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Section: Blood Culture Manual	Subject Title: Appendix I - Operation of the BacT/Alert Blood Culture System	
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APPENDIX I - Operation of the BacT/Alert Blood 3D Culture System

I. Overview

Bottles are tracked by the computer and must be loaded using the computer and barcode wand. Each bottle is read every 10 minutes by the machine. Positives are detected as growth-generated CO₂ which causes a colour change in the pH sensitive disc on the bottom of the bottle. The computer detects a positive by an increased rate of colour change, acceleration in the rate of colour change or a very high initial baseline reading. A minimum of 7 readings (70 minutes) is required before a positive is declared.

II. Logging-on / Password

A number of functions are available without logging-on. Buttons that are highlighted are available (e.g. Quick Data Entry).

- A. Touch “Log-on” button on the screen.
- B. Enter your password. This will allow access to the functions assigned to your password level. A few functions (e.g. System Configuration) will be available only to staff with higher level passwords.

III. Monitor Screen

This screen monitors a number of functions, including positive bottles, negative bottles and anonymous bottles which are ready to be unloaded. Warnings of problems also appear on this screen including instrument failures, interface failures, anonymous unloads, etc.

From the monitor screen a number of buttons take you to various functions:

A. Quick Data Entry

Used to edit source on bottles being loaded (e.g. Fluids, SBE blood, etc). Available without logging on.

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B. Data Manager

Used for editing, correcting and querying data in BacT/Alert data base. Divided into 3 data bases:

- i) Patient Data
- ii) Accession Data
- iii) Bottle Data.

C. Database

Used for data base maintenance (e.g. Back-ups).

D. System Log

Used to look-up problems in the system log book.

E. Configuration

Used to edit system configuration (e.g. Date/time, passwords, interface). Not available on "Normal Operation" passwords.