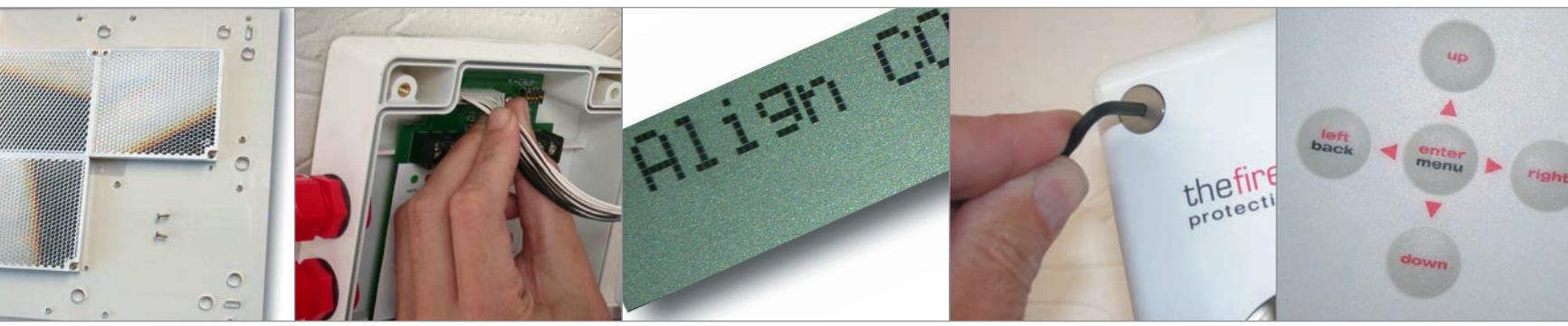
thefirebeam™

protectionsystemXtra

user guide



issue 0025-10

thefirebeam™

Reflective optical beam smoke detector **user guide**

1 Distance and position guidelines

These guidelines are recommendations only and it is important that you refer to your appropriate governing standards at all times.

When positioning your firebeam there are important factors that you should consider, mainly what distance you are covering and the optimal position in the building.

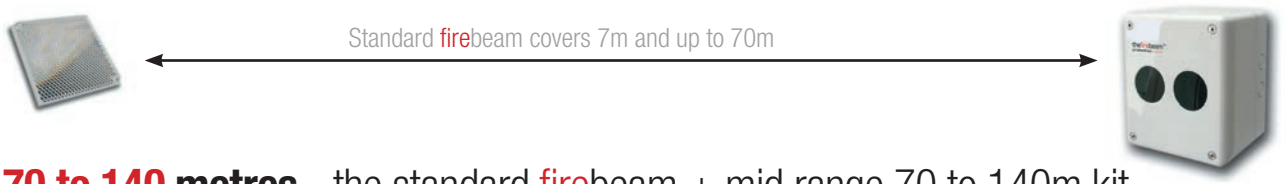
What distance?

The standard firebeam is suitable for distances of **7m to 70m** to the reflector. If you require **70m to 140m** you will need to use the **mid range reflector extension kit**. For ranges of **140m to 160m** you will require the **long range reflector extension kit**.

NOTE. for distances under 20m use the short range mask supplied on the single reflector.

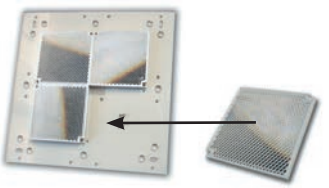
7 to 70 metres - the standard firebeam

The standard firebeam comes boxed with the head unit, low level controller, one reflector, short range mask, 3mm allen key and quick start installation guide, this should be used for distances over 7m and up to 70m.



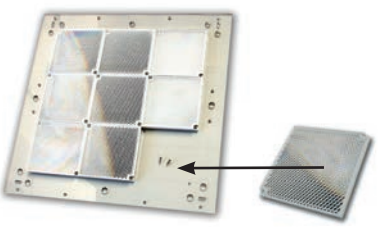
70 to 140 metres - the standard firebeam + mid range 70 to 140m kit

For distances of 70 to 140 metres you will need to use the standard firebeam and a **mid range extension kit** (the mid range kit comes with a backing plate and 3 extra reflectors, you will need to add the reflector from the standard kit to the mid range kit with the screws provided).



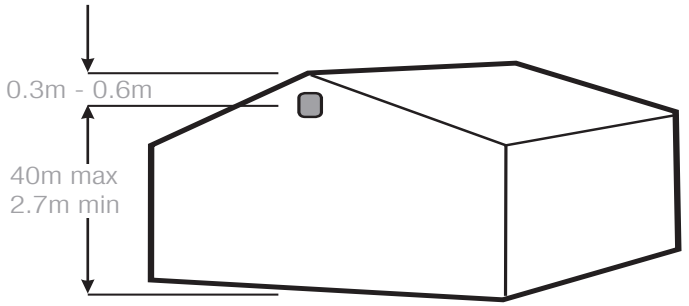
140 to 160 metres - the standard firebeam + long range 140 to 160m kit

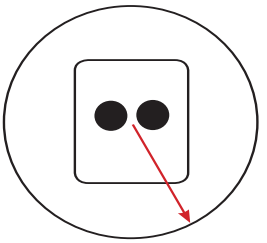
For distances of 140 to 160 metres you will need to use the standard firebeam and a **long range extension kit** (the long range kit comes with a backing plate and 8 extra reflectors, you will need to add the reflector from the standard kit to the long range kit with the screws provided).



What position?

A roof is considered flat unless the height of the apex is greater then 0.6m. If the roof is flat thefirebeam system can be placed anywhere under the roof between 0.3m and 0.6m below the roof, up to a maximum height of 40m from the floor. thefirebeam has a detection area of 7.5m either side of the beam. If the roof is considered to have an apex, place thefirebeam system 0.3m to 0.6m down from the top of the apex, up to a maximum height of 40m from the floor. The maximum protected area either side of the beam can be extended by 1% for every degree of roof pitch, see the example below: (please check with your local regulations)

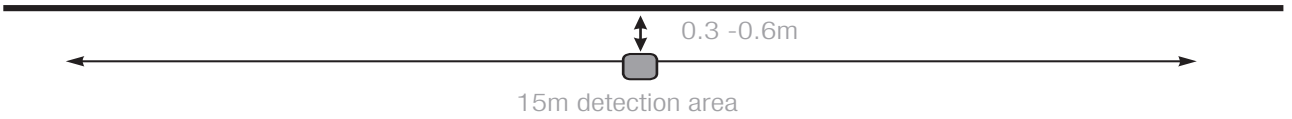




Field of view should be a 50cm radius from the centre of the beam

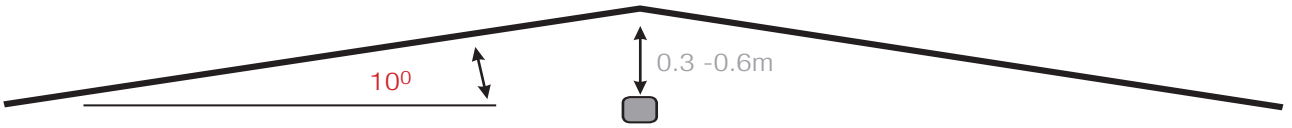
Warning: So that the beam works effectively, ensure the beam is not obstructed in a 1m diameter clear line of sight along its entire axis

Flat roof



15m detection area

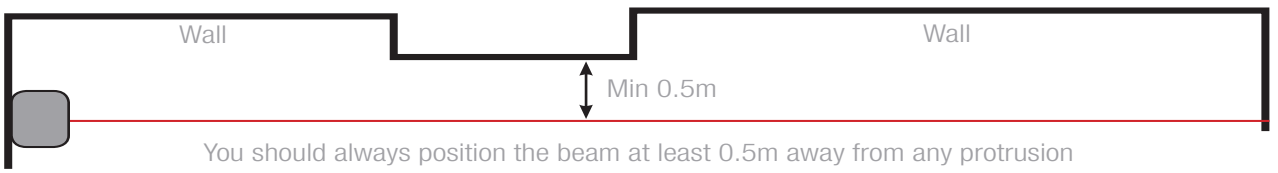
Extra coverage due to apex angle



15 + (15 x 10%) = 15m + 1.5m = 16.5m

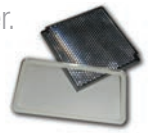
8.25m 8.25m

16.5m detection area



You should always position the beam at least 0.5m away from any protrusion

Note. Careful design consideration should be made when positioning beams and reflectors in environments that can be susceptible to condensation i.e. warehouses near to water that have areas open to the outside environment or that are exposed to quick extreme changes in temperature. To assist with this problem that can affect all beam detectors we produce an **anti-fog kit** comprising of a specially coated reflector and lens cover. Individual reflectors are also available. The standard firebeam and range kits can be supplied as anti-fog sets as a special order.



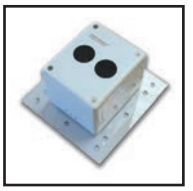
❷ Installing, commissioning and testing

step ❶ mounting the head

Screw the head backing plate to the wall - always try to use as sturdy a location as possible, such as brick or major structural steels (avoid mounting to outer metal cladding etc). Avoid mounting the head where direct sunlight can shine directly into the 'eyes' of the beam (care should be taken when mounting in glass atriums). Ambient sunlight will not affect the beam.

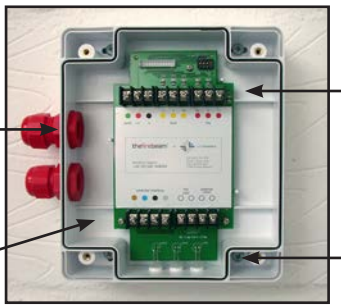
Also available - unistrut adapter plate

Use this accessory for easy mounting to unistrut fabrication. Holes are pre-drilled to the correct pitch of the head and conveniently positioned for use with unistrut.



2 knock-outs are provided on both sides. Take care when using drills not to damage the circuit board. Only punch out with head open and disconected from power

Wire to low level controller using bottom colour coded terminals.

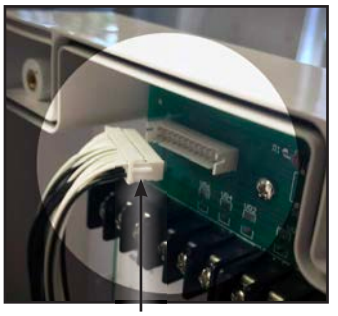


Wire into system as required (see generic wiring diagram on the following page). Ensure that all wiring is below the level of the front edge of the box.

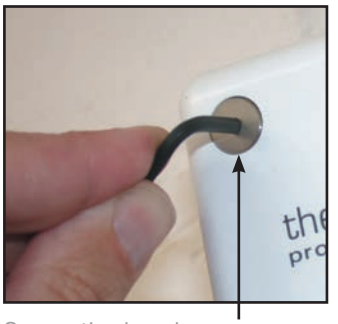
Screw in through holes provided outside of the rubber seal.

Connect the head to the base plate by first plugging in the connector. **Do not** force in, white wires should be uppermost. Should you forget to connect this the controller screen will read ERROR.

To avoid damaging the detector head never dangle the front cover assembly from the ribbon cable.



IMPORTANT ensure the connector is this way up.

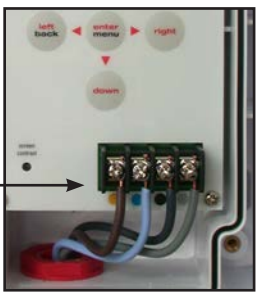


Screw the head screws down with the 3mm allen key provided.
Your wiring should be flush and not flattened by tightening down screws.

step ❷ mounting the controller

Important mount the controller at eye level and ensure easy access.

Screw in through holes provided outside of the rubber seal.
Wire to head using colour coded terminals.
If this connection is not made ERROR will appear on the controller, this connection can be checked by reading the resistance across the black and grey terminals, they will read 110 ohm if OK or 220 ohm if not connected properly.



Generic wiring configurations

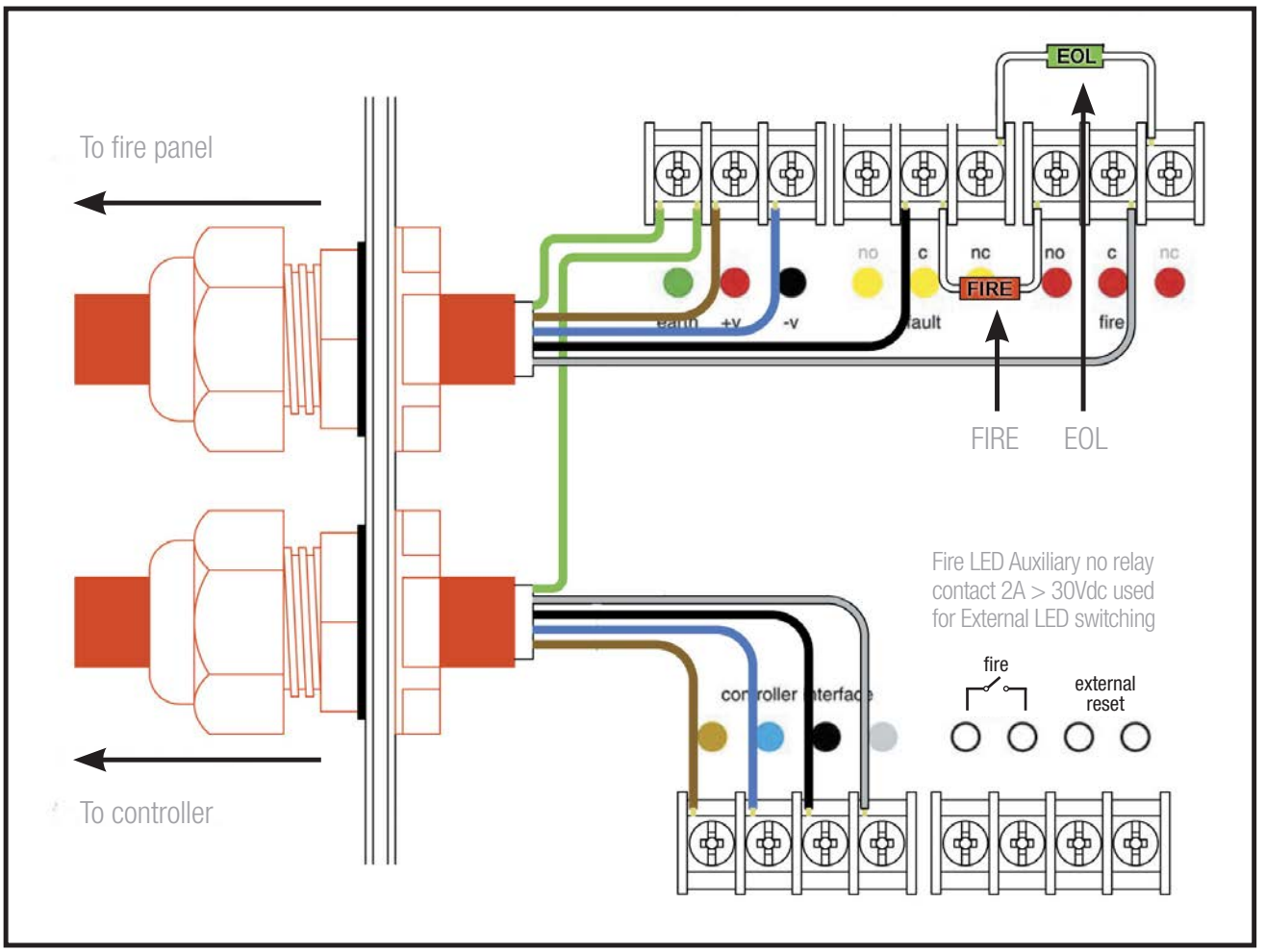
thefirebeam is a conventional device, below are suggested wiring configurations for single and multi heads on a zone. thefirebeam can easily be made addressable with the use of a manufacturers interface and in some cases can also be powered from the loop. Most wiring diagrams can be found on our website in more detail and in PDF format, go to www.thefirebeam.com

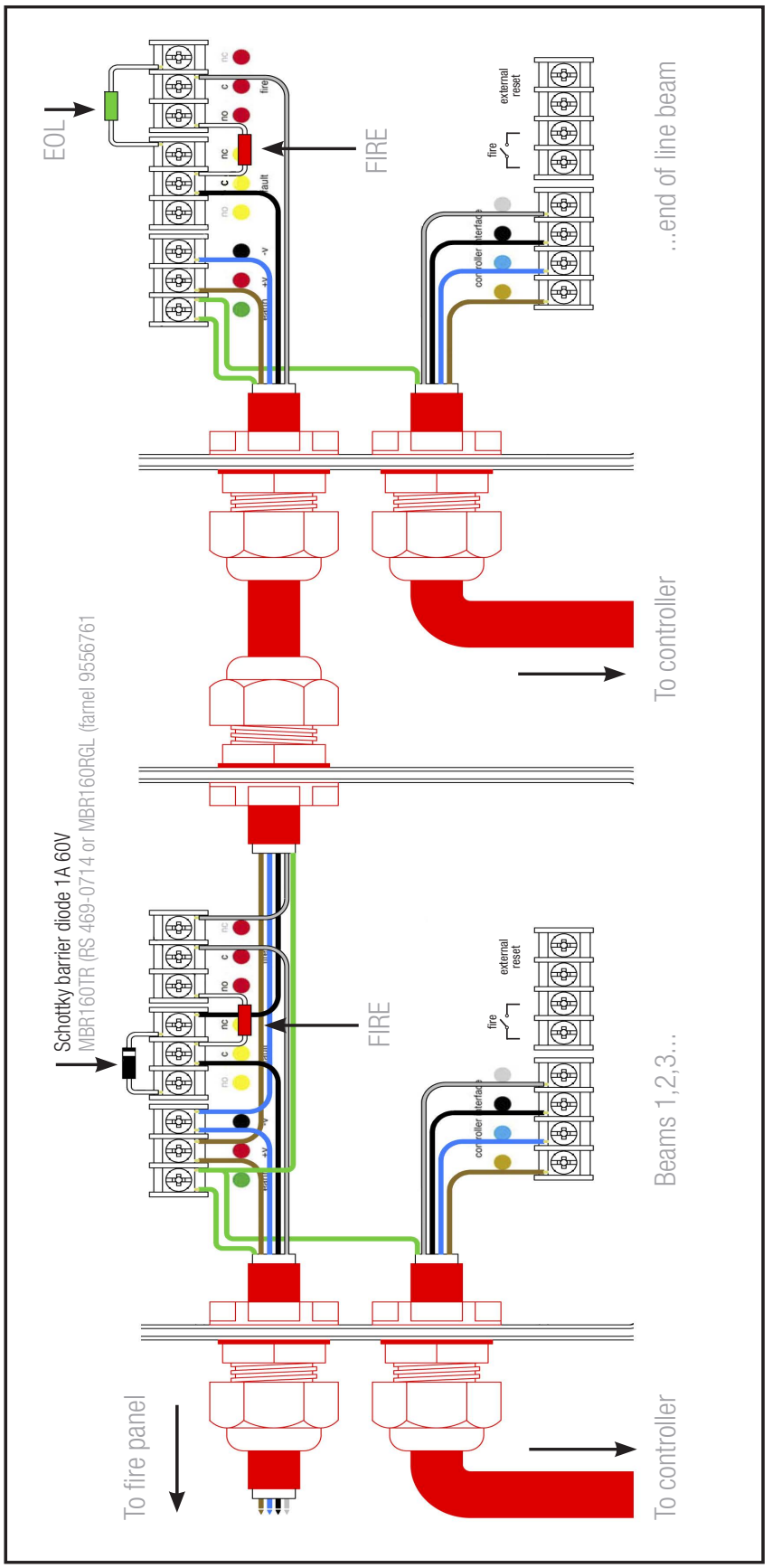
- Brown + supply (normal 12 - 30Vdc)
- Blue - supply (return)
- Black zone +
- Grey zone -
- Green earth (screen)

Supply voltage 12Vdc to 30Vdc normal
Quiescent current 3.5mA
Alarm current 3.5mA
Aligning current normal 3.5mA fast 17mA
Fault/Alarm relay contact rating 2A @ 30Vdc

FIRE and EOL components as supplied by the panel manufacturer

Single head on zone





Multiple beams on a zone

Other wiring diagrams

step ❸ commissioning

Commissioning thefirebeam is a simple procedure outlined in the following step by step explanation.
Ensure the installation guidelines have been followed correctly and that the firebeam has a clear line of sight through to the reflector and there are no obstacles in its path.

stage one, language and commissioning speed

1. Important. Do **NOT** put the reflector up. However, if you are recommissioning thefirebeam **COVER** it with a non-reflective black cloth or similar. **You cannot commission the beam if the reflector can been seen**

2. Power up the unit and you will see | the Firebeam Xtra | the screen will default to Fault or Fire **this is normal**

Air Quality	0%
Status	Fault

Air Quality	0%
Status	Fire

3. Access the menu by pressing enter (enter)

4. The first screen you see is | english | if you need to change this use the right and left hand keys to scroll through languages, when you have found your language press enter to access the commissioning menu. *If you have changed the language the system will continue in your chosen language.*

5. Press enter and you will now see the commissioning speed screen. In most cases it is recommended to use fast mode (in normal mode the system uses 3.5mA, in fast mode it uses 17mA) - if you are commissioning more than one beam at a time and the system cannot support the extra draw it may be necessary to use normal mode to prevent excessive current draw. Fast mode allows x4 times faster motor response and it may be quicker to commission each beam in turn. Once commissioning is complete thefirebeam will automatically revert to normal low power mode - (3.5mA).

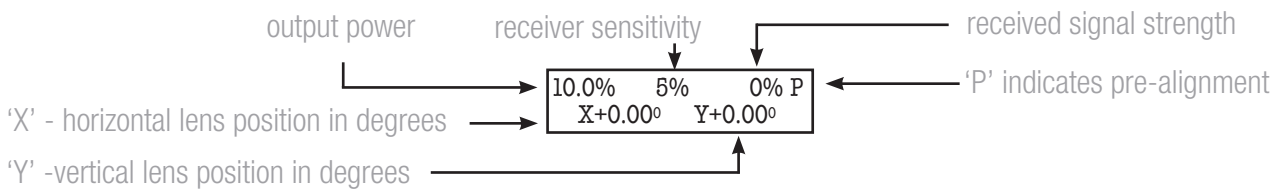
(left) ← | normal fast* | → (right) ↓ (enter)

6. Use the left and right keys to toggle between fast and normal, the * indicates which mode is selected. Press the enter key to continue.

stage two, pre-alignment

7. The next screen is | pre-alignment | **this is the most important part of setting up your beam.**
Pre-alignment sets up the amount of power you need for the distance you are covering and can indicate if you are receiving unwanted reflections from anything else in the beam path.

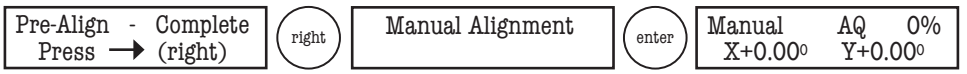
8. Press **enter** to begin pre-alignment. Remember no reflector. You will see the screen below. Take a moment to understand what the figures on the screen mean.



Pre Alignment continued

Receiver sensitivity (RX Sense) will start by raising to 100% and then the output power (IR power) will rise to 100%. More power will be output than is necessary to cover the distance and these levels will then be reduced once the auto align process takes place. The air quality figure at this point should normally stay at 0%.
Pre-Align Complete will now be indicated

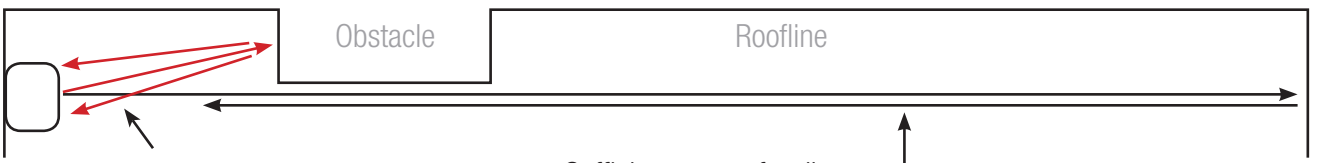
9. Press **enter** to accept Pre-Alignment and confirm these settings by pressing the right key and enter into Manual Alignment.

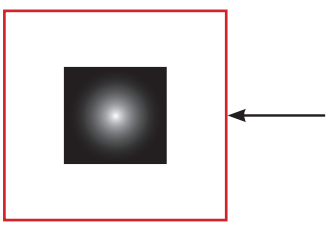


thefirebeam is looking for the far wall of the building and in some shorter distance applications will stop raising the IR Power when its sufficient for the distance. In these cases you can press Enter to accept the Pre-Alignment then right key and enter into Manual Alignment.

CAUTION: If you have not allowed the **50cm radius** and thefirebeam encounters an obstruction this will also stop raising the IR Power and halt the Pre Alignment as the beam will assume it has found the far wall. You will need to identify and move the obstruction or reconsider the positioning of thefirebeam. You can identify that the beam is obstructed by the right hand figure (Air Quality) has risen and may fluctuate between 5%-10%.

Obstructions near the head will disturb the pre-alignment process and care should be taken to ensure no solid objects are close to the beam path.





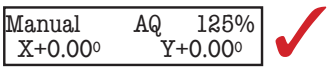
Ensure 1m of clear space along the path of the beam and 500mm from the edges of the reflector.
if the wall you are placing the reflector/s on is shiny or glass then the reflectors should be placed on a 1meter piece of non-reflective material like MDF to ensure correct operation.

stage three, manual alignment

Once Pre Alignment is complete you will enter Manual Alignment.

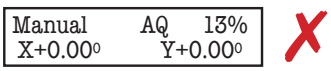
10. NOW place or uncover the reflector

When you install or uncover the reflector the Right hand Figure (AQ) will jump up as high as 135%, this clearly shows that thefirebeam can see the reflector and you can press Enter to move to Auto Alignment..

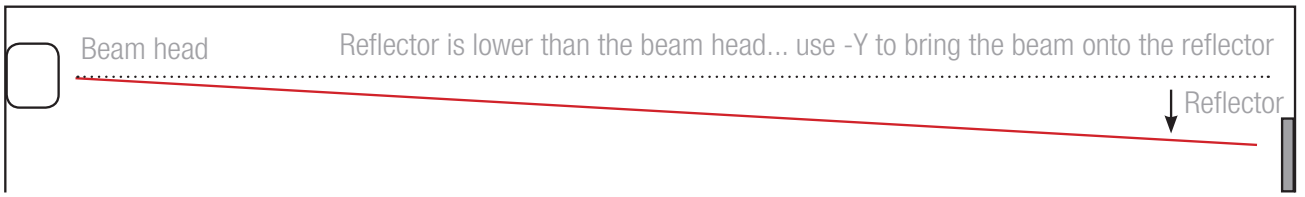


As long as there is a received signal of at least 80 to 100% ideally over 100% you can move onto the next stage: Auto Alignment No.11.

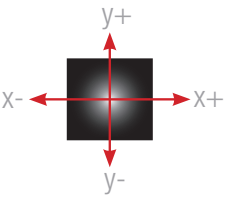
If thefirebeam AQ does not rise significantly you will need to use the Left Right Up Down keys to move the Eyes of thefirebeam onto the reflector and once you have targeted thefirebeam onto the reflector the AQ will rise significantly.



In the example below we can see that the reflector is below the eye line of thefirebeam head, so in this case you would need to lower the angle of the beam (-Y) until you receive an AQ of over 100%.



thefirebeam can be moved on both X and Y axis to a maximum 5 degrees using the left (x-), right (x+), up (y+) and down (y-) keys. Looking at the reflector this will move the beam across the reflector. Holding the keys down will quickly scroll through to your desired position, on release of the button the screen will revert to the actual beam position and can be seen stepping toward the requested position.
To confirm the beam is seeing the reflector covering the reflector at any time should drop the AQ and prove the beam is on the reflector.



In the example above moving the y axis down (y-) results in a greater AQ

Try and achieve as high an AQ as possible, it must be at least 80 to 100% ideally above 100%. Once you have achived this you can move onto Auto Alignment No.11.

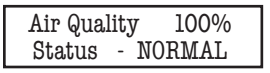
To find more information on Manual Alignment look at our FAQ's which can be found on wwwfirebeamsupport.com

stage four, auto-alignment

11. Having received an AQ reading of over 100% in manual mode press enter to exit manual and enter again to go into **auto alignment** mode.

Auto Alignment is an automatic process that will firstly reduce the RX Sense and IR Power to accommodate the best settings for thefirebeams environment.
thefirebeam will automatically align to the centre of the Reflector, you will notice the X and Y axis moving as thefirebeam moves up, down, left and right to find the centre point.

When finished thefirebeam will state Align Complete and pressing Enter to confirm will show Air Quality 100% Status Normal.



CAUTION: This process should take up to 10 Minutes, if thefirebeam does not complete after this time then look at the X and Y axis to check it has not deviated off the reflector onto an obstruction. The X and Y figures should be below 1.50 on each axis and would normally be below 0.90.
If this is not the case you may need to start the Manual Alignment process again to return both thefirebeam axis to 0.00 and identify and remove the obstruction.

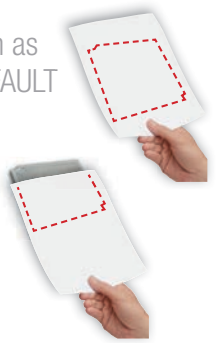
To find more information on Pre-Alignment look at our FAQ's which can be found on wwwfirebeamsupport.com

step ❹ testing

1. The FireBeam should now be tested for Fire and Fault.

The FireBeam must be tested at the reflector end and not at the Fire Beam head. This is to confirm it is looking at the reflector and completes the commissioning process.

FAULT - Cover the reflector within 1 second with a non reflective card to simulate a fault such as a fork truck breaking the path of thefirebeam. After 10 Seconds thefirebeam should register FAULT and the Amber light will flash.



2. FIRE - Cover the reflector slowly up to 70% with a non reflective card to simulate a fire such as smoke entering the path of thefirebeam. After 10 Seconds thefirebeam should register FIRE and the Red light will flash.

To find more information on Testing look at our FAQ's which can be found on wwwfirebeamsupport.com

Once you have successfully completed both tests your firebeam is commissioned.
You can now fine tune your beam to suit the environment if needed. Look through the following menus to see adjustments that can be made.

3 Screen and menu systems

Home screen

Air Quality 100%
Status – NORMAL

This is the screen you would normally see when the beam is commissioned.

Other screens you may see are:

FIRE

Air Quality 29%
Status – FIRE

The air quality level has fallen below the fire threshold setting.

If alarm is set to latching and you need to reset from fire press enter (enter) to see this screen:

Alarm Reset

and press enter (enter) again to reset and return to the normal screen.

This can also be reset by dropping the power to the beam for 5 seconds. If set to auto reset it will reset to normal automatically. See the menu sytem on page 13 to change between auto and latching if required

FAULT

Air Quality 0%
Status – FAULT

The beam path has been fully blocked within 1 second (used when fault testing in commissioning).

ERROR

Air Quality XX
Status – ERROR

No communication with the controller. This could be that the flying lead is not connected, or that the head is not connected to the controller, this can be checked by reading the resistance across the black and grey terminals, if connected it should read 110ohms if not connected at one end this will read 220ohms.

ALIGN

Air Quality 89%
Status – ALIGN

This screen will appear when the beam is performing a self alignment, normally because of building movement.

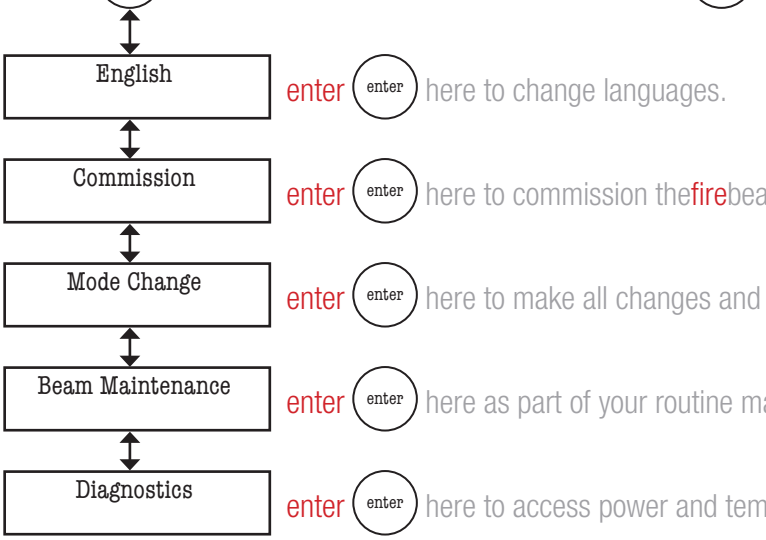
DIRT COMP

Status – Dirt Comp

This is due to the compensation for dirt build up reaching its maximum - FAULT or FIRE LED may be flashing.

How to use the menu system

Press enter (enter) to go into the menu system, then press down (down) to go through the main menu options:



enter (enter) here to change languages.

enter (enter) here to commission thefirebeam.

enter (enter) here to make all changes and adjustments to thefirebeam.

enter (enter) here as part of your routine maintenance.

enter (enter) here to access power and temperature headings.

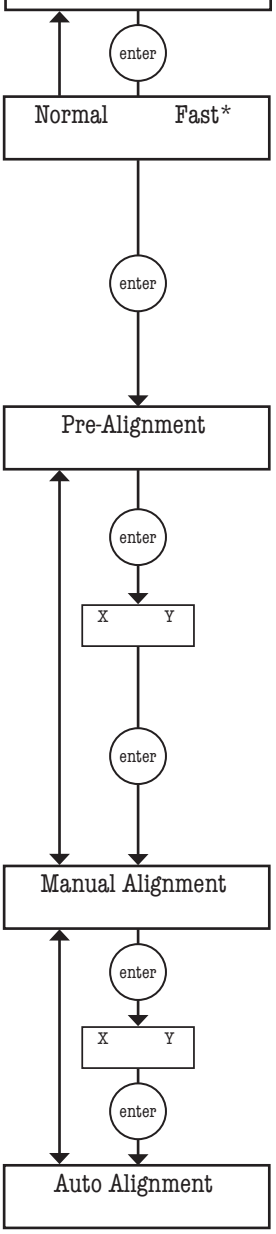
Individual menu items

1. Language

The language is factory set to English if this is okay press enter (enter) to continue to commissioning or arrow up to return to the home screen. To change the language use the right and left keys to change to your preferred language and press enter to confirm your choice – you will then continue in the language of your choice. Languages currently available are: English, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, Czechoslovakian and German.

2. Commissioning

Press enter (enter) to go into commissioning.



Pressing right or left changes between normal and fast. It is recommended in most cases to use fast mode (in normal mode the system uses 3.5mA, in fast mode it uses 17mA) - if you are commissioning more than one beam at a time and the system cannot support the extra draw it may be necessary to use normal mode to prevent excessive current draw. Fast mode allows x4 times faster motor response and it may be quicker to commission each beam in turn. Once commissioning is complete thefirebeam will automatically revert to normal low power mode - (3.5mA).

Press enter (enter) to start pre-alignment. In pre-alignment you should **ALWAYS COVER THE REFLECTOR**. Starting at 10% power and 5% receiver sensitivity, the receiver sensitivity will automatically increase to a maximum of 100% then the output power will increase. These settings will automatically stop when a received signal strength reaches 6% - this received signal is the returned strength of the output signal without a reflector (if no return signal is received the beam will reach full power and the screen will say Pre-Align - complete). If you don't receive high enough output power and receiver sensitivity readings this will usually be because you are receiving a reflection from an object nearby - use the left, right, up and down keys to avoid the obstruction. When happy with your readings press enter and confirm by pressing the right button, this will take you to manual alignment - if you wish to abort Pre-Align press the left button.

Press enter (enter) to go into manual alignment - NOW THE REFLECTOR CAN BE PLACED OR THE COVER CAN BE REMOVED. You should see a large jump in signal strength. If no jump is seen use the X and Y keys to locate the reflector (the better the signal strength the better the beam is aligned) try to achieve a figure of around 100% or over for optimum auto alignment times. Press enter to okay this and go to auto alignment.

Press enter (enter) to start auto-alignment. The beam will calibrate its power and search for the edges of the reflector – adjusting its power as it aligns itself onto the reflector. Once it has found all four edges twice it will then centre itself on the middle of the reflector and the screen will say align complete. Press enter to return to the home screen. If you see align aborted this means something has crossed the beam path of the received signal and the signal has dropped out. Press back / left to return to auto alignment.

3. Mode Change

Here we can make changes to how the beam behaves. Press enter (enter) to go into mode change and the sub menus.

enter

Threshold

Threshold. Use the right and left keys to increase or decrease the beams sensitivity. It is factory set at 35% (meaning the received signal has to drop by 35% to trigger the fire relay. This sensitivity can be adjusted between 25% (sensitive) and 50% (less sensitive) (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to time to fire).

Time to fire

Time to fire. Here we can adjust how long the beam has to be in fire before the fire relay is triggered. This is factory set at 10s, you may want to increase this if there is something that may momentarily obscure the beam path (birds / forklift truck) this can be adjusted between 2 and 30 seconds by using the right and left keys (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to time to fault).

Time to fault

Time to fault. Here we can adjust the time to fault between 2 and 60 seconds (factory set at 10 seconds). For a beam to go into fault the beam path must be totally blocked within ONE second. By using the right and left keys (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to auto reset).

Auto reset

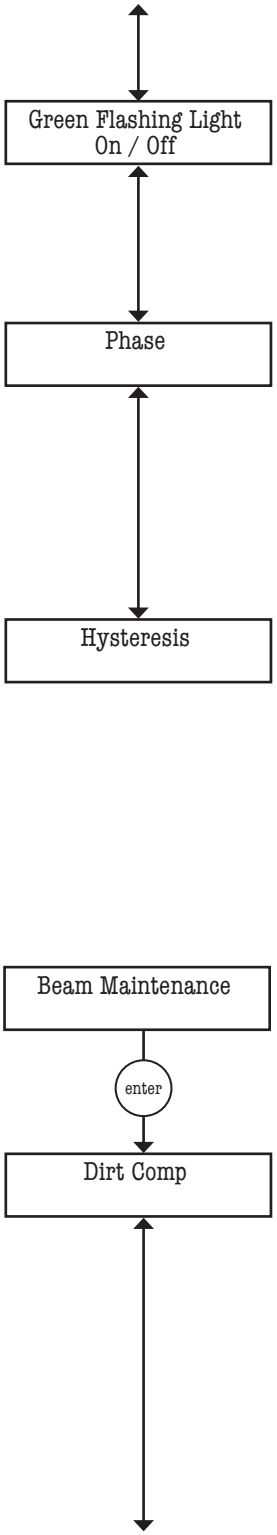
Auto reset. The beam is factory set to auto reset when the received signal raises above the fire threshold hysteresis. This can be set to latching if your system requires this. Change by using the right and left keys (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to align on / off).

Align On/Off

Align on / off. You may want to turn the auto alignment function off, for example, in an environment that often gets filled with welding smoke, the auto align function kicks in when the received signal drops below 90%, the point that the beam automatically checks for building movement. The beam will try to align through the smoke which could be a problem if it is unable to see the edges of the reflector. Use the right and left keys to turn off and on. When turning this function off extra care should be taken to ensure that the beam head is on a sturdy fixing ie., brick wall or major structural steel. Auto alignment will still function in commissioning (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to align time).

Align Time

Align time. This is factory set to 4hrs, you can adjust this, by using the right and left keys, between 0 to 12 hours depending on your environment (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to green flashing light).



Green flashing light on / off. By using the right and left keys you can turn the green flashing LED, located on the head and controller, on or off. This is a useful way of identifying the beam head you are working with (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to phase).

Phase. When using multiple beams that face each other the beam output signals could phase together and can cause unreliable readings, by setting each beam to phase differently alleviates this problem. Use the right and left keys to give each beam a different phase pattern (length between output beam sample times) you can choose between 0 (default setting) and 6 (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to hysteresis).

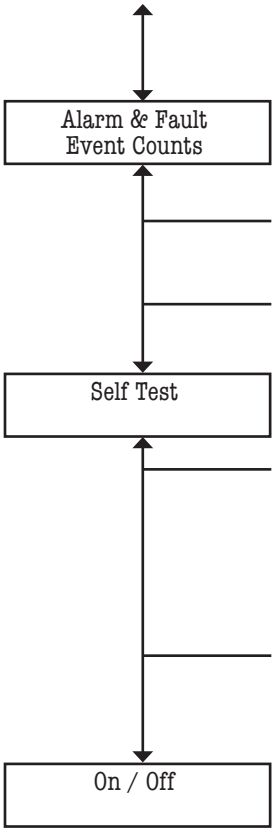
Hysteresis. Changing the hysteresis will change the delay in returning from a fire state back to a normal state, for example, the beam is factory set at 15% so if the beam falls into fire at 65% (35% threshold) it has to recover 15% to 80% before it returns to normal. This action prevents small fluctuations in returned signal causing the beam to fall in and out of a fire state. This can be adjusted between 1% and 40% by using the right and left keys (press enter to return to mode change or down to go to compensation fire / fault).

4. Beam Maintenance

Press enter (enter) to go into beam maintenance.

Dirt Comp. This screen shows how much the beam has compensated for dust build-up on the beam head and reflectors, **ALWAYS** take a note of this value as part of your routine maintenance to see any build-up pattern, if you see figures above +50% you should clean both the lens face and the reflectors (once cleaned you should instigate an auto alignment to re-calibrate the beam settings).

It is possible that you may see a negative number here, this can happen when thefirebeam has been commissioned in a 'dirty' atmosphere such as builders dust which, once cleared, the beam then compensates for. To reset, perform an auto alignment to re-calibrate the beam (press enter to return to beam maintenance or down to go to event counts).



Event counts. Here we can see how many times the beam has gone into fire or fault since the beam was commissioned or since the event log was last cleared including testing.

Press enter (enter) to clear events.

Press left / back (left/back) to return to beam maintenance or down to go to self test.

Self test.

Press enter (enter) to perform a fire test, this works by running a test algorithm to lower the output power, the receiver sees this as obscuration. When the received signal drops below the threshold point the beam will trip the fire relay – this relay will not trip until the time to fire has passed which could be anything between 2 and 30 seconds.

Press left / back (left/back) to end test, the fire test should show on the panel. Press left / back to return to beam maintenance or down to go to on / off.

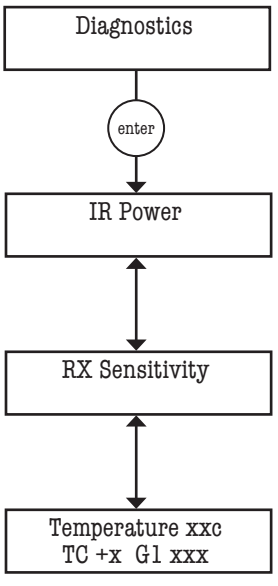
On / off. If something needs to be maintained in the beam path use the right and left keys to turn the system on and off.

This will show as a fault on the panel.

Press enter (enter) to return to beam maintenance.

5. Diagnostics

Press enter (enter) to go into diagnostics.



IR power. This screen shows the amount of output power that is being transmitted. It can be increased or decreased by using the right and left keys (press enter to return to diagnostics or down to go to RX sensitivity).

RX sensitivity. This screen shows the receiver sensitivity and can be changed by using the right and left keys (press enter to return to diagnostics or down to go to temperature).

Temperature & Gain. Here we can see displayed the temperature at thefirebeam head and the amount of temperature compensation and Gain figure (no adjustments can be made here).

Press enter (enter) to return to diagnostics.

technical specifications

Electrical Specifications:

Supply Voltage. 12 to 30 Vdc normal

Supply Current. 3.5mA (constant current) in all operational states

Constant Current. 17mA (constant current) in fast commissioning

Environmental Specifications:

Temperature. -10°C to +55°C

Humidity. 10 to 95% RH Non-condensing

Protection Index. IP65 when suitably mounted and terminated

Mechanical Specifications:

Beam Head.
180mmH x 155mmW x137mmD
Weight 1.1Kg

Controller.
185mmH x 120mmW x 62mmD
Weight 0.55g

70KIT140 Mid-Range Reflector.
293mmH x293mmW x 5mmD
Weight 0.8Kg

140KIT160 Long Range Reflector.
394mmH x 394mmW x 5mmD
Weight 1.8Kg

Adapter.
270mmH x 250mmW x 5mmD
Weight 0.6g
(mounts the Beam Head onto unistrut)

Optical Specifications:

Optical Wavelength. 870nm

Maximum Angular Alignment. ±5°

Maximum Angular Misalignment.
(static not auto-aligning)
Beam Head ±0.4° Reflector ±2°

Operational Specifications:

Protection Range:

FIREBEAM.
Standard Product 7 to 70 metres. Use short range mask for distances between 7 & 20 metres

70KIT140.
Mid-Range Reflector Kit 70 to 140 metres

140KIT160.
Long Range Reflector Kit 140 to 160 metres

Alarm Sensitivity Levels:

25%(1.25dB) to 50%(3dB) in 1%(0.05dB) increments (default 35% (1.87dB))

Alarm Condition:

Obscuration drops to below pre-defined sensitivity level.
Time to Alarm Condition adjustable
2 to 30 seconds in 1 second increments
(default 10 seconds)

Alarm Indication:

Controller Status – FIRE

Controller Red Flashing LED

Head Red Flashing LED

Alarm Relay Change Over (CO) Contact

Rating 2A @ 30 Vdc

Test/Reset Features:

Beam test function by controller

Alarm latching/auto-reset selectable (default auto-reset)

Alarm reset in latching mode by controller reset function, removing power for >5 seconds or momentarily apply >5 VDC to reset connections in Beam Head.

Fault Sensitivity Level:

<4%

Fault Condition:

Obscuration drops to below the fault sensitivity level within 1 second
Power Down or Supply Voltage < 9 VDC

Commissioning modes, Pre-Alignment and Auto Alignment

Beam turned off during Beam Maintenance
Time to Fault Condition adjustable,
2 to 60 seconds in 1 second increments
(default 10 seconds)

Fault Indication:

Controller Status – FAULT

Controller Yellow Flashing LED 1 Second

Head Yellow Flashing LED 1 Second

Fault Relay Change Over (CO) Contact
Rating 2A @ 30 VDC

Normal Condition:

Obscuration level is above the Alarm sensitivity level

Controller Status – NORMAL

Controller Green Flashing LED

Programmable on/off

Head Green Flashing LED
Programmable on/off

Auto-align/Beam Contamination Compensation:

Auto-align during normal operation if obscuration drops below 90% for the duration of the align time set
(doesn't effect normal operating mode)

Beam Contamination Compensation 4 hour monitoring. Compensation data available at the controller