

MIGRATING TO GENERATION 2 MODULES

Integrated Monitoring and Control System

Introduction

The iMAC System as a whole has seen a very long history of usage (20+ years). Due to the system's long-running success and widespread use, the existing system will soon run out of available 5-digit iMAC Module Serial Numbers. The reason for this is that the capacity of the system is dictated by the iMAC Fieldbus Protocol.

To address this situation, Ampcontrol has engineered a complete new series of iMAC modules known as "Generation 2" modules. Existing modules will now be referred to as "Generation 1" modules.

Our objectives for expanding the module serial number range and securing the future of the iMAC system were defined around the following:

- 1) Impact customer operations as little as practically possible.
- 2) Allow customers to continue using existing systems.
- 3) Allow compatibility with both iMAC and iMAC2 Controllers.
- 4) Allow existing (Generation 1) modules to co-exist on a system with Generation 2 modules.
- 5) Allow easy identification of Generation 2 modules.

Compatibility with existing iMAC Systems

When you purchase and install a new Generation 2 module on your existing system, you will **not** be able to Rollcall or configure (read/write parameters) **unless** you have:

- a) Updated the Operating System on the iMAC/iMAC2 Controller to v4.0 or greater
 - Ampcontrol has developed a PC software application (iTools) for this process.

Furthermore, to ensure ease of Generation 2 module identification:

- b) Updated the application SLP code on the iMAC/iMAC2 Controller. (Optional, but highly recommended)
 - An update to the display portion of the SLP code is needed to display the Serial Number "Generation" on the Rollcall page.

Compatibility with iMAC systems that use Modbus Rollcall, Read S/N and Write S/N commands

This **ONLY** applies to customers with PLC code, which explicitly issues Rollcall, Read S/N or Write S/N commands via the RS485 Modbus communications interface.

- a) A relatively small change is required to allow the PLC software to be "Generation" aware.
- b) Less than 1% of iMAC systems will require this update.

Compatibility with iMAC systems that use SLP code to read extra data from SIM-G/SIM-T Modules

This **ONLY** applies to customers with SLP code, which explicitly issues Read S/N commands to retrieve the extended range of data available from SIM-T and SIM-G modules.

- a) An additional small change is required to the SLP code to be "Generation" aware.
- b) Less than 1% of iMAC systems will require this update.

Identifying Generation 2 (G2) Modules

Generation 2 Modules are easily identified in any of the following ways:

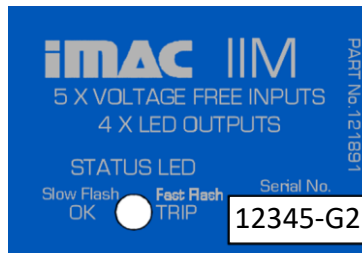
- **iMAC Packaging**

All Generation 2 modules will be shipped with this compatibility warning sticker on the outside of the box:



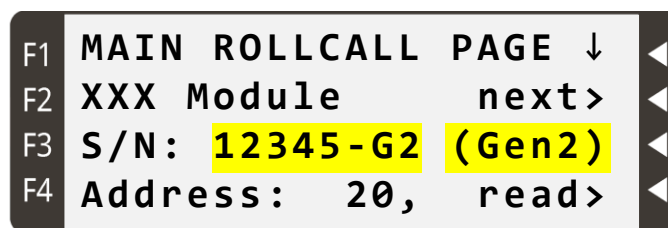
- **iMAC Module**

The iMAC Serial Number label for all Generation 2 modules will end with the suffix -G2. For example, IIM Module label showing a Generation 2 Serial Number will be as follows:



- **iMAC Controller**

The Serial Number displayed on the iMAC Controller Rollcall page for Generation 2 modules will end with the suffix -G2, in addition the Generation number will be shown in brackets as (Gen2):

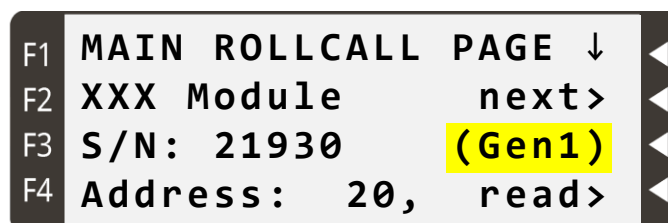


NOTE



The Controller Operating System software (O.S.)
and
Application SLP code must both be updated first.

All existing modules (now known as Generation 1 modules) will be displayed as follows:



Identifying Generation 2 (G2) Support in your iMAC Controller

If you are unsure whether your iMAC/iMAC2 Controller supports Generation 2 modules, you can verify the correct Operating System Firmware by viewing the VERSION PAGE on the Controller.

The highlighted text shows the correct Operating System version string for Generation 2 Module support.

F1	H/W	DALS	V2.0	JUL	98
F2	F/W	MON5	V1.0	MAY	97
F3	S/W	O.S.	V4.0	MAR	18
F4	SLP	CODE	VERSION	STR	

NOTE



The version page can typically be viewed by:

1. Pressing the MENU keypad button on the controller
2. Then pressing the DOWN ARROW button until the Version Page option is shown
3. Then press the function key: F2, F3, or F4 corresponding to the Version Page option

FAQ's

Q: Are Generation 2 modules and the iMAC2 Controller synonymous?

A: No, there is no direct relationship.

Q: Does the iMAC2 Controller support Generation 2 modules differently to the iMAC Controller?

A: No, BOTH are identical in this respect
(The exact same O.S. and SLP code updates are required for all Controller types).

Q: Which iMAC modules will only be available as Generation 2 in the future?

A: All modules that can currently be purchased.

Q: Can I update my Controller O.S. and SLP code before I purchase any new Generation 2 modules?

A: Yes, the updates to the O.S. and SLP code are fully compatible with all existing modules.

Q: What if I update my Controller O.S. only, and skip the SLP application code update?

A: You will be able to Rollcall and configure Generation 2 modules, but you will not easily distinguish between Generation 1 and Generation 2 modules on the Rollcall page as the -G2 suffix will not be shown until the SLP code has been updated. In this case, you will have to view the module's status LED to verify which module (Gen 1 or Gen 2) is being Rollcalled, indicated by a double flash.

Q: When will Generation 2 modules become available?

A: 1st July 2018

What upgrade paths are available for supporting Generation 2 (G2) modules?

Ampcontrol wish to make the process of upgrading as easy as practical for customers. You have a number of options, from engaging our Field Service Team to do it all for you or DIY:

1. Our Field Service division can perform on-site Controller audits, O.S. and SLP code updates (Standard charges apply).
2. Customers can return iMAC/iMAC2 Controllers to Ampcontrol for O.S. and SLP code updates (Standard charges apply).
3. Customers can update their O.S. to the latest version using iTools. (iTools is a free download available from the Ampcontrol Web Site). Customer can request to have their specific SLP code updated (minor charge applies) which can then be emailed and installed by the Customer using iTools.

NOTE



Any iMAC/iMAC2 Controllers returned for repair or overhaul services (including switchgear overhauls containing iMAC/iMAC2 Controllers) will be upgraded during this process (Standard charges apply).

How do I transition to a Generation 2 (G2) System?

Please visit www.ampcontrolgroup.com/imac-g2 and complete the online 'Generation 2 Upgrade Form'.

Once form is submitted, an Ampcontrol representative will contact you regarding your preferred upgrade path.

Alternatively, please contact Ampcontrol Customer Service directly on +61 1300 267 373.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on this product, contact Ampcontrol Customer Service on +61 1300 267 373 or customerservice@ampcontrolgroup.com or visit the Ampcontrol website: www.ampcontrolgroup.com

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