

Technical Brief

Utility Actions Required Before AMR System Start-Up

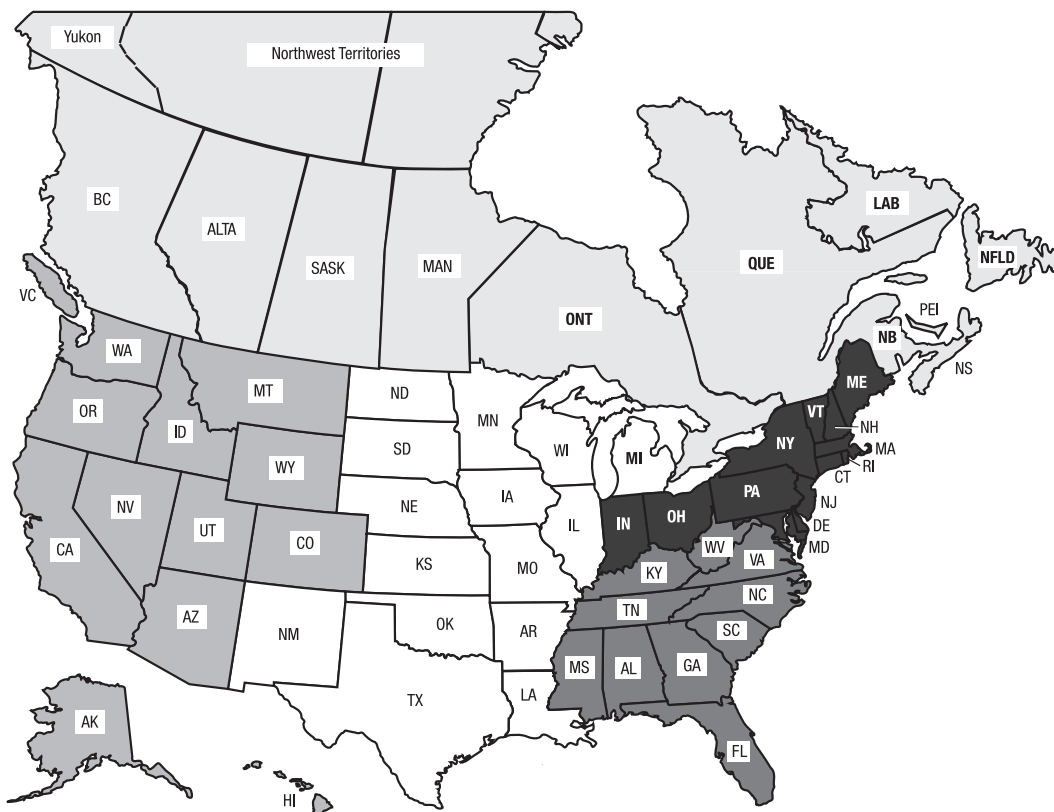
DESCRIPTION

Sensus provides up to two consecutive days of Engineering start-up training for purchasers of the Sensus AutoRead® System Software and Automated Meter Reading Equipment. For the training sessions to be productive, utility personnel must complete the following activities before the visit is scheduled. When using the Sensus RadioRead® System, an FCC license will be required.

1. Your personal computer (PC), configured per specifications, should be received and set up by your IT personnel or computer supplier, making certain it is running properly.
 2. System operators should be given preliminary computer training at a local qualified training facility. The operators should also be familiar with the operation of Windows 2000, XP, XP Professional and Vista.
 3. You should have received your CDs for the AutoRead software. Operators should install the software and become familiar with it by using the Help screens. This will enable the Sensus engineers to concentrate on questions or problems which operators have identified or on areas of the program on which the operator is unclear.
 4. An adequate work area should be established for the Computer/Billing Operator. The following should be provided:
 - A table or desk on which to place the equipment.
 - Supplies, including printer paper and computer disks. Adequate power outlets.
 - At a minimum, you will need one outlet for the communications/charging stands, one for the computer, one for the printer, and one for the monitor. Also consider the needs of any other office equipment (e.g., desk lamp, typewriter) in the area.
 - An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). This device will prevent data loss due to a power outage. Care should be taken to assure that the UPS has sufficient capacity to operate the PC. *Ask your dealer if you are unsure.*
 5. Your meter reading equipment should be received and installed at a location convenient to the PC. The charging process for the Sensus hand-held units should begin as soon as they arrive. (Full charge takes about ten hours. However, the units should be continually charged when not in use.) If you are using Visual Readers, these will also need to be charged. (Full charge takes about ten hours.)
 6. Depending on the billing software being used, you will need to build the files for at least one meter reading route and become familiar with the billing software procedure to create this route.
 - If you are billing from a mainframe computer, your programmers or consultants will need to:
 - a. Install the PC to mainframe communications board and cables
 - b. Make software changes to the mainframe
 - c. Provide software for the emulator or communications
 - d. Define the data structure for passing data between the mainframe and PC
 - e. Be able to transfer data (ASCII test file) between the Auto-Read software and the billing computer
 - From your billing software package, create and send a sample "route" file, along with an explanation of the file's layout to: amr.support@sensus.com.

You may also send a flash drive or CD to:
Sensus
Attn: Technical Services
450 N. Gallatin Ave.
Uniontown, PA 15401
- Note: The sample "route" file must be created at your location to ensure that the file interface is correctly installed. This also enables Sensus Technical Services personnel to verify that the data has been properly entered.
7. Contact the Technical Services Group if you have any questions regarding the preparations for start-up.
 8. Upon receipt of an approved sample route file, you will be placed in the queue for start-up training and will be contacted by a Technical Services representative to schedule a training date.

1. AMR refers to all Sensus Meter Reading Systems; TouchRead® and RadioRead®.




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