

# Tech

# TALK

A TECHNICAL PRODUCT PUBLICATION

## Proper Label Tear Position on Printers

Rice Lake Weighing Systems receives service calls from our distributors for two scenarios involving label printers: 1) labels do not come out of the printer far enough to tear them off in the correct position, and 2) when doing autopeeling, labels are getting stuck under the printhead making them difficult to remove.

There are two procedures you can use that allow labels from the Allegro, Prodigy, Prodigy Plus, Survivor SST, and the new TH-40 printer to appear in the correct tear position. The first involves modifying the print string at your indicator or PC, and the second involves changing a default setup in PC Batch™ software. In both procedures, you adjust the label offset position. One of these procedures may need to be performed each time a new label format is created.

### Note:

Do not attempt to control label tear position by making mechanical changes to the printer. The changes must be done to the controlling device, such as the indicator or PC, that is transmitting the serial string to the printer.

### PRINT STRING MODIFICATION

The label tear position can be controlled by modifying the print string at your indicator or PC. (Tech Talk Volume 8 and the IQplus 800/810 Installation/Operation manual provide a detailed discussion of formatting a print string.) The commands to use in the print string are Onnnn and fnnn.

The Onnnn (O) command is called Form Edge Offset where nnnn is the numeric representing the offset position of the label (the first edge out). This value varies between printers due to the distance between the edge sensor and the printhead. The O command can be used to adjust the tear position on labels with large top and bottom margins, and represents the distance the label is fed beyond the label sensor.



The numeric value for the O command is modified to change the tear position and determines where the bottom of the label (the first part out of the printer) is located. The following example shows a portion of an IQplus 800/810 print string with the default value (0110) for the Prodigy Plus and SST printers:

```
STXO0110<NL>STXL<NL>RTFT
```

RT is the rotation and FT is the font. The O command in this string means that the label advances 1.10" after the label sensor detects a start of label. Increasing the number from 0110 to 0120 causes the label to come further out of the printer.

If your O command value is unacceptable, use the following defaults and ranges to modify the print strings for proper tear position:

Printer	Default	Range
Allegro	0220	0050 - 0999
Prodigy	0250	0050 - 0999
Prodigy Plus	0110	0050 - 0999
Survivor SST	0110	0050 - 0999
TH-40	0220	0050 - 0999

If you specify a number smaller than 0050, the printer automatically uses the factory default. For example, if you specify an O command value of 0035 for your Allegro printer, the default value of 0220 is used.

The numeric for the fnnn (f) command, or backfeed command, controls how far the label advances out of the printer after being printed. On small (height) labels or those with printed information close to the top and bottom of the label, the location of the printed information is crucial, and adjusting the f command is necessary.

After modifying the print string, run a few test labels and check the release position. If necessary, continue to modify the print string until the labels appear in the correct tear position.

The f command is valid only for the Allegro, Prodigy Plus, SST, and TH-40 printers, and the default for this command is f000. Like the O command, the f command is referenced from the label sensor. For example, if you need the label to advance 1.40" after the label sensor detects a start-of-label, set a backfeed value of f140. Before the next label is printed, the printer reverse-feeds the label back into the printer based on the value of the O command.

### PC BATCH

How far a label is released from the printer can be controlled by entering PC Batch and modifying the Form Edge Offset/Backfeed Distance field on the Print Adjustment screen. The defaults and ranges for this field are:

Printer	Default	Range
Allegro	2.20	0.50 - 9.99
Prodigy	2.50	0.50 - 9.99
Prodigy Plus	1.10	0.50 - 9.99
SST	1.10	0.50 - 9.99
TH-40	2.20	0.50 - 9.99

To modify the Form Edge Offset/Backfeed Distance field:

1. Go to PC Batch.
2. Press the Esc or the F1 key to display the Create/Modify Label screen.
3. Type the label name in the Label Name field and then press Enter.
4. Press the Alt + P key combination to bring up the Print Adjustment screen.
5. Place your cursor in the Form Edge Offset/Backfeed Distance field and then increase or decrease the value (for example, by an increment of .10).
6. Run a few test labels to check the label release location.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until the labels appear in a satisfactory tear position.