

9 PROCESS AND PRODUCTION MONITORING SYSTEM (PPMS)

Description

The PPMS software is a program residing in the host computer with the K-LAB Processor Management System (KPMS) software. It ties in seamlessly with KPMS to provide sensitometric, inventory, production, and mechanical information to the operator and Kodak.

Operations

Access the integral PPMS program by selecting the “Start PPMS” button on the main KPMS screen.

There is no manual for the PPMS Software. Each screen within the PPMS program has a HELP screen which explains operator input and program functions. In addition, many of the screens requiring operator input have highlighted instructions on the screen. If there are questions about the use of this software, call Kodak.

The following selections are available at the PPMS main menu:

Quit—return from PPMS to K-LAB machine control

Monitors & Aims—all control strip setup, data entry, and reporting as well as notes

Utilities—backup, restore and export of data

Setup—PPMS settings for data transfers to Kodak and configuration of the inventory and monitoring systems

Print—prints the current form. If the button text is gray instead of black the Print function is disabled

Help—access to help text for each form in PPMS

Data Storage

The PPMS programs retain monitor data, notes, messages, temperature summaries and production data for 90 calendar days. Setup information and printer configurations are saved until changed. Monitor aims are retained indefinitely.

Output

Most screens may be printed if an optional printer is connected to the computer containing the PPMS program. Instructions relative to configuring the printer are in the Printer Setup folder of the Setup screen.

Certain production and mechanical data is not displayed on a PPMS screen. This information (which is contained only in the Integrated PPMS program), is obtained by selecting the Utilities option from the main menu, creating a backup diskette, and accessing the data files through a computer containing Microsoft Excel or Access.

Perform backups regularly to ensure the safety of PPMS data. If the hard disk fails, without a backup, PPMS files residing on the hard disk may be destroyed. The PPMS program suggests that you back up your data on a daily basis. A red warning banner appears if a backup has not occurred within the past week.

Input

The only input that PPMS accepts are those called for by the screens. Before calling Kodak for assistance, please check the HELP screen to verify that your entries are in the correct format.

Lab Production Data

Access

PPMS provides several production reports dealing with films processed (by type and condition), the volumes of replenisher consumed (by volume and BIB units), and a record of tank changes. Each of these is available in a report or in a graph.

Daily temperature summary data is available only in report form.

These reports and graphs may be viewed on the screen, printed through a printer connected to the machine control computer, or they may be exported on floppies for storage or analysis on another computer.

The reports that are available are:

- Daily film production by film type
- Daily film production by processing condition
- Daily replenisher consumption
- Number of units of chemistry consumed by day
- Fresh tank changes
- Daily temperature summaries

All reports, with the exception of the daily temperature summaries, may also be created in graph form.

All reports, with the exception of the temperature summaries, use a different set of control buttons at the bottom of the report. These buttons control moving through multi-page reports, printing, the size of the report on the screen, exporting data to other programs, and returning to this report's selection screen. The middle icons with the suitcase and with the paper clip, provide the data export features. The icon with the 3 successively larger squares controls the current magnification of the report. You can either view the whole page or just a portion of the page.

The data export features allow you to save the data to a diskette in the proper format for use with spreadsheets, word processors and database software. Select the appropriate output format from the list that works best with the program you are using. You can then create your own plots and analyses using data obtained from PPMS.