

HOURLY TRACKER

HOW TO RETRIEVE OPERATIONAL HOURS FROM YOUR COBOD 3D PRINTER

Benefits

Monitoring printer operating hours and linking them to preventive maintenance routines gives equipment users greater control, predictability, and a lower total cost of ownership over the machine's lifetime. It enables timely planning for spare parts availability and scheduled COBOD service visits. When maintenance records are aligned with critical component life cycles, replacements can be identified and performed before failures or breakdowns occur.

Responsible for the task

Retrieving operational hours from a printer system can be performed by COBOD personnel remotely or by a locally certified Level 3 printer operator since it requires access to the Sysmac software.

Step by step process

1. Open the Sysmac software and connect to your printer normally.
2. Select a driver node (e.g. Z1 driver, Z2 driver etc), please note you should select original factory drivers since recently replaced ones will display a different lifecycle.
3. Go to the "parameters" tab.
4. In the upper left section of the "parameters" tab click the dropdown menu and go to "life information".
5. Look for the parameter titled "total ON time" and find the value under "drive value" - this will be the total number of minutes that driver has been enabled.
6. Divide the total number of minutes by 60 to get the total printer hours.

Additional considerations

- The hours tracked in the process above do not represent total printing time, but rather the total time the system drivers are powered and should therefore be considered an approximate ($\approx 70\%$) usage reference.
- Operating machines outside recommended temperature ranges or exposure to extreme weather conditions can increase maintenance frequency and accelerate wear.
- Irregular power quality, including voltage fluctuations, poor grounding, or unstable supply, can damage motors, drives, sensors, and control electronics, leading to earlier component replacement.
- Transportation-related damage, particularly if it allows water ingress into electronic components, can significantly reduce component life cycles.
- The use of experimental or non-standard materials with abrasive, corrosive, or excessively sticky properties can increase stress and wear on mechanical components such as nozzles, seals, and related assemblies.

While operational hours are a key input for maintenance planning, they do not capture environmental or site-specific conditions; therefore, service decisions should not rely on hours alone and must be made in conjunction with actual operating conditions and local maintenance records. If you have any further questions, please contact techsupport@cobod.com

