

Product: a51 with revisions D,E and F (produced with software 1.4.4)

Purpose: Software upgrade and downgrade issues with software release 1.4.4

Date: April 3, 2009

Background

Software 1.4.4 was released in the end of 2007. This release contained a boot loader update. An error found in this boot loader makes it impossible to upgrade or downgrade the unit. If an upgrade or downgrade is attempted, the unit will stop working.

Affected equipment

a51 with revisions D,E and F (produced with software 1.4.4)

Solution

Important

Do not try to up/down grade any units that have software version 1.4.4 because they will fail. Currently there is no way to recover the unit in the field and thus it will have to be sent in for repair.

Software 1.4.6 has a correction for this problem. There is no new functionality added into the 1.4.6 version. The only difference is the boot loader.

At this time, the boot loader can only be programmed in production and can not be changed in the field. That means that a units delivered from the factory with versions prior 1.4.4 will still have the working boot loader even if upgraded to 1.4.4.

Available software versions:

- * 1.4.6 Released in production 090203
Boot loader that allows future software upgrade.
The same functionality as 1.4.4
- * 1.4.4 Released 071126
Faulty boot loader that makes the units impossible to down/up-grade
Functionality added from 1.4.3 according to release notes.
- * 1.4.3 Released 070619
Working boot loader which makes upgrade possible
Functionality added from 1.3.3 according to release notes.
- * 1.3.3 Released 060630
Working boot loader which makes upgrade possible
Functionality according to release notes

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Summary

If you have software 1.3.3 or 1.4.3, it is ok to upgrade to 1.4.4.

If you have software 1.4.4, it is unnecessary to upgrade to 1.4.6 since there is no new functions added. Trying will disqualify your unit.

In the future, there will be a software release to upgrade units with v 1.4.4.

Additional Information

If you have any questions about this bulletin, please contact Ascom Technical Services at 1-877 71ASCOM (1-877-712-7266) option 3.