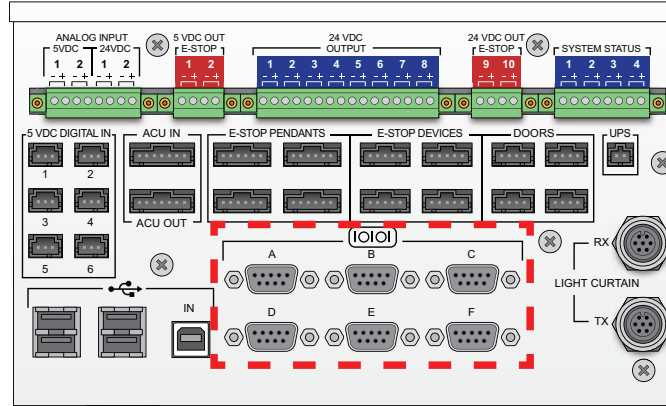
The controlling computer uses COM ports to communicate with serial communication devices. This topic explains the following:

- "COM ports and how they are used" on page 107
- "Default COM port assignments" on page 108
- "About configuring devices in the VWorks software" on page 108

COM ports and how they are used

On the back of the Automation Control Unit, six serial ports are available for devices that require serial communication. They are labeled A, B, C, D, E, and F.

Figure   Serial ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit

The controlling computer operating system assigns a COM port number to each serial port. The COM port numbers are used when you configure the devices in the lab automation software.

The following example shows the Centrifuge Diagnostics Profiles tab. In the example, the Centrifuge is physically connected to a serial port identified as COM4. Therefore, 4 is selected in the **COM port** list so that the controlling computer knows which port to use when it communicates with the Centrifuge.

Figure Selecting the correct COM port when configuring a device
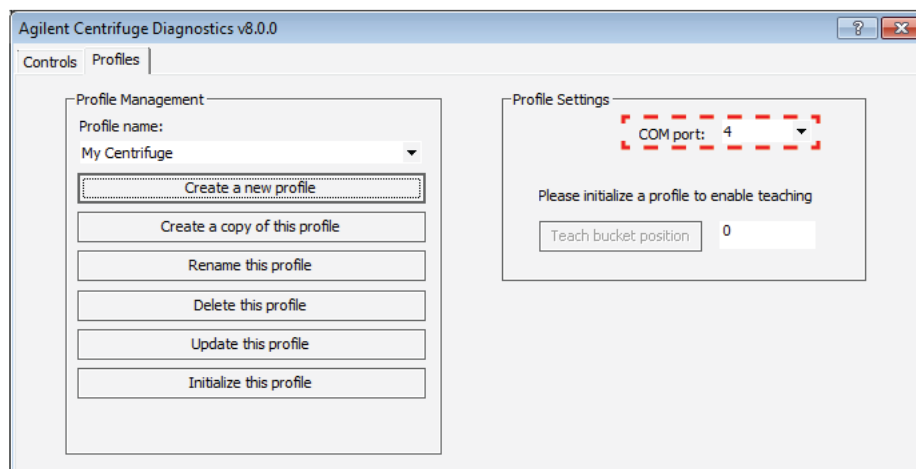
Default COM port assignments

Assuming no other serial communication or USB device is connected to the computer or the lab automation system, the default COM port assignments in the Automation Control Unit are as follows:

Table Default COM port assignments

A	B	C
COM3	COM4	COM5
D	E	F
COM6	COM7	COM8

Note: COM1 and COM2 are reserved for use by the computer only. Therefore, they are not available for the Automation Control Unit.

Any new USB or serial communication device connected to the Automation Control Unit or the controlling computer after setup will be assigned the next available COM port number. For example, a new device connected to the controlling computer will be assigned COM9.

The *Automation Control Unit COM Port Setup Guide* describes how to set up the COM port assignments on the host computer. The *Automation Control Unit COM Port Setup Guide* is intended for fully qualified and trained Agilent service engineers.

About configuring devices in the VWorks software

When you physically connect devices to the serial ports, make a note of the device-port connections. For example, you might want to create a chart that shows the device-port pairings. You will use the information when you configure the devices in the VWorks software.

For information on how to configure your devices, see the device user documentation.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Configuring integrated devices	• Device user documentation • Automation software user documentation
Connecting integrated devices	"Connecting integrated devices" on page 67
Viewing indicator lights	"Viewing the indicator lights" on page 111
Interlock key settings	"Interlock key settings" on page 45
Adding the Automation Control Unit to a device file	"Adding and deleting the Automation Control Unit in the VWorks software" on page 84
Creating profiles for the Automation Control Unit	"Creating ACU profiles" on page 89
Naming signal channel	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Setting the maximum current threshold	"Setting the maximum current draw threshold" on page 105
Configuring the signals	Automation software user documentation
Troubleshooting	"Troubleshooting" on page 119

7
Viewing the indicator lights
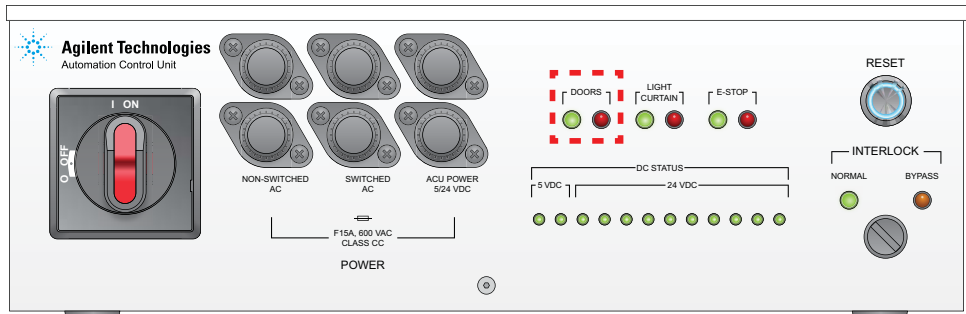
This chapter contains the following topics:

Agilent Technologies

DOORS

Description

Figure   DOORS lights

The lights indicate the following status:

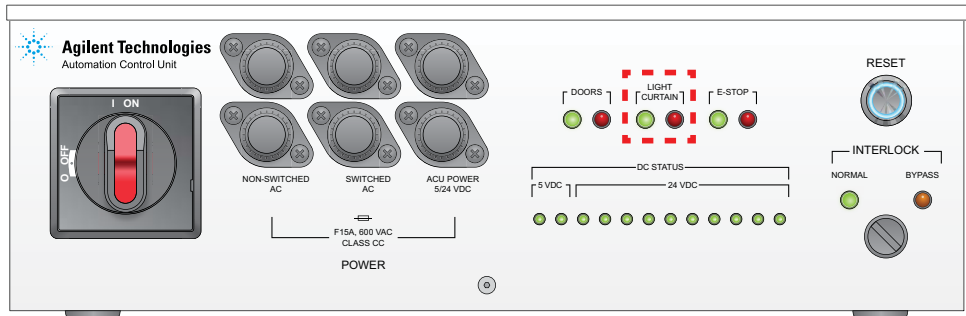| DOORS light	Description
Green	The doors are closed.
Red - solid	One of the doors is open in INTERLOCK NORMAL or BYPASS settings. Opening a system door trips the interlock under normal operating conditions. See "About emergency stop" on page 4 for the recovery instructions.
Red - blinking	A hardware connection error has occurred, or Door jumpers are not installed at unused DOORS ports. See "Troubleshooting" on page 119 for instructions.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting the safety equipment to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Recovering from an emergency stop	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Troubleshooting problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

LIGHT CURTAIN

Description

Figure   LIGHT CURTAIN lights

The lights indicate the following status:

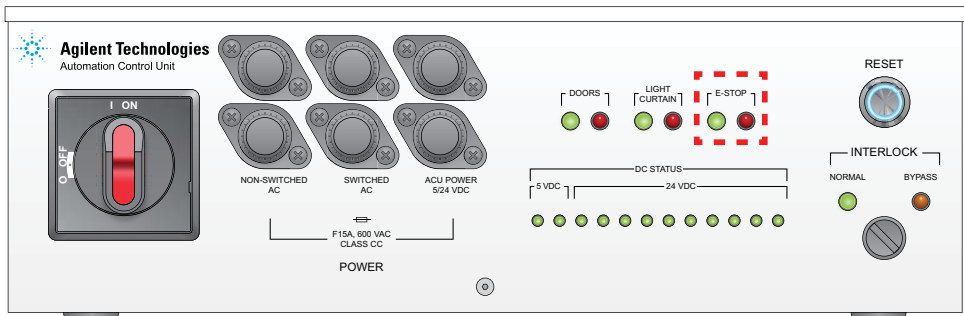| LIGHT CURTAIN light	Description
Green	Nothing is interrupting the Light Curtain.
Red - solid	An object is interrupting the Light Curtain in INTERLOCK NORMAL or BYPASS settings. Alternatively, the Light Curtain jumper is not installed at the unused RX port. Interrupting the Light Curtain trips the interlock under normal operating conditions. See "About emergency stop" on page 4 for the recovery instructions.
Red - blinking	A hardware connection error has occurred. See "Troubleshooting" on page 119 for instructions.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting the safety equipment to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Recovering from an emergency stop	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Troubleshooting problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

E-STOP

Description

Figure   E-STOP lights

The lights indicate the following status:

E-STOP light	Description
Green	The emergency-stop button is not pressed.
Red - solid	The emergency-stop button has been pressed in INTERLOCK NORMAL or BYPASS settings. Alternatively, E-Stop jumpers are not installed at unused E-STOP PENDANTS ports.
Red - blinking	A hardware connection error has occurred. See "Troubleshooting" on page 119 for instructions.

To recover from an emergency stop, see "About emergency stop" on page 4.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting the safety equipment to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Recovering from an emergency stop	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Troubleshooting problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

INTERLOCK

Description

Figure   INTERLOCK lights
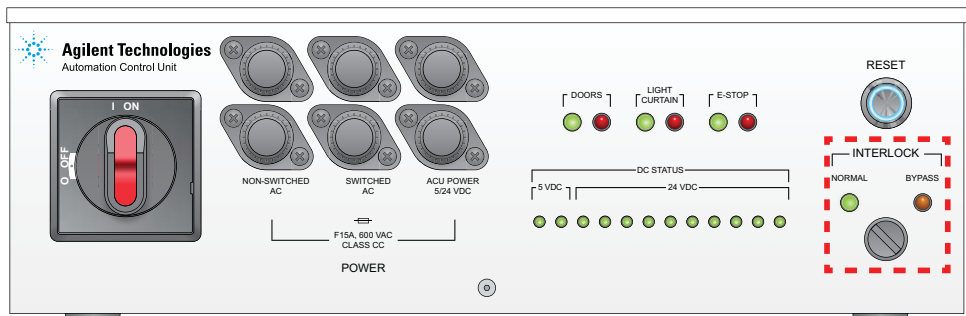
The lights indicate the INTERLOCK key setting:

INTERLOCK light	Description
Green	The INTERLOCK key switch is set at NORMAL.
Yellow	The INTERLOCK key switch is set at BYPASS, or the operator has selected Bypass Interlock in the lab automation software during a paused run.

For a description of the settings, see "Interlock key settings" on page 45. For information about pausing a run and bypassing the interlock in the software, see the lab automation software user documentation.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting the safety equipment to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting the safety equipment" on page 63
Interlock key settings	"Interlock key settings" on page 45
Troubleshooting problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

RESET

Description

Figure   RESET button
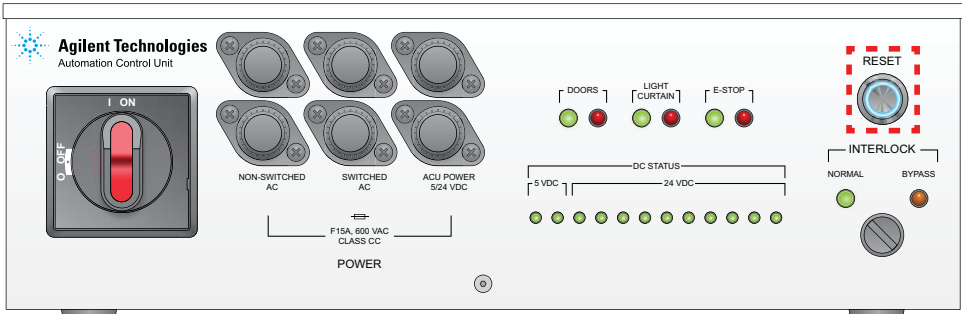
The blue light on the RESET button indicates the following status:

RESET light	Description
Blue - solid	The emergency-stop button is not pressed, all of the system doors are closed, and nothing is interrupting the Light Curtain.
Blue - blinking	The interlock is tripped (the emergency-stop button is pressed, a system door is open, or the Light Curtain is interrupted). To recover from this state, see "About emergency stop" on page 4.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Recovering from an emergency stop	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Troubleshooting problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

DC STATUS

Description

The DC STATUS lights correspond to devices that are connected to the 5 VDC OUT and 24 VDC OUTPUT ports on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

Figure   DC STATUS lights
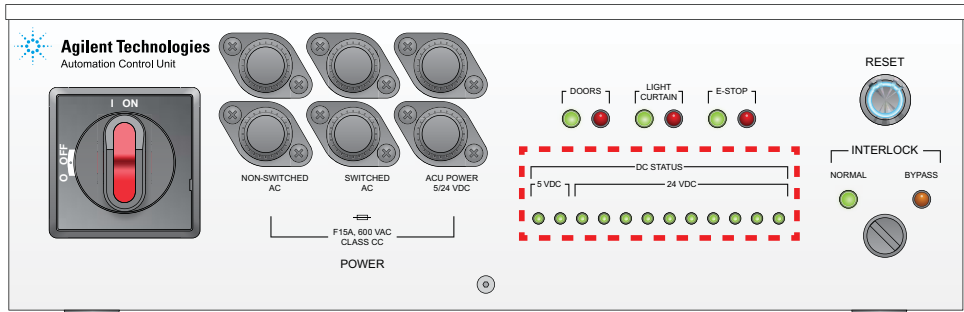
The lights indicate the following status:

DC STATUS light	Description
Green - on	The device is in the on state.
Green - off	The device is in the off state.
Green - blinking	The device is turned on and is in the emergency-stop state (the emergency-stop button is pressed). This state is only applicable to devices that are connected to a post-emergency-stop circuit (red ports).

Note: The on or off state of these lights should match the on or off state of the digital output lights in the ACU Diagnostics I/O Setup tab. See "Troubleshooting I/O channels" on page 121.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Connecting signaling devices to the Automation Control Unit	"Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72
Automation Control Unit specifications	"Electrical requirements" on page 28
Troubleshooting power problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125

For information about...	See...
Safety information	"Safety information" on page 1

8
Troubleshooting

This chapter section contains the following topics:

For emergency-stop recovery procedures, see "About emergency stop" on page 4.

WARNING   **Only administrators and experienced personnel should perform the procedures in this chapter.**

Agilent Technologies

Recovering from a power outage

During the power outage

During a power outage, the UPS starts to beep while providing power to the Automation Control Unit.

If the system is running a protocol when the power went out, the run will likely continue. If a running protocol is nearly finished, you might consider letting it continue until it is finished. If you started running a protocol and you anticipate a lengthy power outage, you might consider stopping the run.

When the power is restored

If the Automation Control Unit was not turned off during the power outage, the Automation Control Unit will receive and distribute power, and the UPS will recharge. The protocol (if running) will continue.

Related information

For information about…	See…
UPS operations	UPS user documentation
Shutting down the system	System user documentation
Turning off the Automation Control Unit	"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80
Safety	"Safety information" on page 1
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page 138

# Troubleshooting I/O channels

About this topic

You can use the lab automation software to troubleshoot the I/O channels. This topic explains how to use the VWorks ACU Diagnostics to troubleshoot the I/O channels.

For information about other lab automation software, see the user documentation for the software.

Procedure

To troubleshoot the I/O channels:

1 From within the VWorks software, open **ACU Diagnostics**.

2 Click the **I/O Setup** tab.
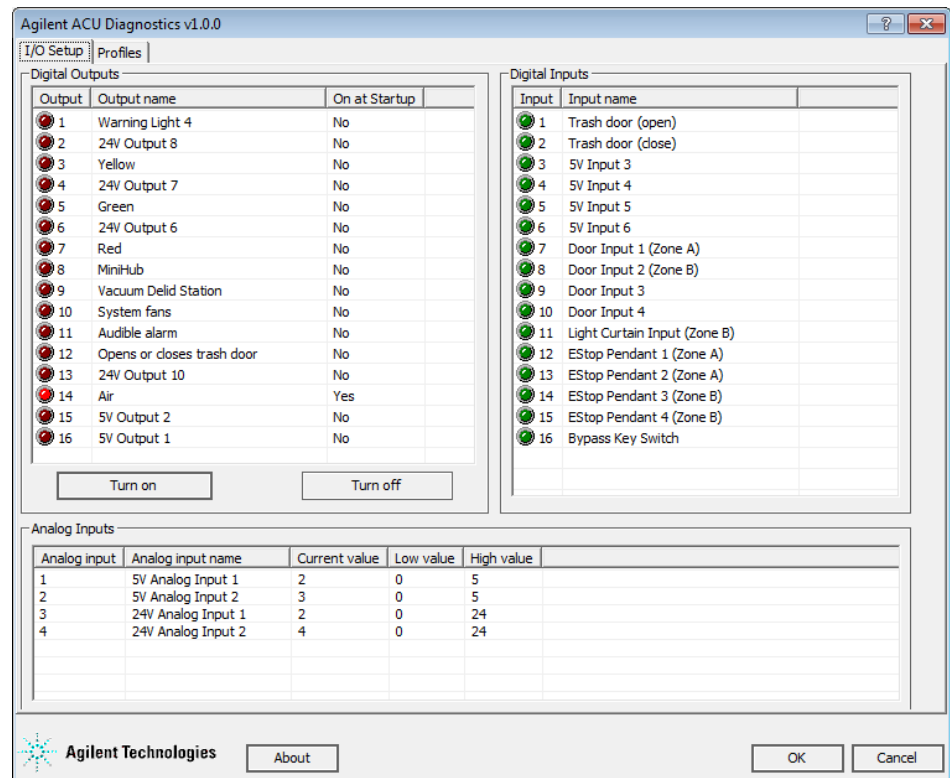
3   In the **Digital Outputs** area, do one of the following:

•   Select the single output channel you want to check, and then click the status light next to it to turn it on or off.

•   SHIFT+click to select multiple contiguous or CTRL+click to select multiple non-contiguous output channels, and then click **Turn on** or **Turn off**. The lights adjacent to the selected channels turn on or off accordingly.

4 In the **Digital Inputs** area, check the indicator light next to the channel name to verify that the sensor is functioning correctly. For example, you can open or close the door under the Vacuum Delid Station, and then check the indicator light to see if it is turned on (door open) or off (door closed).
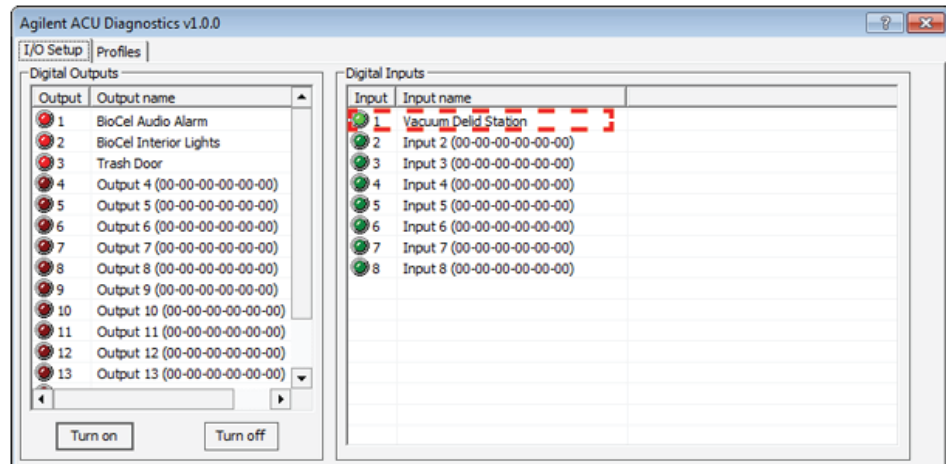
5 In the **Analog Inputs** area, check the **Current value** of the analog device. For example, to check an analog input channel used for a liquid-detection sensor, you can add and remove liquid at the sensor and check the changing voltage value in the **Current value** column. Adding liquid changes the value to 0. A high value displays when you remove the liquid from the sensor.
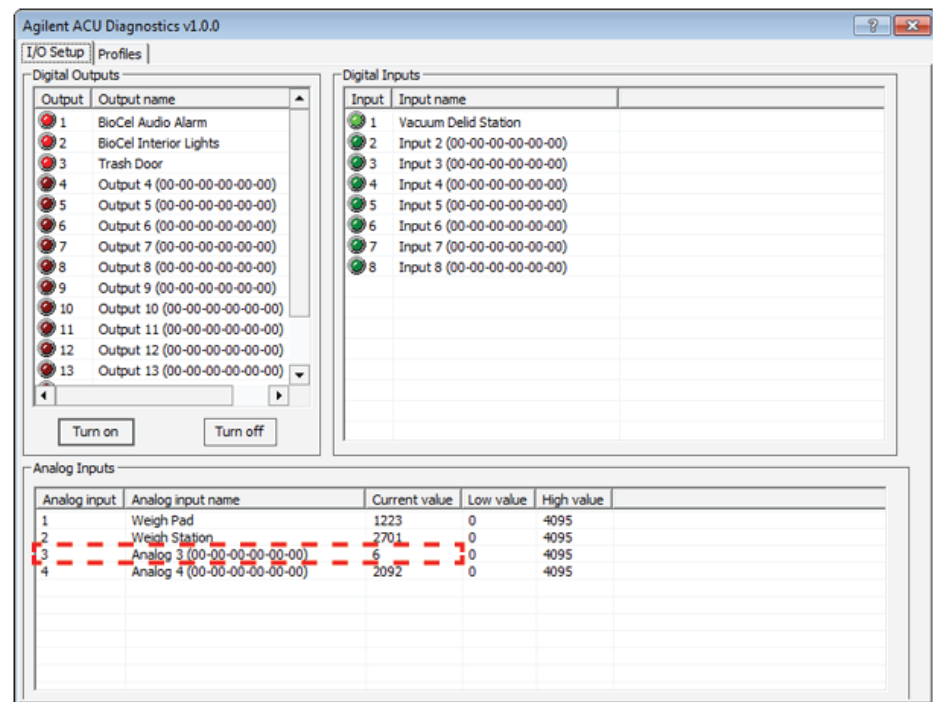
Related information

For information about...	See...
Naming signal channels	"Configuring the signal channels" on page 100
Configuring the signals	Automation software user documentation
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page 138

Troubleshooting hardware problems

About this topic

This topic lists the following commonly encountered hardware problems, the causes of the problems, and ways to resolve the problems:

- "Power problems" on page 125
- "Communication problems" on page 127
- "Safety equipment indicators" on page 128

If you are still experiencing problems with the Automation Control Unit after trying the solutions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

For system or workstation troubleshooting information, see the system or workstation user documentation.

Power problems

Problem	Cause	Solution
The Automation Control Unit does not turn on.	The electrical requirements are not met.	Make sure the electrical requirements are met. See "Electrical requirements" on page 28.
	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the power source.	Check the power connection and make sure the Automation Control Unit is connected to the power source. See Connecting the AC power and the UPS.
	One or more of the fuses are blown.	Replace the ACU POWER 5/24 VDC fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.
		If the fuses are blown immediately after replacement, stop using the Automation Control Unit and contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

Problem	Cause	Solution
The integrated devices do not turn on.	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the power source.	Connect the Automation Control Unit to the power source.
	The integrated devices are not connected to the Automation Control Unit.	Check the power connections and make sure the devices are connected correctly to the Automation Control Unit. For connection instructions, see "Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59 and "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72.
	If the devices connected to the NON-SWITCHED AC (blue) circuit do not turn on, the NON-SWITCHED AC fuses are blown.	Replace the NON-SWITCHED AC fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.
	If the devices connected to the SWITCHED AC (red) circuit do not turn on, the SWITCHED AC fuses are blown.	Replace the SWITCHED AC fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.
One of the integrated devices does not turn on.	The device is not connected to the Automation Control Unit.	Check the power connection and make sure the device is connected correctly to the Automation Control Unit. For connection instructions, see "Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59 and "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72.
	The fuse in the device is blown.	Replace the fuse in the device. See the device user documentation for instructions.
	The device needs repair.	Contact the device manufacturer for service and repair.

Communication problems

Problem	Cause	Solution
The Automation Control Unit does not initialize.	The Automation Control Unit is turned off.	Turn on the Automation Control Unit.
	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the controlling computer.	Check and secure the Ethernet connection.
	The incorrect device is selected in the Discovered BioNet Devices dialog box.	Open ACU diagnostics, open the Discovered BioNet Devices dialog box, and check the selected device. See see "Creating ACU profiles" on page 89.
The Automation Control Unit does not appear in the Discovered BioNet Devices dialog box.	Incorrect Ethernet adaptor was selected.	Select the correct Ethernet adaptor. For instructions, see "Creating ACU profiles" on page 89.
	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the power source.	Connect the Automation Control Unit to the power source. For connection instructions, see "Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56.
	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the controlling computer.	Make sure the Automation Control Unit is connected to the controlling computer. For connection instructions, see "Connecting the integrated devices to the Automation Control Unit AC power output ports" on page 59 and "Connecting the computer" on page 70.
None of the signal channels appear in the ACU Diagnostics I/O Setup tab.	The Automation Control Unit has not been initialized.	In ACU Diagnostics, initialize the Automation Control Unit.
	The signaling devices are not connected to the Automation Control Unit.	Make sure the signaling devices are connected correctly to the Automation Control Unit. For connection instructions, see "Connecting signal-generating and miscellaneous devices" on page 72.

Safety equipment indicators

Problem	Cause	Solution
DOORS light is solid red.	One of the system doors is open.	Make sure obstacles are removed from the doorway, and then close the door.
DOORS light is blinking red.	A hardware connection error has occurred.	Make sure the system door interlock-sensor cable is connected to the sensor on the door hinge. Make sure the system door interlock-sensor cable is connected to the DOORS port on the back of the Automation Control Unit.
	Door jumpers are not installed at unused DOORS ports.	Install Door jumpers at unused DOORS ports.
	Door jumpers are not working.	Replace the Door jumpers.
LIGHT CURTAIN light is solid red.	An object is interrupting the Light Curtain.	Remove obstacles that are interrupting the Light Curtain.
	The Light Curtain jumper is not installed at the unused LIGHT CURTAIN RX port.	Install the Light Curtain jumper at the LIGHT CURTAIN RX port.
	The Light Curtain jumper is not working.	Replace the Light Curtain jumper.
LIGHT CURTAIN light is blinking red.	A hardware connection error has occurred.	Make sure the Light Curtain transmission and receiver cables are connected correctly to the Light Curtain posts. Make sure the transmission cable is connected to the LIGHT CURTAIN TX port on the back of the Automation Control Unit. Make sure the receiver cable is connected to the LIGHT CURTAIN RX port on the back of the Automation Control Unit.
E-STOP light is solid red.	The emergency-stop button has been pressed.	See "About emergency stop" on page 4 for recovery procedures.
	E-Stop jumpers are not installed at unused E-STOP PENDANTS ports.	Install E-Stop jumpers at unused E-STOP PENDANTS ports.
	E-Stop jumpers are not working.	Replace the E-Stop jumpers.
E-STOP light is blinking red.	A hardware connection error has occurred.	Make sure the emergency-stop pendant cable is connected to the E-STOP PENDANTS port on the back of the Automation Control Unit.

Problem	Cause	Solution
RESET light is blinking.	The interlock is tripped (the emergency-stop button is pressed, a system door is open, or the Light Curtain is interrupted).	See "About emergency stop" on page 4 for recovery procedures.
DC STATUS light is blinking.	The device is in the emergency-stop state.	See "About emergency stop" on page 4 for recovery procedures.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Software error messages	"Troubleshooting error messages" on page 131
Safety	"Safety information" on page 1
Reporting problems	"Reporting problems" on page 138

Troubleshooting error messages

About this topic

This topic lists software error messages associated with the Automation Control Unit, the causes of the errors, and ways to resolve the errors. If you are still experiencing problems with the Automation Control Unit after trying the solutions, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

For protocol-related errors, see the automation software user documentation.

Error messages

ID	Error message	Cause	Solution
101	Failed to initialize the profile <profile name>. Attempt to send data on a non-connected socket.	The Automation Control Unit is not connected to the controlling computer.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
		The Automation Control Unit is not turned on.	Turn on the Automation Control Unit.
		Communication was not set up correctly with the Automation Control Unit.	In the ACU Diagnostics Profiles tab, make sure you selected the correct Automation Control Unit in the Discovered BioNet Devices dialog box.
102	Failed to read input: <input name>	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
103	Failed to set output: <output name>	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.

ID	Error message	Cause	Solution
104	Failed to read interlock states	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
105	Failed to read Estop state	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
106	Failed to read bypass key state	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
107	Error communicating with Agilent ACU	The lab automation software has lost communication with the Automation Control Unit.	Check the Ethernet connection between the Automation Control Unit and the controlling computer, restart the Automation Control Unit, and then reinitialize the Automation Control Unit.
108	ACU is attempting to draw current beyond the threshold set at <current limit> A	The Automation Control Unit is attempting to draw current beyond the set threshold.	Check the rating of your Automation Control Unit and the accompanying power cord. Increase the current threshold in ACU Diagnostics to a value less than the maximum ratings. For the maximum current information, see "Electrical requirements" on page 28.
		The devices connected to the Automation Control Unit are drawing too much current.	Consider connecting high-current devices (such as incubators, water baths, and thermocyclers) to an external power source. Alternatively consider adding a second Automation Control Unit to increase the total power input to the system.

ID	Error message	Cause	Solution
109	There is a sudden current drop in Direct AC line possibly because of a blown fuse	One or both of the NON-SWITCHED AC fuses are blown.	Replace the blown fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.
110	There is a sudden current drop in switched AC line possibly because of a blown fuse	One or both of the SWITCHED AC fuses are blown.	Replace the blown fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.
111	There is a sudden current drop in DC line possibly because of a blown fuse	One or both of the 5/24 VDC fuses are blown.	Replace the blown fuses. See "Replacing fuses" on page 135.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Automation Control Unit features	"Front panel" on page 12
Troubleshooting hardware problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Recovering from emergency stops	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Safety	"Safety information" on page 1
Reporting problems to Agilent Technologies	"Reporting problems" on page 138

Removing dust from the fan cover

Warnings and precautions

IMPORTANT The Automation Control Unit fan cover should be cleaned annually, or more frequently if the fan cover becomes clogged from a dusty lab environment. A clogged fan cover might cause the Automation Control Unit to overheat and result in a thermal shutdown.

Only trained personnel should perform maintenance procedures. For assistance, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

⚠️ **WARNING** **To avoid possible injury always turn off the power switch and disconnect the power cord from the Automation Control Unit before performing any maintenance procedure.**

Fan location

The fan and fan cover are located on the left side of the Automation Control Unit.

Figure Location of the fan
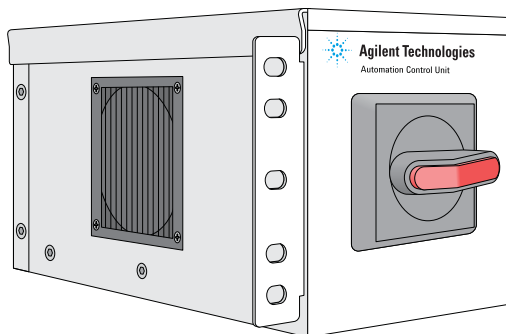
Tools and components

Vacuum cleaner

Procedure

To clean the fan cover:

Vacuum the fan cover to remove the dust particles.

Replacing fuses

Warnings and precautions

⚠️ **WARNING**   Only administrators and trained personnel should perform the maintenance procedures. Alternatively, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support for assistance.

⚠️ **WARNING**   Always turn off the Automation Control Unit before performing any maintenance procedure. See *"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit"* on page 80.

⚠️ **WARNING**   Always disconnect the power cord from the Automation Control Unit before performing any maintenance procedure. See *"Connecting the AC power and the UPS"* on page 56.

Fuse location

Two fuses are on each of the following three circuits:

- NON-SWITCHED AC
- SWITCHED AC
- ACU POWER 5/24 VDC

The fuses are located at the front of the Automation Control Unit. All six fuses are rated as follows: 600 VAC, 15 A, class CC, time delay.
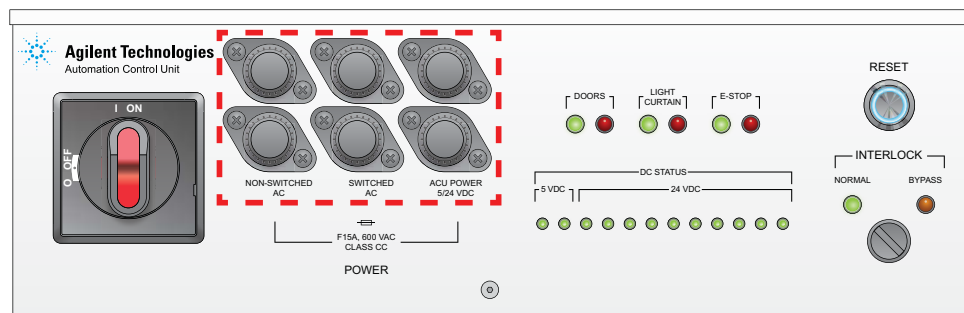
Always replace both fuses on the circuit, even if only one opens.

Tools and components

Make sure you have the replacement fuses, which are supplied with your system or workstation.

- *Systems*. The replacement fuses are located on the air distribution panel.
- *Workstations*. The replacement fuses are located on the side of the Automation Control Unit.

To order additional fuses, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support. The fuse part number is 2110-1513.

Procedure

To replace the fuses:

1 Turn the fuse holder knob counterclockwise until the holder becomes detached from the Automation Control Unit.
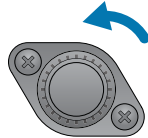
2 Pull out and remove the fuse holder.

3 Pull out the spent fuse from the holder and insert the new fuse.
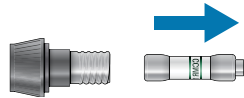
4 Insert the fuse holder back into the Automation Control Unit.

5 Turn the fuse holder knob clockwise until the holder is securely installed in the Automation Control Unit.

6 Repeat the procedure to replace the second fuse on the circuit.

> **CAUTION** A blown fuse can indicate more serious problems. If the new fuse blows after replacement, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Safety	"Safety information" on page 1
Troubleshooting the Automation Control Unit	"Troubleshooting" on page 119

Replacing the Automation Control Unit

About this topic

The Automation Control Unit can be replaced in a system or workstation if it becomes damaged or if there is component failure. This topic explains how to replace the Automation Control Unit.

Warnings and precautions

⚠ **WARNING**   Only administrators and trained personnel should perform the maintenance procedures. Alternatively, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support for assistance.

⚠ **WARNING**   Always turn off the Automation Control Unit before performing any maintenance procedure. See *"Turning on and turning off the Automation Control Unit" on page 80*.

⚠ **WARNING**   Always disconnect the power cord from the Automation Control Unit before performing any maintenance procedure. See *"Connecting the AC power and the UPS" on page 56*.

Procedure

To replace the Automation Control Unit:

1 Disconnect all devices, including the safety equipment and UPS (if applicable), from the Automation Control Unit. Be sure to disconnect all cables.

2 If the Automation Control Unit is rack mounted, follow the instructions in *"Mounting the Automation Control Unit in a standard rack" on page 54* to remove the existing Automation Control Unit from its mounting rack and mount the new Automation Control Unit.

3 Follow the instructions in *"Installing the Automation Control Unit" on page 53* to connect the power, safety equipment, and devices to the Automation Control Unit.

Related information

For information about...	See...
Safety	*"Safety information" on page 1*
Troubleshooting the Automation Control Unit	*"Troubleshooting" on page 119*

Reporting problems

Contacting Automation Solutions Technical Support

If you find a problem with the Automation Control Unit, contact Automation Solutions Technical Support. For contact information, see Notices on the back of the title page.

Reporting hardware problems

When contacting Agilent Technologies, make sure you have the serial number of the device ready.

Reporting software problems

When you contact Automation Solutions Technical Support, make sure you provide the following:

• Short description of the problem

• Relevant software version number (for example, automation control software, diagnostics software, and firmware)

• Error message text (or screen capture of the error message dialog box)

• Relevant files, such as log files

Reporting user guide problems

If you find a problem with this user guide or have suggestions for improvement, send your comments in an email to documentation.automation@agilent.com.

Related information

For information about…	See…
Hardware problems	"Troubleshooting hardware problems" on page 125
Software error messages	"Troubleshooting error messages" on page 131
Recovering from emergency stops	"About emergency stop" on page 4
Safety	"Safety information" on page 1

Glossary

cassette The column of shelves or slots in a Labware MiniHub or the Plate Hub Carousel.

clamps (BenchCel) The components inside of the stacker head that close and open the stacker grippers during the loading, unloading, downstacking, and upstacking processes.

controlling computer The lab automation system computer that controls the devices in the system.

cycle See seal cycle.

deadlock An error that occurs when the number of locations available in the system is less than the number of microplates in the system. Because the microplates cannot move to the expected locations, the protocol pauses.

device An item on your lab automation system that can have an entry in the device file. A device can be a robot, an instrument, or a location on the lab automation system that can hold a piece of labware.

device file A file that contains the configuration information for a device. The device file has the .dev file name extension and is stored in the folder that you specify when saving the file.

downstack The process in which a microplate is moved out of the stack.

error handler The set of conditions that define a specific recovery response to an error.

home position The position where all robot axes are at the 0 position (the robot head is approximately at the center of the x-axis and at 0 of the z-axis, and the robot arms are perpendicular to the x-axis).

homing The process in which the robot is sent to the factory-defined home position for each axis of motion.

hot plate (PlateLoc) A heated metal plate inside the sealing chamber that descends and presses the seal onto the plate.

insert A pad placed under the plate to support the bottom of the wells for uniform sealing.

location group A list of labware that can be moved into or out of particular slots in a storage device.

plate group A list of specific labware that can be moved into or out of a storage device without regard for the slot locations.

plate instance A single labware in a labware group that is represented by the process plate icon.

plate stage The removable metal platform on which you load a plate.

plate-stage support (Centrifuge) The structure on which you load a plate stage. The plate-stage support extends when the door opens.

profile The Microsoft Windows registry entry that contains the communication settings required for communication between a device and the VWorks software.

process A sequence of tasks that are performed on a particular labware or a group of labware.

protocol A schedule of tasks to be performed by a standalone device, or devices in the lab automation system.

regrip station A location that enables the robot to change its grip orientation (landscape or portrait), or adjust its grip at the specified gripping height. Grip height adjustment might be necessary after a robot picks up a labware higher than the specified gripping height because of physical restrictions at a teachpoint.

robot grippers The components that the robot uses to hold labware.

run A process in which one or more microplates are processed. In a standalone device, the run consists of one cycle. In a lab automation system, a run can consist of multiple cycles that are automated.

safe zone The boundary within which the robot is allowed to move without colliding with external devices.

seal cycle The process in which a single plate is sealed on the PlateLoc Sealer.

seal entry slot The narrow entry on the back of the PlateLoc Sealer where the seal is inserted into the device.

seal-loading card A rectangular card that is used to facilitate the seal loading process on the PlateLoc Sealer.

seal-roll support The triangular structures at the top of the PlateLoc Sealer where a roll of seal is mounted.

sealing chamber The area inside of the PlateLoc Sealer where the seal is applied to a plate.

shelves (BenchCel) The components inside of the stacker head that provide leveling surfaces for the microplates, thus ensuring accurate robot gripping, during the downstacking process.

stacker grippers The padding at the bottom of the stacker racks that hold microplates when a microplate is loaded, downstacked, or upstacked.

subprocess A sequence of tasks performed as a subroutine within a protocol. Typically the subprocess is performed by a single device type, such as the Bravo device.

task An operation performed on one or more labware.

task parameters The parameters associated with each task in a protocol. For example, in a labeling task, the parameters include the label value.

teachpoint A set of coordinates that define where the robot can pick up or place labware and the location of a known object.

teachpoint file The XML file that contains the settings for one or more device teachpoints.

touch screen The interface on the front of the PlateLoc Sealer where sealing parameters are set, the seal cycle can be started or stopped, and the seal cycle can be monitored.

upstack The process in which a microplate is moved back into the stack.

waypoint A set of coordinates that define a location the robot passes through on its way to a teachpoint.

workspace The boundary within which the robot can move without limitations.

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User Guide

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