FA-CU 4.0 and FSP/FX Conventional Panel Firmware 4.0 Release Notes

Content

Introduction

These release notes contain a summary of the changes included with FA-CU version 4.0 and FX/FSP conventional panel firmware version 4.0.

Please read the release notes in their entirety to become familiar with new panel functionality and upgrade instructions.

Operating system compatibility

FA-CU 4.0 was tested and found compatible with the following Microsoft Windows Operating Systems: Windows 10 Professional, Windows 8.1 Professional, and Windows 7 Professional.

F-DACT1(F) compatibility

The F-DACT1(F) is compatible with FSP/FX conventional control units running firmware versions 4.0. The F-DACT(F) is compatible with FSP/FX conventional control units running firmware versions 3.x and earlier.

P/N 3102540-EN • REV 001 • ISS 03MAY17

Software versions and compatibility

You can use FA-CU 4.0 to configure FSP/FX control units running firmware versions 4.0 and earlier. On FSP/FX control units running firmware earlier than 4.0:

- The Alarm On event (manual evacuation) is not supported. Instead, the FA-CU uses the Drill event.
- Setting the DACT transmission test frequency to 6 hours is not supported. Instead, the FA-CU converts days to hours when reading panel data, and converts hours to days when writing panel data.

What's new in this release

FA-CU 4.0 and panel firmware version 4.0 include the following new features:

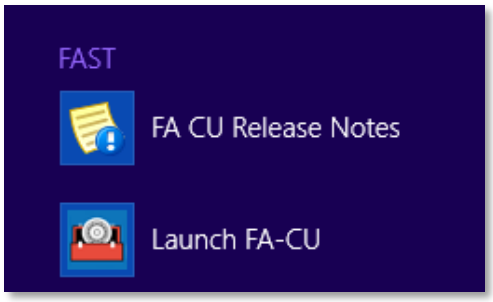
- New configuration utility for programming FSP/FX conventional control units
- New overlays for 5-zone and 10-zone FSP/FX conventional control units
- New "Alarm ON" system event replaces the "Drill" event
- DACT transmission test frequency values are now specified in hours, not in days (default is 6 hours)

New configuration utility for FSP/FX conventional control units

FA-CU 4.0 is the new configuration utility used for configuring FireShield Plus and FX Series fire alarm control units.

FA-CU 4.0 is installed in the C:\FAST\FA-CU folder. However, you can choose a different location during the installation. To start the FA-CU, click the desktop shortcut shown below.

You can also start the FA-CU from the Windows Start menu as shown below.



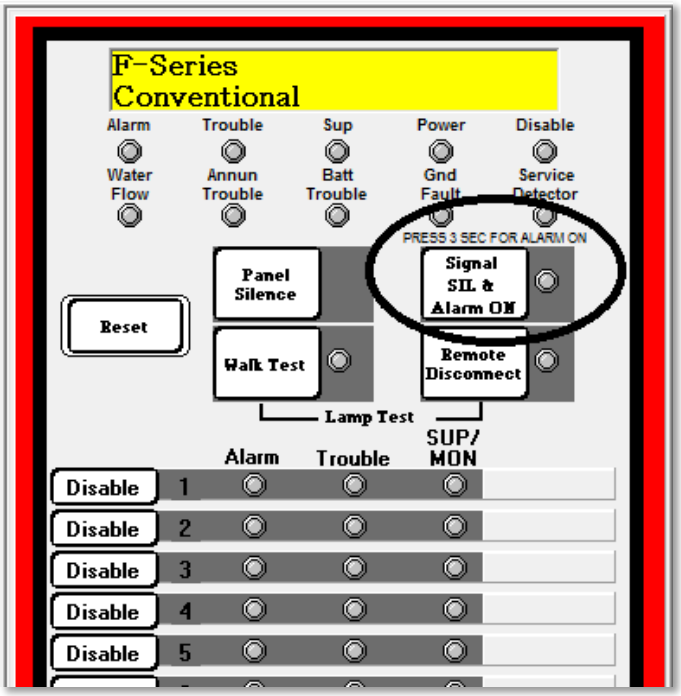
FA-CU 4.0 supports the latest UL/ULC requirements and is compatible with FSP/FX control units running firmware version 4.0. FA-CU 4.0 may be used to configure databases for FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0 with the following exceptions:

- The FA-CU replaces the new Alarm ON event with the Drill event. FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0 do not support the Alarm ON event.

- The FA-CU converts the DACT transmission test frequency from days to hours when reading panel data, and converts hours to days when writing panel data. FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0 do not support DACT transmission test frequency values less than whole number days.

New overlays for 5-zone and 10-zone FSP/FX conventional control units

As part of new UL/ULC requirements and to support the new Manual Evacuation feature, 5-zone and 10-zone FSP/FX control unit overlays have been changed to provide an “Alarm ON” button as shown below.



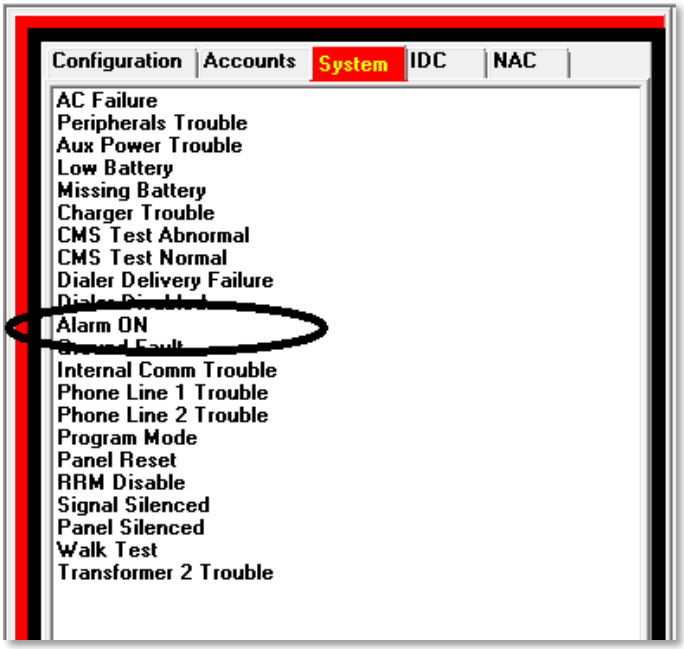
The Signal SIL & Alarm ON button operates as follows:

- Signal Silence: Pressing the button for less than three seconds turns all active audible notification appliances off until you press it again or until another event turns them back on.
- Alarm ON: Pressing the button for more than three seconds places the control unit in the alarm condition (e.g., activates the common alarm relay and turns on the Alarm LED), turns on all fire alarm and city signals (but not coded fire alarm signals), and signals the central station if a dialer/modem is installed.

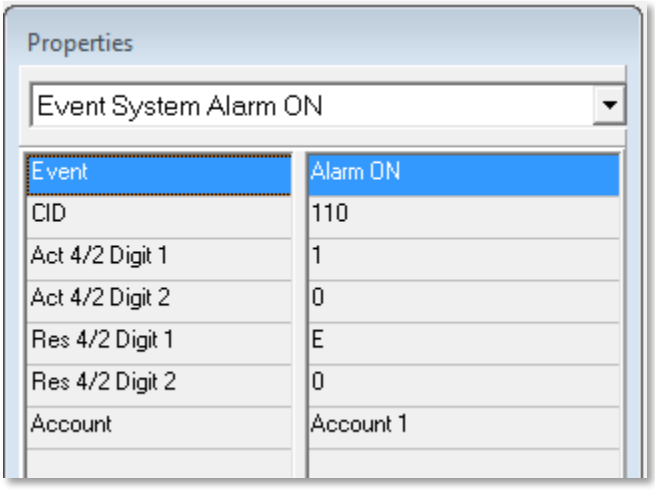
The control unit continues to respond to initiating device circuits that are activated while in the manual evacuation mode. The Alarm ON event is restored by pressing the panel reset. If the Alarm ON is initiated while a panel reset is in progress, the event will be restored at the end of the reset.

New “Alarm ON” system event replaces the “Drill” event

The Alarm ON system event is a requirement for manual evacuation in the Canadian market. The “Alarm ON” event has been added to the System events list as shown below.



The default properties for the Alarm ON event are shown below.



Note: If you use FA-CU 4.0 with FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0, the FA-CU automatically replaces the Alarm On event with the Drill event. FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0 do not support the Alarm ON event.

DACT transmission test frequency values are now specified in hours, not in days

The DACT transmission test frequency is now specified in hours, not in days. The default value is set for 6 hours to comply with the new UL 864 requirements. For ULC applications, change the value to 24 hours.

When connected to FSP/FX control units running firmware versions earlier than 4.0, the FA-CU converts the DACT transmission test frequency from days to hours when reading panel data, and converts hours to days when writing panel data.

Here is how it works:

- When reading panel data, 1 day is converted to 24 hours, 2 days is converted to 48 hours, 3 days is converted to 72 hours, etc. 10 to 45 days is converted to 240 hours.
- When writing panel data, values other than whole days are rounded up to the nearest day.

FA-CU 4.0 Help

FA-CU 4.0 Help requires that you have Internet Explorer 6.0 or later installed. The HTML help file is not compatible with other web browsers.

Reminder of NFPA 72 testing requirements

When changes are made to site-specific software, the following shall apply:

- All functions known to be affected by the change, or identified by a means that indicates changes, shall be 100 percent tested.
- In addition, 10 percent of initiating devices that are not directly affected by the change, up to a maximum of 50 devices, also shall be tested and correct system operation shall be verified.
- A revised record of completion in accordance with NFPA standards shall be prepared to reflect these changes.

Changes to all control units connected or controlled by the system executive software shall require a 10 percent functional test of the system, including a test of at least one device on each input and output circuit to verify critical system functions such as notification appliances, control functions, and off-premises reporting.

Reminder of NFPA 720 requirements

Installation, location, performance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements in NFPA 720 *Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment – 2012*.

Known issues

Finding FSRA10C Remote Annunciators and FSUIM Universal Input Modules

The control unit sees FSRA10C Remote Annunciators as three peripheral devices. The FA-CU shows the peripherals as being an RSI, and RZI, and an RZI-SA.

The control unit sees FSUIM Universal Input Modules as one peripheral device. The FA-CU shows the peripheral as being an FSI.

CMS Test Abnormal default 4/2 event restoration code

The CMS Test Abnormal default 4/2 event restoration code is DF, not 00 as indicated in the Help topic.

Using Conexant RD01-D400 PSTN to USB adapters

When using the Conexant RD01-D400 PSTN to USB adapter, Microsoft Windows may not detect the adapter when you remove it from the USB connector and then plug it back in. If this happens, you must restart your computer to detect the device before you can start communicating with the panel.

Contact information

For Edwards panels, see www.edwardsfiresafety.com.

For Kidde panels, see www.kiddelifesafety.com.