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Assembly and Installation of the Helixa Precision Torque Tester



Helixa-i



431-439-02

May 2014

Important

It is essential that you familiarise yourself with the contents of this Assembly and Installation Manual, and the separate Guide to Safe Use of Mains Powered Test Systems before attempting to operate your Helixa Test System.

Control console warranty

The Helixa-xt console is pre-configured at Mecmesin for use with the Helixa-xt stand. With the exception of the Advanced Builder Option, which requires a configuration change to the console, any unauthorised changes to the console configuration and set-up will invalidate the warranty.

The 24-month end-user warranty for the Helixa-*xt* console itself is with a third party. Please contact your local Mecmesin agent for assistance with this warranty.

The Microsoft® Windows® Embedded operating system for the Helixa-xt console is preinstalled and licensed by Mecmesin and supplied with an End User License Agreement, and Certificate of Authenticity.

Scope

This reference manual covers the Helixa-*i* and the Helixa-*xt* range of test stands. For programming, refer to these manuals:

431-382 Emperor Force and Torque Testing Software, Operator Manual

431-389 Emperor™ Programming for Mecmesin-xt Force and Torque Test Systems

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Part no. 431-439-02

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1. Items Supplied with the Test Stand

1.1 Helixa-i test stand

- The Helixa test stand
- Allen keys
- CD with software and manuals for backing up or running on a PC
- Alignment shaft assemblies
- Manual: A Guide to the Safe Use of Mains Powered Test Frames
- Appropriate mains cables for test stand and console (Helixa-xt)
- 4 × rubber feet
- 4 × bench-securing lugs
- 4 × attachment screws for either feet or lugs
- Top mass platen and fixings
- Balance hanger for external weights

1.2 Helixa-xt test stand (additional)

- Console fitted with arm, power cable and RS232 cable
- Torx wrenches for fitting the console to the stand.

2. Installation

2.1 Unpacking the stand

When you first receive the stand please check that there is no obvious damage to the packaging. If there is any sign that the packaging or the test stand itself has been damaged, please contact Mecmesin or your authorised distributor immediately. Do not use the stand until you have done so.

We strongly recommend that the packaging is kept, as this can be useful if the machine needs to be returned for calibration.

Section 1 lists items that should be included with your test stand. Please contact Mecmesin or your authorised distributor if any items are missing or damaged.

2.2 Lifting the test stand

The unpackaged weight of the test stand is given in the Specification table at the back of this manual. Do not try to lift heavy loads unaided. Use suitable lifting equipment if necessary.

2.3 Locating the stand

The test stand must be positioned on a suitable, level, stable work surface.

2.4 Releasing the crosshead

For safety in transit the internal counterbalance weights are secured at the bottom of the stand.

Release the securing lever on the right hand side of the column by half a turn anticlockwise. Remove the back cover and raise the retaining collars to the top of their rods. (See Section 4.2 'Removing the back cover', and 4.3 'Securing the counterweights and changing the travel' for instructions.)

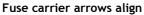
Once released, the crosshead can be raised and lowered manually, or by using the height-adjustment knob on the left, and secured with the lever on the right side of the column.

2.5 Mains power supply

Mecmesin test stands can be used on 110–120 or 220–240 V ac 50-60 Hz supplies. The rear fuse carrier will be set for your local requirement, but is reversible, so should you replace

a fuse, the correct local voltage must read in an upright position (carrier and holder arrows align):







Removing the fuse carrier



Carrier removed to replace fuse

3. Assembly and Installation

3.1 Fitting the feet to the stand







... or bench-securing lugs, to the base of the Helixa

The Helixa is supplied with rubber feet. Lay the stand carefully on its back, and fit the four rubber feet to the base of the stand. **Please note:** The Helixa is heavy and it is recommended that two persons move the stand for this operation. Handle the Helixa only by its base and column, not the crosshead or spindle deck.

3.2 Stability and bench-mounting

Helixa-xt as a free-standing unit conforms to BS EN 61010-1:2010 section 7.4(a) requirements for stability. However, it is recommended that the control console remains mounted at the mid-point of the column.

If you require the console unit to be mounted higher than the mid-point of the column, and/or use additional weights in the mass platen or external rear hanger, then fit the four bench-securing lugs to the Helixa-*xt* or Helixa-*i* for complete stability (shown above).

3.3 Fitting the top mass platen

Secure the top mass platen to the top of the Helixa torque cell (HTC) using the two M6 countersunk screws supplied.



Attaching the top mass platen to the torque cell

3.4 Fitting a torque cell to the crosshead

Ensure the stand is switched off.

Slide the HTC down onto the dovetail bracket at the front of the crosshead. Slide it fully downwards against the stop, and tighten the securing screw using the appropriate Allen key. Do not over-tighten.



Slide the HTC onto the dovetail ...



tighten securely ...

Align the electrical connector of the HTC with the socket on the test stand. Gently push the connector to locate, then tighten the knurled locking ring to secure it.



connect the torque cell



secure the cable, and adjust free length

Secure the torque cell cable using the clip on the right hand side of the column, and adjust it so that there is no tension through the travel of the crosshead.

3.5 Swapping Helixa torque cells (HTCs)

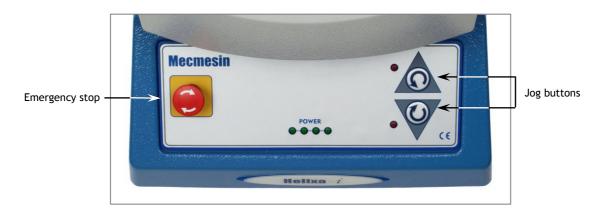
You can swap HTCs by simply disconnecting one cell and fitting another. First, return to the Main Screen and switch off the stand before unplugging the HTC. When the new cell has been connected, switch the stand on again, and after a few seconds the new HTC will be automatically recognised. The Helixa will read in the new cell's range, serial number and calibration status.

3.6 Attaching grips and fixtures

Grips and other holding fixtures are usually paired, with one being attached to the main spindle drive, and the other to the torque cell. Fixtures on the main spindle have a self-centring fitting and four screws, whilst the torque cell has a square drive attachment.

Important: very low capacity torque cells are very sensitive and can be damaged easily by inadvertent overload. Take great care to engage and withdraw fixtures perpendicular to the cell and without any twisting movement.

3.7 The Helixa front control panel



The Helixa front control panel

3.7.1 Emergency stop button

The emergency stop button will stop all movement of the drive spindle. Pushing the button will override all other controls. When pressed, the button stays latched down, preventing any movement of the motor. To re-set the button, rotate it about 30 degrees clockwise.

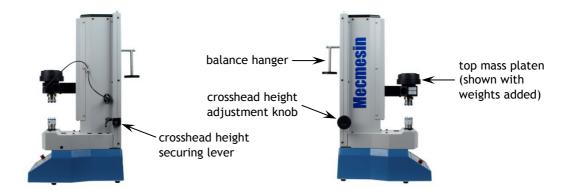
3.7.2 Jog buttons

Jog buttons are used to position the main spindle's rotation, so that samples can be secured. These buttons are replicated in the Emperor software, either on the console (Helixa-xt) or the controlling PC (Helixa-i). The two sets of buttons function in different ways.

	Stand jog buttons speed	Software jog buttons speed		
Quick Test	Factory set fixed rate	Jog speed increments or decrements each time the jog button is pressed		
Program Test	Factory set fixed rate	Rate set in <i>Program test set-up > Test Settings</i>		
Advanced Test	Factory set fixed rate	Rate as set in Set-up > Preferences		

4. The Counterbalance Mechanism

The Helixa moving crosshead is counterbalanced by a system of weights. In this way, the entire weight of the crosshead, HTC, fixture and sample part to be held, can be finely counterbalanced. This may be required so as not to interfere with measuring the torque on (for example) a rising screw thread, or conversely, to apply a specific downwards force during torque testing, by the addition of weights to the top mass platen.



The large black adjustment knob on the left of the column can be used to raise and lower the crosshead. The crosshead can also be moved by hand, and can be fixed in place using the lever on the right of the column.

Internally, sliding counterweights operate. The two parts may be connected or separated to apply all of the weight, or only two-thirds.

- To reduce this counterbalance by one-third, insert an Allen key through the hole in the back cover, which aligns when the crosshead is at its highest extent. Loosen the screw until you feel the counterweights separate, by pressing down on the crosshead.
- To reconnect the two counterweights, raise the crosshead to its highest position, and retighten the connecting screw.



Normal view, counterweight connecting screw circled



Back cover removed



Counterweights separated

The counterweights are attached to two drive belts whose tension can be adjusted for freedom of movement. Their travel (and therefore that of the crosshead) can be limited by adjusting a series of internal collars (see below).

4.1 Adding counterbalance weight, and applying top-load

A balance hanger can be screwed into the rear weight, for additional weights to be suspended. The moving crosshead itself has a mass platen for the addition of specific weights. In combination, the required balance or load can be achieved.







Attach the balance hanger

Suspend additional weights

Apply top-load mass

4.2 Removing the back cover

The back cover of the column can be removed to:

- release the counterweights on installation (or to secure for transit)
- retension the counterweight drive belts.

The back cover is held in place by six screws in slots, so these only need to be loosened, not removed. The washers need to lie between the screw heads and the cover.



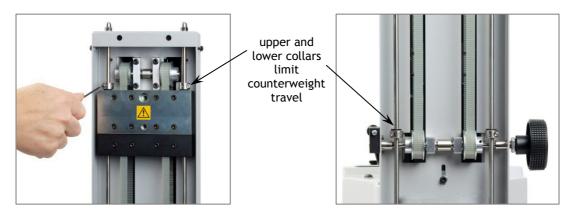
Removing the back cover



Back cover removed

4.3 Securing the counterweights and changing the travel

For safety in transit, the main counterweights inside the column are always secured at the bottom, and will need to be released during installation. Release the upper collars using an Allen key, and set their position by lowering the crosshead with the counterbalance weight(s) in the uppermost position. Lock the release lever and then secure the two retaining collars. Release the lever to move the crosshead.



Securing upper collars

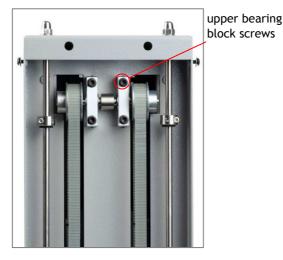
Lower collars set for maximum upper travel

The lower collars should normally remain positioned where the screw connecting the two internal weights aligns with the adjustment access hole in the back cover.

You may want to limit the downwards travel of the crosshead whilst still allowing it to move freely. To do this, position the crosshead at the lower limit and secure it in the required position, then drop the upper collars onto the counterweight and tighten them.

4.4 Adjusting counterweight drive belt tension

The drive belt tension can be adjusted to alter the freedom of movement of the crosshead. This may, for example, become more slack over time. To do this, with the back cover removed, loosen the four socket-cap screws holding the upper bearing blocks in place.



Loosen bearing block screws





Adjust tension

Adjust the belt tension using an Allen key in the two adjustment screws in cap, ensuring equal tightening or loosening on each. Retighten the four up block screws and replace the back cover.	the column per bearing

5. Helixa-xt: Fitting the Control Console

5.1 Fitting the console to a Helixa-xt

The console is supplied assembled onto an arm and bracket. This needs to be attached to the black mounting plate on the side of the column, with the supplied tamper-resistant Torx screws, using the appropriate Torx wrench provided. **Note:** Do not use any other tools other than those provided.

Support the console with one hand and, with the top screw held in place by the supplied Torx wrench, locate the bracket on the mounting plate and engage the screw, as shown below. When almost tight, fit the lower screw. Tighten both, and release the console.



The console mounting plate



Fix the upper Torx screw first

Adjust the console height by slackening the grub screw through the hole between the fixing screws as shown below, whilst supporting the console. Re-tightening at the required height. The angle and rotation of the console can also be adjusted. Slacken the appropriate knob and reposition the bracket, or rotate the arm onto alternative sprungpin locations. Retighten each knob firmly so that the console does not move when the screen is pressed.



Adjust the console height



Adjust tilt and swing

5.2 Connecting the console power lead and RS232 lead

The console is powered from a separate universal supply plugged into a mains socket.

Caution: use only the mains adaptor supplied by Mecmesin, do not use any other type.

The power lead and data cable will already be connected—check that they are firmly fitted to the console. Plug the power adaptor into a suitable socket. Plug the data cable into the 9-way socket labelled 'PC' on the rear of the Helixa. Normally it will not be necessary to remove the data cable from socket COM1, but should this be required, return the console to the front screen display before removing the RJ50 connector.



Helixa rear panel. Plug the data cable into the socket marked 'PC'.

5.3 Switching on the Helixa-xt system

Switch on the test stand using the main switch located on the rear panel. Four green power lights (LEDs) on the front panel will illuminate.

Switch the touch screen console on by pressing the small on/off switch located on the underside of the console (shown below) to the right of the power lead. After a few seconds the initial login screen will be displayed.



5.4 Connecting other devices

Connect printers or other device using the USB sockets on the console underside.

5.5 The touch screen console

The touch screen is used to control the Emperor-*xt* system.

Please note that this Windows computer does not contain an internal battery. If power to the system is interrupted, unsaved data will be lost.

You can select operations and options by pressing or tapping on the relevant button on the touch screen with a finger or a stylus. In the bottom right of any screen layout requiring typed entry, there is a keyboard icon. Touch this, and a floating keyboard appears so you can type in numbers or text. If this obscures an entry field, just drag it out of the way. Where a layout has no data entry, the keyboard will automatically slide out of sight to the left, but it does not appear automatically when data may be required. Simply tap the keyboard icon whenever you need it.

- a single tap or press is the same as a left mouse button
- press-and-hold is the same as a right mouse button
- a double-tap is a double-click
- touch and drag a finger to select text
- combination keys such as Shift+ and Ctrl+ are used sequentially. For example, to select contents of a field, press Ctrl and then A. To copy, press Ctrl and then C. To paste, press Ctrl and then V.
- touch and drag a window element by its title bar such as the floating keyboard itself.



The -xt console showing the floating keyboard icon bottom right, and keyboard

5.6 Operators and Master users

There are two levels of user, and a password is used to restrict access to either a simple choice of pre-defined tests and some limited functions, or access to the full capabilities of the system.

Operators can select from tests that are pre-defined, and for which reports have already been written, and some functions that can be assigned to each user account.

Masters have full access to all the functions of the system. The master user has control over which users are operators and masters.

Logon with a Master level username and password. If this is the first time you have started the program, you can use:

Default Username: supervisor

Default Password: supervisor

Note: both the username and password are case-sensitive.

For details of access levels and how to create user accounts, see $Emperor^{TM}$ Programming for Mecmesin-xt Force and Torque Test Systems.

6. Helixa-*i*: Installing and Connecting with the Emperor™ software

6.1 Helixa-i: Installing Emperor Software on Your PC

6.1.1 Minimum system requirements

1.3 GHz processor, 2 GB RAM, 60 GB available hard drive space, running Windows XP Pro with SP1, or above, a CDRW drive, and one available USB port.

Note: Emperor software cannot run on hardware running Unix or on the Apple Mac.

6.1.2 Access to data folders

Emperor will need access to certain folders listed below. Before installing the program, please make sure that read and write access is granted for these folders. In particular if the computer is part of a centrally controlled Windows Domain system, it may be necessary to consult with your IT department to allow correct access to these locations.

Windows XP User Data location				
Emperor Force	C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Mecmesin\Emperor\Force			
Emperor Torque	C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Mecmesin\Emperor\Torque			
Windows Vista and later, User Data location				
Emperor Force	C:\ProgramData\Mecmesin\Emperor\Force			
Emperor Torque	C:\ProgramData\Mecmesin\Emperor\Torque			
All Windows versions Program files location				
Emperor Force	C:\Program Files\Emperor\Force			
Emperor Torque	C:\Program Files\Emperor\Torque			

Insert the Emperor CD; Emperor should start automatically and ask if you wish to proceed with the installation of the software.

If the installation program does not start automatically or if you have other problems:

- On your computer desktop click the shortcut to 'My Computer'
- Click on the CD drive that contains the Emperor software CD
- Navigate to the Emperor folder
- Right click on the Set-up.exe file, and Run as Administrator

Emperor will begin the process of installing the program onto your hard-drive. Follow the instructions, and accept the licence agreement. You can choose which languages are installed: English only, all languages, or custom, so you can select languages you need.

6.2 Connecting the power lead and USB lead

Connect the stand to a suitable mains socket. Plug the USB end of the supplied cable into your PC and the D-connector end into the 9-way socket labelled 'PC' on the rear of the Helixa.



Helixa rear panel. Plug the USB cable into the socket marked 'PC'.

6.3 Switching on the Helixa-i system

Switch on the test stand using the main switch located on the rear panel. Four green power lights (LEDs) on the front panel will illuminate.

6.4 Starting Emperor

Start the program by using the Emperor icon that was installed on your computer desktop—the initial login screen is displayed.

Emperor software provides two levels of user, and a password is used to restrict access to either a simple choice of pre-defined tests or some limited functions, or to give access to the full configuration and programming capabilities of the Emperor system.

Operators can select from tests that are pre-defined, and for which reports have already been written, and some functions that can be assigned to each user account.

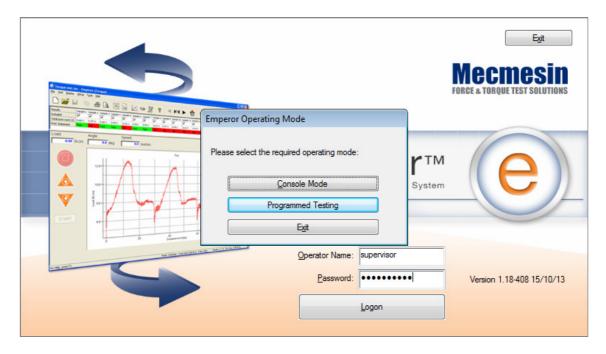
Masters have full access to all the functions of the Emperor system. The master user has control over which users are operators and masters.

Logon with a Master level username and password. If this is the first time you have started the program, you can use:

Default Username: supervisor

Default Password: supervisor

Note: both the username and password are case-sensitive.



On the Operating Mode selection screen, click on **Programmed Testing**.

This will start Emperor, and you can set your system preferences, user accounts, create and run test programs, review results, perform calculations for analysis, produce test reports and export data for use elsewhere. For full details, see the manual: *Emperor Force and Torque Testing Software, Operator Manual*.

7. Precision Alignment

The vertical alignment between the torque cell and the main spindle can be set accurately with your torque cell for the most precise measurement.

Due to the delicacy of the smaller Helixa torque cells (HTC), the 0.1 and 0.3 N.m torque cells are replaced in this process by an alternative alignment tool attached directly to the moving crosshead. For all other torque cells, an alignment tool is attached to the HTC itself.

The main drive spindle is then loosened to accept the alignment tool as described in the procedure below. This self-aligns the spindle and its position is then retightened.

7.1 Tools

The Helixa is provided with an alignment tool that attaches to HTCs rated 1 N.m to 6 N.m.

If a 0.1 N.m to 0.3 N.m HTC is used, an alternative alignment tool is supplied for attachment directly to the crosshead in its place.

The supplied T-bar Allen key is used for making adjustments.

7.2 Procedure

Identify the alignment features:



7.2.1 Alignment for 1 N.m to 6 N.m HTCs

1. Switch the Helixa off at the back.

2. Fit the cone-tipped alignment tool to the torque cell in the normal way and secure using an Allen key. **Note**: the clamp should be on the square drive face with the spring-loaded ball.



3. Release the spindle drive belt tension. Pull out the small black grommet from the right-hand side of the grey deck as shown. This covers the drive spindle belt retraction point. Insert the T-bar Allen key and locate it in the adjustment bolt head. Tighten the screw—around 4.5 turns clockwise.

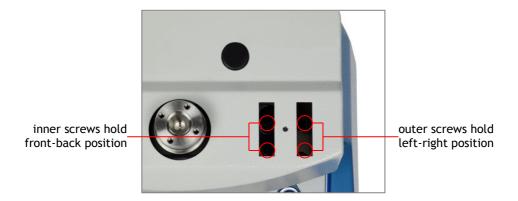




4. Remove the main spindle rubber 'O' ring and cover disc from the main drive spindle, and place to one side:



5. Release the two adjustment covers from the cover assembly to expose the adjustment slots. (Adjustment screw positions are circled below.)



6. Release the four socket-cap head screws holding the left-right drive spindle position, through the *outer* slots (2 each side).



Test that the main spindle is free to move left to right.

- 7. Release the four socket-cap head screws holding the front-back drive spindle position, through the *inner* slots (2 each side) and test that the main spindle is free to move from front to back.
- 8. Carefully lower the crosshead until the alignment tool engages fully to self-align the main drive spindle:



With a light hand pressure on top of the HTC to maintain engagement, secure the crosshead using its fixing lever on the right side of the main column, and the main drive spindle will self-align.

- 9. Check that there is no free movement in the main drive spindle.
- 10. Progressively tighten the inner four fixings, then the outer four (the sequence does not matter so long as all eight are done).
- 11. Release the crosshead fixing lever. Move the crosshead and alignment tool away.
- 12. Reinsert the T-bar Allen key in the belt retraction point, and turn anti-clockwise to fully release. The adjustment bolt is captive, so cannot be released too far.
- 13. Refit the grommets, adjustment covers, cover disc and 'O' ring.
- 14. Push the crosshead and alignment tool carefully into the main spindle once more, to confirm correct alignment.
- 15. Move the crosshead to the top and remove the alignment fixture from the HTC.

7.3 Alignment for 0.1 to 0.3 N.m HTCs

Since these torque cell are so sensitive, alignment is performed using the special alignment tool without the HTC. This is attached directly to the crosshead dovetail.



Follow the previous sequence of alignment.

After alignment, replace the torque cell carefully and reconnect it, before switching the Helixa on again.

Appendix A System Specifications

Torque transducer (HTC) range		0.1 N.m	0.2 N.m	0.3 N.m	1.0 N.m	1.5 N.m	3.0 N.m	6.0 N.m
	N.m kgf.cm lbf.in	0 - 0.1 0 - 1 0 - 0.9	0 - 0.2 0 - 2 0 - 1.8	0 - 0.3 0 - 3 0 - 2.7	0 - 1.0 0 - 10 0 - 8.9	0 - 1.5 0 - 15 0 - 13.3	0 - 3.0 0 - 30 0 - 26.5	0 - 6.0 0 - 60 0 - 53.1
Axial alignment								
Total runout (without fixtures)		Better than ±0.25 mm						
Speed								
Speed range		0.1 to 30 rev/min (clockwise or anticlockwise)						
Speed accuracy		±0.2% of indicated speed						
Speed resolution		0.1 rev/m	in					
Torque measurement (us	sing Emperor	TM)						
Torque accuracy		±0.5% of f	ull scale					
Torque resolution		Better tha	n 0.01% of	full scale				
Torque units display		mN.m, N.	cm, N.m, kṣ	gf.cm, gf.cn	n, ozf.in, lb	f.ft, lbf.in		
Sampling rate		1,000 Hz,	500 Hz, 100) Hz, 50 Hz,	10 Hz			
Displacement								
Maximum displacement (from tared position)		2500 revs						
Displacement accuracy		0.1°						
Displayed resolution		0.2°						
System resolution		0.045°						
Dimensions								
Height		758 mm						
Width		290 mm (Helixa- <i>i</i>) 587 mm (Helixa- <i>xt</i>)						
Depth		414 mm (without external weight hanger) 506 mm (with external weight hanger)						
Headroom (without fixture	es)	350 mm						
Throat depth		127 mm (without bellows) 111 mm (with bellows)						
Weight		28 kg (Helixa- <i>i</i>) 32 kg (Helixa- <i>xt</i>)						
Static weights								
Rear counterbalance		40 N (maximum)						
Torque cell mass platen		60 N (maximum)						
Communications								
Digital I/O		6 input, 6 output (TTL)						
Printer/datalogger, and results file transfer (Helixa-xt only)		RS232 and USB						

Network communications (Helixa-xt only)	Ethernet RJ45 USB for external wireless connectivity				
Power supply					
Maximum input power	120 W				
Voltage (nominal)	230 V AC 50 Hz, or 110 V AC 60 Hz				
Operating environment					
Recommended temperature range	+10° to +35° C (50° to 95°F)				
Humidity	Normal industry and laboratory conditions, non-condensing				
Noise emissions					
	Less than 70 db(A)				

 $\label{lem:lem:members} \mbox{Mecmesin reserves the right to alter equipment specifications without prior notice.}$

E&OE

Appendix B EC Declarations of Conformance





DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

Name of Responsible Party: Flytech Technology Co., Ltd.

No. 168, Sing-ai Rd., Neihu District, Address of Responsible Party:

Taipei City, 114Taiwan, R.O.C.

Declares that product: Touch POS

Model: K784(C36); K785(C36); K786(C36); K784; K785; K786

Assembled by: Same as above Address: Same as above

Conforms to the EMC Directive 2004/108/EC as attested by conformity with the following harmonized standards:

 EN55022: 2006 +A1:2007 Class A EN55024: 1998+A1: 2001+A2: 2003

EN 61000-3-2: 2006 Class D

EN 61000-3-3: 1995+A1: 2001+A2: 2005

AS/NZS CISPR 22: 2006 Class A

Reference: Report No.: NEI-EMC-1-E1006102, dated Aug 4, 2010

Conforms to the Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC as attested by conformity with the following harmonized standard:

IEC 60950-1: 2005 (2nd Edition) and/or

• EN 60950-1: 2006+A11:2009

Reference: Report No.: NEI-LVD-1-S1007043, dated August 26, 2010

We, Flytech Technology Co., Ltd., hereby declare that the equipment bearing the trade name and model number specified above was tested conforming to the applicable Rules under the most accurate measurement standards possible, and that all the necessary steps have been taken and are in force to assure that production units of the same equipment will continue to comply with the requirements.

Y.P. Liu

Vice-President, R&D Division Flytech Technology Co., Ltd.

Date: 2012/10/29

AP Lin 2014,0/29

Appendix C Microsoft® Windows® Embedded Standard 7 Licensing

Each Helixa-xt system supplied with a console controller has Microsoft® Windows® Embedded Standard 7 Operating System pre-installed and licensed by Mecmesin. Each is supplied with the following as proof of licensing:

- End User Licence Agreement (EULA)
- Certificate of Authentication (COA)

End User Licence Agreement (EULA)

A multi-language EULA is enclosed with each system.

Certificate of Authentication (COA)

The COA is supplied as a sticker located on the rear of each console supplied with a system, as proof of licensing.

This COA sticker lists the following:

- Microsoft® product title
- COA serial number
- Microsoft® SKU (stock keeping unit) number

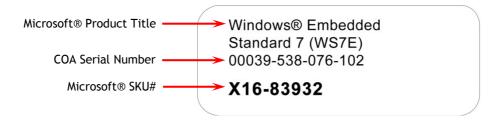


Figure 1: Certificate of Authentication



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