

SCOPE:

This document will provide Y2K compliance information for the owners of EPC thermal printers. Model numbers addressed will include all 1086 series recorders:

INTRODUCTION:

There is a growing anxiety throughout many industries about year 2000 date problems. Many older pieces of equipment do not contain proper date mathematics to accurately track dates into the next century. Many customers of ours have raised concerns about this problem.

EPC Y2K Statement concerning all 1086 series recorders.

The GSP-1086 uses an ISA buss microprocessor board which uses either a 386SX or a 486DX microprocessor. On the microprocessor board there is a BIOS chip.

On 386SX microprocessors:

AMBIOS
American Megatrends
386SX BIOS 1992

On 486DX microprocessors:

AMBIOS
American Megatrends
486DX BIOS 1992

Both of these BIOS track years and not centuries. The problem arises when the year rolls over into the next century. Some BIOS chips will assume that the year 00 is either 1900 or 1980.

The question now can be raised. "Is this Y2K compliant"?

Much like the 9800 series, the recorder may be considered Y2K compatible. EPC defines the recorders in these terms because of the nature of their operation. A century roll over does not affect the recorders internal operation or its ability to keep and print time in its annotation. The century annotation has only two digits.

The recorder never digitally outputs a date to an interface port. Therefore, any host equipment interfacing with these recorders will not be effected by the two digit code. A host system may update the recorder with a date past the year 2000. Thus, the recorders internal clock has no influence on the host system.

TESTING

The the 1086 was tested in the following manner.

- 1) The recorders internal clock was set to 23:59 - 12/31/99
- 2) The recorder was observed as the date changed from 12/31/99 to 01/01/00.
- 3) The recorder functioned properly with no internal crashes.
- 4) In addition the date was updated correctly on the record.
- 5) Since the GSP-1086 does not write any data to a file or write any data back to the host system, it will be considered that the GSP-1086 is Y2K compatible.
- 6) The leap year worked in the year 2000.

The following rules apply when determining Y2K compliance:

Rule 1: No value for the current date will cause any interruption in operation.

The date on this series of recorders must be set from a host system. Therefore the host system must provide a valid date format to the recorder (month - date - year). (Provided this is true the recorder will display valid dates past Y2K.)

Rule 2: Date-based functionality must behave consistently for dates prior to, during and after year 2000.

The recorder has been operationally tested with dates before during and after the year 2000.

Rule 3: In all interfaces and data storage, the century in any date must be specified either explicitly or by unambiguous algorithms or inferencing rules.

This series of recorders does not output any data to electronic media. Therefore, there is no electronic transfer of dates to a host system, and no chance for electronic files to be corrupted by a bogus date code. However, the recorders do print dates on the hard copy record. The year is displayed in a two digit code. This printing technology did not even remotely exist in 1900. By inference one could easily deduce that the record was printed in the year 2000 and not the year 1900.

Rule 4: The year 2000 must be recognized as a leap year.

The recorders were tested under these conditions and the year 2000 is recognized as a leap year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained from the Megatrends web site.

www.ami.com

Change page information:

Rev A 2/22/99

1) changed area code for phone and fax (from 508 to 978)

2) page one - Changed the sentence

from

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to

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3) page one - Changed the sentence

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4) page two - changed the sentence

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