

MSA ALTAIR® 2X Gas Detectors

Frequently Asked Questions



Bump Testing and Calibration

Is the ALTAIR 2XP Detector's stand-alone bump test a real bump test?

Yes. According to the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), a bump test confirms that:

- Sensor readings can trigger an alarm if exposed to gas.
- A challenge gas can reach the sensor. MSA fulfills both of these key ISEA bump test requirements via our scientifically proven pulse check and flow check. For complete details, please see ALTAIR 2X Detector Stand-Alone Bump Test Technical Brief (bulletin #0802-106-MC), ALTAIR 2X Detector Pulse Check Technical Brief (bulletin #0802-104-MC) and ALTAIR 2X Detector Flow Check Technical Brief (bulletin #0802-105-MC), posted at MSAsafety.com/ALTAIR2X.

How does the ALTAIR 2XP Detector's stand-alone bump test work?

MSA XCell® Sensors with XCell Pulse Technology provide an active electronic pulse check to interrogate and adjust sensors to fully simulate calibration gas application. This electronic pulse check, combined with sensor flow path check (conducted by exhaling near the sensor opening), allows a stand-alone bump test to be performed without need for bottled gas. For complete details, please see the previously mentioned technical briefs.

Can I use a stand-alone bump test on all ALTAIR 2X Gas Detectors?

No; while the stand-alone bump test can be performed on ALTAIR 2XP Detectors, ALTAIR 2X and 2XT Detectors require a traditional bump test with specific calibration gas. Can I bump test an ALTAIR 2XP Detector using bottled gas? Yes. To bump test an ALTAIR 2XP Detector using bottled gas, allow the device to perform a pulse check, and then apply bottled gas when FLOW appears onscreen.

Can I use my MSA GALAXY® or GALAXY GX2 Test System to bump test and calibrate my ALTAIR 2X Detectors?

GALAXY GX2 Test System: yes.

GALAXY Test System: no.

If I purchased a GALAXY GX2 Test System or MSA Link Software prior to launch of ALTAIR 2X Gas Detectors, are updates required for those products?

Yes; for instructions regarding those updates, contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-672-2222 or visit the GALAXY GX2 Test System Web page at MSAsafety.com.

Can I bump test my ALTAIR 2X Detectors using the ALTAIR QuickCheck® Station?

No, ALTAIR 2X Detectors cannot be bump tested using the ALTAIR QuickCheck Station.

Can I manually change calibration values?

No; calibration values must be changed via MSA Link Software (P/N 10088099 or download at www.MSAsafety.com) or using the GALAXY GX2 System Digital Secure USB Key (P/N 10123937) when the device is docked.



Why does the "WAIT" between my pulse check and flow check take longer than usual?

If your ALTAIR 2XP Detector was stored in cold temperatures for an extended time period, your device may take a little extra time for sensor warmup in preparation for the flow check. That said, MSA always recommends that you store your ALTAIR 2XP Detector at temperatures above freezing (32°F / 0°C).

What does the flow check detect?

The flow check measures the difference in O₂ volume in ambient air vs. exhaled breath, and cannot detect anything else in the user's exhaled breath.



Alarms

How do I change my ALTAIR 2X Detector set points?

Change your set points and other settings via MSA Link Software or using the Digital Secure Key when the device is docked in the Galaxy GX2 Test System.

If my ALTAIR 2XT Two-Tox Detector is in alarm, what is it detecting?

Let's use the ALTAIR 2XT CO/H₂S Detector as an example:

- If an alarm-triggering concentration of CO is detected but the H₂S level is safe, your ALTAIR 2XT Detector will alarm and display CO gas measurement until either the alarm is cleared or CO concentration drops to a safe level.
- If sufficient CO and H₂S are present to trigger both high alarms or both low alarms, your ALTAIR 2XT Detector will alarm and toggle from CO measurement to H₂S measurement every two seconds.
- If CO triggers the high alarm and H₂S triggers the low alarm, your ALTAIR 2XT Detector will display CO measurement, as CO represents the highest threat level.

WE KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE.



Battery

What is ALTAIR 2X Gas Detector battery life?

Battery life is approximately 18 months, assuming an eight-hour work day, dependent upon environmental conditions, mode of operation and alarm frequency.

Are replacement batteries available?

Yes, MSA offers battery eight-packs (PN 10155203-SP).

Does the ALTAIR 2X Detector lose any settings when the battery is changed?

The ALTAIR 2X Detector will not lose any of your settings when the battery is changed. However, depending upon how long the product has been without power, you may need to reset date and time via MSA Link Software.

Why does my ALTAIR 2X Detector screen display BATT TEST?

You might see BATT TEST notification:

- The first time you power on the device.
- The first time you power on the device after changing the battery.
- If your device was powered off and stored in a very hot environment for several days, such as in a car during a hot summer weekend in Texas.
- If your device was powered off and stored for an extended period of time.

What are battery storage guidelines?

Please store replacement batteries in a dry area that is between 65°F – 85°F (18°C – 30°C). These batteries should be installed in a device within one year of ship date.



Sensor Availability

Which sensors are available now?

H₂S with XCell Pulse Technology, H₂S-LC, CO, SO₂, CO/H₂S, SO₂/H₂S-LC, CO-HC, CO-H₂, Cl₂, NH₃, CO/H₂S-LC, CO-H₂/H₂S and CO/NO₂.

Are O₂ and additional exotic sensors (such as HCN, ClO₂ and PH₃) available?

At this time, ALTAIR 2X Gas Detectors are not available with those sensors. If you must monitor for those gases, we recommend the corresponding MSA ALTAIR or ALTAIR Pro Gas Detector.




Sensor Use

Can an ALTAIR 2X Detector sensor be used in an ALTAIR 4X or 5X Detector (or vice versa)?

No. XCell Sensors from ALTAIR 2X Detectors are NOT interchangeable with ALTAIR 4X and 5X Detectors. If you make this mistake, your ALTAIR 2X Detector will display **SNS ERR 23-0000**. Simply power off the instrument and install a compatible sensor using the standard sensor replacement process outlined in your ALTAIR 2X Detector operating manual.

Are XCell Sensors for ALTAIR 2X Detectors plug-and-play?

Yes, you can change the gas that is detected by your ALTAIR 2X Gas Detector by simply switching sensors. If you choose to manage your ALTAIR 2X Detector fleet in this manner, be sure to change the instrument's gas label to prevent confusion as to which gas the unit is capable of detecting. Please also keep in mind that ALTAIR 2X Cl₂ and NH₃ Detectors must be used with the filter-free front case (P/N 10154598).

Can I disable one of the gases sensed by my ALTAIR 2XT Detector to convert it to a single-gas detector?

This change can be made, but by only an authorized MSA service center.

Can I use an ALTAIR 2XP Detector with H₂S-PLS sensor to measure O₂?

No. The ALTAIR 2XP Detector's embedded O₂ electrode is only active during the bump test.

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