A3 ALPHA® Meter Firmware Flash Tool 03.03

For Upgrading Meter Firmware to Version 3.03

Purpose

This instruction leaflet explains the procedure for upgrading the A3 ALPHA meter firmware from version 3.01 or 3.02 to version 3.03 using the A3 ALPHA Meter Firmware Flash Tool.

Revision History

The following table lists the releases of this document and a brief description of the changes made.

Document Revision	Date	Tool version	Flash Upgrade
A	13.January.2006	02.06	Upgrades meters with firmware ver. 2.01 through 2.05 to version 2.06
B	16.January.2006	03.03	Upgrades from 3.01 or 3.02 to version 3.03.

System Requirements

Operating System	Windows 95/98, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP
Memory	8 MB
Disk Space	1 MB

Installing and Starting

This application consists of one file (*A3FirmwareFlash_FW03.03.exe*). Copy this file to your hard drive or to a diskette. Launch the file to start the application.

Every time the application starts, the license agreement will be presented. You must accept the license agreement to proceed.

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Setting Up

Option	Description
Port	Select the communications port to which your optical probe is connected.
Baud	Select the desired baud rate for the flash process. Note that many optical probes in use today cannot support baud rates higher than 9600. A message will provide an estimate of the total time required to flash the meter firmware based on the selected baud rate.
Password	Enter the unrestricted password for the meter to be flashed. The password will not be visible on the screen. Each time the A3 Firmware Flash Tool is started the password is automatically reset to the Elster factory default of 20 zeros ("00000000000000000000"). If your A3 ALPHA meters have a different password you must re-enter your unique password each time the application is re-started.

Before Flashing the Firmware

NOTICE

All meter billing data will be lost when the meter is flashed. Elster Electricity strongly recommends that you perform a full diagnostic read of the meter before flashing the meter firmware. Failure to perform a full diagnostic read will result in the unrecoverable loss of billing data.

Flashing the Firmware

1. Energize the meter and connect the optical probe to the meter.
2. From the A3FirmwareFlash program, click the **Flash Firmware** button.

   The program will indicate the progress of the firmware flash. During the firmware flash, the meter LCD will display **btL LoAd** to indicate it is in boot loader mode.

NOTICE

During the flash process, do not interrupt the communication or power down the meter. If the communication is interrupted or power is lost to the meter, the meter will remain in boot loader mode until the firmware is successfully flashed.

Completing the Firmware Flash

If the meter being flashed is configured for TOU operation, then at the completion of the flash process you may see an error code on the meter display indicating a clock error. This is normal and expected because the flash process causes the meter to lose its time.

After flashing the meter firmware, Elster Electricity recommends that you re-program the meter using Elster's Metercat software.

Two new files will be created in the same directory when you start the tool for the first time.

File	Description
A3FIRMWAREFLASH_FW03.03Config.ini	This file contains the communication port and baud rate settings. These settings will be restored each time you start the application. (Note: For security reasons the password is not saved in the .ini file.)
A3FIRMWAREFLASH_FW03.03Log.txt	This file contains a log of each firmware flash attempt. This allows you to track exactly which meters have been successfully updated with the new firmware. Each entry in the log includes the following items: • Result of flash attempt (PASS | FAIL) • Date/Time of flash attempt • Elster Factory Serial Number of Meter • Programmed Meter ID (ID#2) • Programmed Account ID (ID#1) • Failure Message (included if result was FAIL)

Troubleshooting

If the flash attempt is unsuccessful:

■ Verify that you have the correct serial port setting.

■ Reduce the baud rate setting and try again.

■ Verify that you have properly entered the unrestricted password.

If you continue to have problems, contact Elster customer support at +1 800 338 5251.

Notes

Elster Electricity, LLC
Raleigh, North Carolina USA

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