

INSTALLATION TIP:

CB_092909

WeatherTRAK-enabled Series Controllers 09/29/09
Evaluation Procedure for External Antenna or Antenna Amplifier Installation

Products: ET plus Series 9, 12, 18, & 24 stations
Toro Intelli-Sense Series 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36 & 48 stations
Irritrol Smart Dial Series 6, 9, 12, 18 & 24 stations
ET Pro² 1-way 12-48 stations

Versions: Controller software version 3.10.X or higher – ET plus Series
Controller software version 4.1.X or higher ET Pro² one-way
Series

Summary

This Customer Bulletin identifies the procedure for when an amplifier or antenna should be recommended for one-way communication controllers.

Problem Description

The one-way radio of WeatherTRAK-enabled controllers requires minimum signal strength to operate correctly. Signal strength, or Phase Integrity, can be observed in the HELP menu (plus Series Controllers) or the SERVICES menu (ET Pro² Series). To satisfy radio requirements, the Phase Integrity value must be greater than 30 on two or more phases. If Phase Integrity values are observed to be below this level, reception of daily weather updates becomes intermittent.

Site Evaluation Procedure

To evaluate if a controller will benefit from an Antenna Amplifier Kit (sold as a separate accessory), please use the following steps as the qualification process:

Install controller, verify and record Phase Integrity Values for all four Phases. The following table identifies the observed phase integrity and suggested procedure:

No.	Observed Phase Integrity	Suggested Procedure
1	Observed Phase Integrities for more than two phase above 30 (Excluding Phase D)	No action required
2	Observed Phase Integrity is between 25-30 for more than two phases	Consider installing a Bowtie antenna or pancake antenna (for controllers installed in metal enclosures)
3	Observed Phase Integrity is less than 25 on more than two phases but is above 15	Consider installing an Amplifier Booster Antenna Kit
4	Observed Phase Integrity is less than 15 on more than two phases	Controller location is unsuitable for consistent daily weather updates

Installation

Install the antenna amplifier and the bowtie antenna in the highest possible location within reach of the coax cable, but not further than 50 ft from the controller (for details of installation, please refer to the antenna amplifier installation instructions). Please verify after installation that the new Phase Integrities are higher than 30.

The WeatherTRAK part number for the Antenna Amplifier Booster kit is ANT-AMP-Kit. The suggested List Price is \$75.00 and there is no discount for this accessory.

Need Help?

If you have additional questions, call HydroPoint Data Systems Customer Support toll-free, (800) 362-8774.