

CO₂ gas sensor

MicroSENS 100-VS

1	Legal Information.....	3
1.1	Intellectual Property and Usage Restrictions	3
1.2	Product Specifications and Local Compliance	3
1.3	Legal Effect and Software Licensing	3
1.4	Patent Notice	3
2	Introduction	4
2.1	Purpose of This Manual.....	4
2.2	Product Overview and Key Features	4
2.3	Symbols Used	4
2.4	Safety Information and Warnings.....	5
3	Sensor Description.....	6
3.1	Mechanical Drawings and Dimensions	6
3.2	Construction	7
3.3	Measurement Principle	7
3.4	Accessories.....	8
3.5	Connector and Pinout Details.....	8
4	Technical Specifications.....	9
4.1	Technical Data	9
4.2	Electrical Specifications	9
5	Installation	10
5.1	Pre-Installation Inspection.....	10
5.2	Positioning and Mounting.....	10
6	Calibration and Maintenance	12
6.1	Calibration Principles.....	12
6.2	Zero-Point Calibration Requirements and Procedure	12
6.3	Clean Air Calibration Requirements and Procedure	13
6.4	Span Calibration Requirements and Procedure.....	14
6.5	Routine Maintenance and Cleaning.....	15
6.6	General Handling Guidelines, Troubleshooting, and Integration into End System	15
7	Support, Regulatory, and Warranty Information.....	18
7.1	Support.....	18
7.2	Warranty.....	18
7.3	Safety and Compliance	19
7.4	End-of-Life and Disposal	19
8	Appendix: Protocol Description for CO₂ Gas Sensor Software.....	20
8.1	Error and Status Codes.....	20
8.2	Interface Protocol	21
8.3	Commands Overview.....	22

1 Legal Information

1.1 Intellectual Property and Usage Restrictions

All rights reserved. The information in this document reflects our current knowledge and the results of practical experience and testing. Any previous specifications are superseded. All specifications, including technical data, are subject to change without notice. It is the customer's responsibility to verify that the product is suitable for the intended application. We accept no liability for indirect or consequential damages, including damages resulting from the use of, or inability to use, the product. Any liability is limited to the value of the product. The material and information contained in this technical documentation are proprietary. No part of this document - including schematics, figures, or data - may be reproduced, distributed, or publicly displayed by any means, whether electronic (e.g., digital storage) or mechanical (e.g., scanning), without prior written consent. The contents of this document must not be altered, translated, modified, sold, or disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the intellectual property owner.

1.2 Product Specifications and Local Compliance

The technical specifications, performance data, and other Micro-Hybrid system details provided herein are subject to change without prior notice.

Local laws, regulations, and governmental requirements governing the use, installation, and servicing of Micro-Hybrid products and services may vary by jurisdiction and always take precedence over the information in this document. The manufacturer makes no representation or warranty that this documentation is compliant with applicable local laws and regulations at all times and explicitly disclaims any related liability. Users are responsible for verifying the applicable local requirements and their impact on the intended use of the Micro-Hybrid system and related services.

1.3 Legal Effect and Software Licensing

This technical documentation does not create any legally binding obligations between the manufacturer and its customers or end users. Any binding legal commitments are defined solely in the executed contract or in the applicable General Terms and Conditions of Sale/Service.

The Micro-Hybrid system may include software developed by the manufacturer or by third parties. The use of such software is governed by the specific license terms and conditions set out in the main sales contract or, where no separate license is provided, by the General Software License Conditions of the respective software provider.

MicroSENS is a registered trademark of Micro-Hybrid Electronic GmbH. All other product or company names that may be mentioned in this publication are trade names, trademarks, or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

1.4 Patent Notice

This product is protected by the relevant patents and their corresponding national rights.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of This Manual

This manual provides detailed installation, operation, calibration, and maintenance guidance for the MicroSENS 100-VS. It is intended for qualified personnel in laboratory and industrial environments responsible for installation, commissioning, and service of measurement equipment.

2.2 Product Overview and Key Features

The MicroSENS 100-VS is a robust infrared CO₂ sensor engineered for highly accurate gas concentration measurements in applications requiring vapor sterilization and long-term stability. It is specifically optimized for measuring 5-10 Vol.-% CO₂ in cell incubators to support ideal cell and tissue growth.

The MicroSENS 100-VS features automatic hardware-based compensation for temperature and pressure variations. The influence of humidity on the measurement signal can be managed and corrected via dedicated software commands, ensuring high data integrity under diverse operating conditions.

A key characteristic of the sensor is its suitability for vapor sterilization. It withstands typical decontamination cycles of 100 °C. This robust design supports excellent long-term stability and operational lifetime, even after repeated high-temperature exposure.

The sensor is intended exclusively for measuring CO₂ concentrations in clean, dry, non-corrosive gases. Typical applications include cell culture incubators, bioreactors, CO₂ shakers, laboratory climate chambers, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology systems. The MicroSENS 100-VS is designed for straightforward integration with other system components, such as incubator controllers, and provides two output options: an analog 4-20 mA current loop and a digital RS485 serial interface. This gas sensor performs an automatic zero-point correction if it detects slightly negative CO₂ readings, as will be discussed later in this manual.

This sensor has an automatic protection feature and automatically switches to standby mode upon exceeding a sensor temperature of approximately 85 °C. In standby mode, the sensor sends a message of -3000 (3 mA), meaning no CO₂ reading is available.

2.3 Symbols Used

Symbol	Name	Description
	Caution	Ignoring these instructions may damage the device or compromise data integrity. Follow all handling and operating guidelines to protect the product.
	Hot Surface	Indicates hot surfaces. Avoid contact with hot surfaces to prevent burns. Allow components to cool before touching or servicing.
	Electrical Hazard	Indicates the presence of dangerous voltage. Disconnect power and follow all electrical safety procedures before working on the device.
	WEEE Compliance	Information regarding how to dispose of this product.

2.4 Safety Information and Warnings

The sensor must not be used in explosive atmospheres, for monitoring medical breathing gases, or in any safety-critical application where device failure could cause injury or death. Only accessories supplied with the unit or explicitly approved by the manufacturer may be used. Third-party accessories must fully comply with the manufacturer's specifications.

The safety symbols, identification markings, and rating information printed on the product label, housing, or associated product marking are part of this manual and must be observed at all times. Before installation and commissioning, the operator shall ensure that all markings on the device remain legible and undamaged. If markings become unreadable or are missing, the device must not be put into operation until the issue has been resolved.

The type label or product marking may include information such as product identification, electrical ratings, interface designation, serial or batch identification, and applicable warning symbols. These markings must be considered together with the instructions in this manual.

If there is reason to believe that safe operation has been impaired, the device must be switched off or disconnected from the supply by the surrounding system, removed from service, and secured against unintentional operation until it has been inspected by qualified personnel.

Prevent condensation or liquid ingress into the optical path at all times. The device is intended for indoor use only and may be operated at altitudes up to 2000 m.

Symbol	Name	Description
	Electrical Hazard	Do not attempt to open the unit. The MicroSENS 100-VS contains no consumables or user-replaceable parts with the exception of the PTFE filter. Only cleaning of external surfaces and the PTFE filter is permitted. All internal repairs must be carried out by Micro-Hybrid or authorized service partners. Operate the sensor strictly within its rated voltage limits. Use only SELV/PELV power supplies, installed according to local electrical safety regulations. Protect all cables from damage: do not kink, over-bend, or strain cables, and do not pinch them with heavy or sharp-edged objects. Before cleaning the housing, switch off the unit and disconnect it from the power supply. Use a slightly damp, well-wrung cloth. Do not use highly flammable or aggressive solvents.
	Hot Surface	Despite the safety measures built into this product, residual risks remain, including burn hazards, if the sensor is touched immediately after a high-temperature sterilization cycle. Other risks are electrical hazards from incorrect wiring or damaged cables, and measurement errors if the sensor is installed incorrectly or exposed to condensation or liquid ingress. During operation or after exposure to elevated process temperatures, accessible parts of the device or adjacent mounting surfaces may become hot. Allow sufficient cooling time before touching, servicing, or removing the device.
	Caution	Before returning this product for calibration or repair, the user must ensure that the unit has not been exposed to dangerous contamination and can be handled safely without special protective measures. Unless explicitly specified otherwise, the device is not intended to provide protection against hazardous atmospheres, corrosive media, or chemically aggressive process conditions. Where such conditions may occur in the end application, the system integrator must verify compatibility of all wetted

and exposed materials and must ensure that failure of the device cannot create a hazardous situation.

The unit must not be modified or used in any manner not explicitly described in this documentation. Improper modification or unauthorized use may result in safety hazards, equipment damage, or reduced service life.

The sensor does not contain substances classified as hazardous and does not generate or release hazardous, corrosive, or flammable substances during normal use. If installed in systems handling hazardous gases or incubator media, the operator is responsible for appropriate safety measures and decontamination. The sensor contains no user-replaceable fuses or batteries.

When integrating the MicroSENS 100-VS into a larger system (e.g., cell incubators, climate chambers, bioreactors, shakers), the system manufacturer must ensure that the specified environmental limits are not exceeded, all connected devices meet applicable safety and EMC standards, and special operating conditions (e.g., disinfectants, incubator gases) do not impair electrical safety or sensor performance.

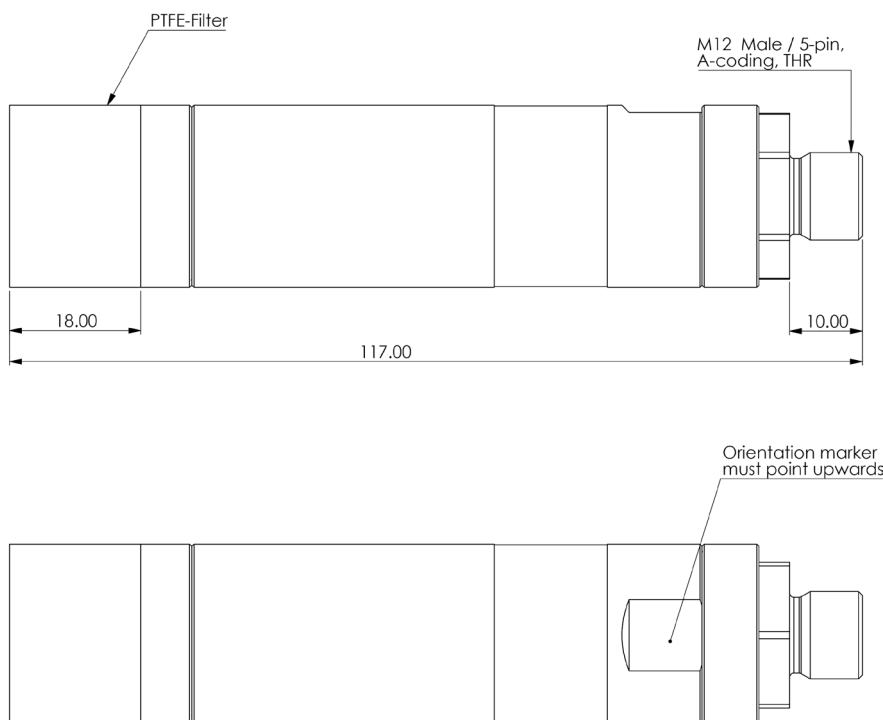
The sensor assembly is lightweight and can be safely lifted and carried by one person. No special lifting equipment is required.

The sensor is designed for continuous operation in incubators. No special duty-cycle limits apply within the specified environmental conditions.

3 Sensor Description

3.1 Mechanical Drawings and Dimensions

Sensor Overview:



3.2 Construction

The sensor is inserted through a circular opening with an upward-oriented notch that faces upwards when properly installed, ensuring defined positioning and correct alignment of the measuring system (see section 5.2 Positioning and Mounting).

The sensor consists of the following parts:



- Part 1:** Filter
- Part 2:** Infrared components
- Part 3:** Sensor electronics
- Part 4:** M12 5-pin connection to customer electronics

The sensor determines the CO₂ concentration using infrared absorption in the ambient gas. No additional flow cell or pump is required.

Electrical connection to the user's equipment is provided via a M12 5-pin Binder connector, supplying power, RS485 communication, and a 4-20 mA current output. The insulation and jacket materials of the sensor cable in the final device must be selected so that they are suitable for the intended environmental conditions and comply with all applicable safety standards. Suitable accessories are available for purchase from Micro-Hybrid upon request.

3.3 Measurement Principle

This sensor measures CO₂ using the non-dispersive infrared (NDIR) absorption principle. CO₂ molecules absorb infrared radiation at a characteristic wavelength near 4.26 µm. An infrared source emits radiation through the gas sample, and the detector - equipped with a CO₂-specific optical filter - measures the remaining light intensity. The signal reduction corresponds directly to the CO₂ concentration.

A reference channel compensates for inevitable small physical changes to the emitter over time. The dual-beam design of the MicroSENS 100-VS enables simultaneous measurement of active and reference signals, ensuring long-term stability and precise CO₂ readings across the entire measurement range.

This gas sensor performs an automatic zero-point correction if drift over time causes it to detect slightly negative CO₂ readings. This happens because negative CO₂ values are physically impossible and such readings therefore indicate a zero-point deviation and are automatically corrected. The sensor will trigger this correction only when all of the following conditions are met:

- The measured CO₂ value is between -0.05 and 0 Vol.-%.
- The sensor temperature is 40 °C or lower.
- The CO₂ value stays between -0.05 and 0 Vol.-% for at least 30 minutes.
- During those 30 minutes, the maximum temperature gradient does not exceed 1 °C/min.

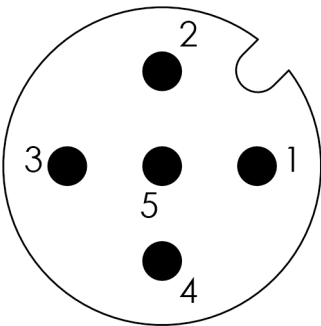
When these criteria are fulfilled, the sensor automatically adjusts the reading to 0.06 Vol.-% CO₂. This 0.06 Vol.-% point is fixed and cannot be changed.

Pressure and temperature are compensated automatically by the sensor. This function cannot be deactivated. Humidity compensation can be enabled by entering a code, as described in the appendix of this manual.

Accessories

It is possible to additionally purchase a connector cable, mounting ring with screws, and/or communication adapter for the purpose of connecting the sensor to a PC.

3.4 Connector and Pinout Details



Type: Binder M12 Female Connector

Pin plug	Electrical function
1	485+ / A
2	485- / B
3	GND
4	VCC
5	Current out

The RS485 interface uses the standard default settings: **9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit (8N1), and no flow control**. After power-on or reset, the unit is typically communication-ready within 3 seconds.

The first valid measurement is available in less than 15 seconds, and measurement values are updated every 1 second. The sensor has no external LED status indicators. All operational and diagnostic information is provided digitally. For example, an error code (e.g., -1000) is used to signal a sensor fault condition.

The system integrator must continuously monitor either the RS485 output or the 4-20 mA analog current output, and ensure the overall system responds correctly to all operating states. This includes initialization/warm-up, fault reporting, and intervals where no valid measurement is available (e.g., during self-cleaning or scheduled shutdown). System-level safety and compliance remain the responsibility of the installer or system integrator.

4 Technical Specifications

4.1 Technical Data

Parameter	Value	Unit
Measuring gas	CO ₂	
Measuring range	0 ... 20	Vol.-%
Start-up time	< 15	s
Warm-up time	< 5	min
IP protection class	IP30	
Repeatability	< 0.11	% FS
Accuracy	+/- (2 % of reading + 0.2 Vol.-%)	
Response time t90 with filter	< 25	s
Digital resolution	0.001	Vol.-%
Temperature influence	0.125	% FS / 10 K
Pressure influence	0.004	% FS / 10 hPa
Long-term stability	≤ +/- 0.2 Vol.-% at 5 Vol.-% / year	
Operating temperature	0 ... 60	°C
Storage temperature	-20 ... 85	°C
Max sterilization temperature	100	°C
Humidity	0 ... 95 % relative humidity (non-condensing)	
Air pressure	500 ... 1200	hPa

4.2 Electrical Specifications

Parameter	Specification	Unit
Operating voltage analog connection	15 ... 24	V DC
Operating voltage digital connection	12 ... 24	
Power consumption	< 2	W
Digital output	RS485	
Analog output	4 ... 20	mA

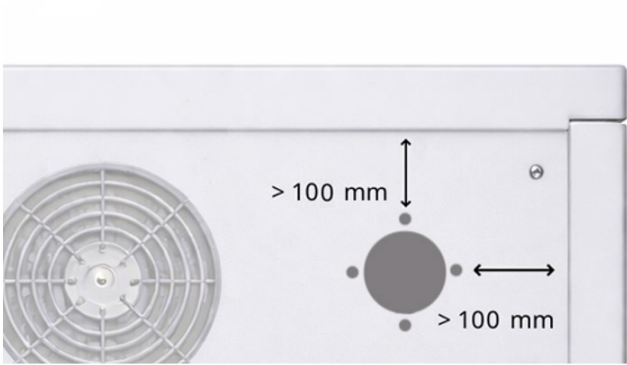
5 Installation

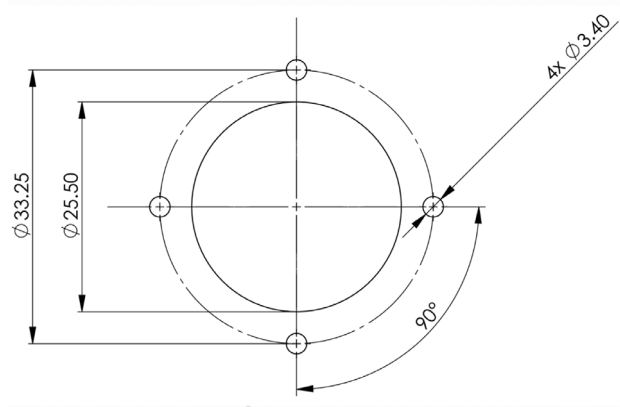
5.1 Pre-Installation Inspection

Symbol	Name	Description
	Electrical Hazard	Verify sensor integrity and filter cleanliness before installation. System integrators are responsible for ensuring compliance of the complete device with applicable safety and EMC requirements. Verify physical integrity and cleanliness of the PTFE filter, check cables and connectors for damage, and confirm correct supply voltage before connection. Protective earthing must be implemented via the incubator’s main power supply and controller in accordance with national installation standards. The sensor must only be operated in systems with a correctly installed protective grounding. The overall safety of the complete incubator or system is the responsibility of the system integrator or installer. This includes implementation of disconnecting devices, over-voltage protection, and compliance with applicable EMC and safety standards.

5.2 Positioning and Mounting

Here is an overview of all the parts we will be working with in the positioning and mounting process, followed by instructions on the placement of the mounting hole.

Step	Illustration	Description
01		Part 1: Screws (optional accessory) Part 2: Mounting ring (optional accessory) Part 3: MicroSENS 100-VS Part 4: Connection cable (optional accessory)
02		If you plan to drill a new hole in the back of your incubator wall, we recommend positioning the hole on the rear or side wall of the incubator chamber. Avoid having the hole too close to a corner, in order to allow gas to circulate freely around the sensor. A distance of at least 100 mm from the edges of the hole to the inside wall of the incubator should be maintained. This supports reliable sampling and a fast response time.



The mounting hole should match the dimensions and shape shown in the figure here. Please ensure that the thickness of the wall is at least 1 mm.

To install the sensor in the mounting hole, take the following steps:

Step	Illustration	Description
01		The black box shown in the image represents a cell incubator. Insert the sensor through the mounting ring in the direction indicated by the arrow until it protrudes outward from the incubator as shown. A moderate amount of force may be required. Rotating the sensor during insertion can make the process easier. Avoid touching the filter during installation. Make sure that the notch, marked with the red circle here, is positioned facing upward once the sensor is fully inserted. After installation, connect the sensor to your own electronics.



Caution

Before initial power-up, verify that the device has been mounted correctly, all electrical connections are properly made, and that the supply voltage is within the specified range. Ensure that the installation environment complies with the permitted ambient conditions stated in this manual.

Before commissioning, the system integrator must confirm that suitable external protective measures are provided in the final equipment, including a disconnecting means and appropriate overcurrent and overvoltage protection where required by the end application.

Do not energize the device if visible damage, contamination, moisture ingress, or incorrect wiring is suspected.

After power-on or reset, allow the sensor to complete its initialization phase before relying on measurement values or communication responses. The device is intended for integration into a larger system or final piece of equipment. The final system must provide the protective measures required for safe operation, including a suitable external disconnecting means, appropriate branch-circuit protection, and protection against transient overvoltage, where required by the installation and applicable standards.

6 Calibration and Maintenance

6.1 Calibration Principles

Every MicroSENS 100-VS that leaves Micro-Hybrid is factory-calibrated with a 15-point calibration matrix: five gas concentrations tested at three different temperatures each. Each calibration uses DAkkS-traceable reference gas to guarantee accuracy and repeatability. This multi-point approach delivers exceptional linearity across the full 0 - 20% measurement range, far exceeding the precision of many sensors that undergo a less rigorous calibration.

This sensor, like all NDIR sensors, occasionally requires the use of various calibration methods to ensure ongoing precise CO₂ measurement. We will discuss these methods further in this section – but first, here are a few general guidelines. For customers installing this sensor into an incubator, we recommend that you conduct a zero-point calibration or a clean air calibration upon initial installation of the sensor. This can be followed by a span gas calibration and, if necessary, re-verification after sterilization.

For end customers using this sensor, we recommend a clean air or reference gas calibration after every 12 sterilization cycles. One of the key advantages of this sensor is its high resistance to drift, even after numerous sterilization cycles. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the end user calibrate every 12 cycles to maintain optimal performance. Calibration should also be carried out (regardless of how many sterilization cycles have occurred) if it becomes apparent that the sensor is experiencing a loss of accuracy due to drift. We do not recommend calibrating this sensor by using a third-party sensor as a reference. Many competing sensors, unlike Micro-Hybrid sensors, do not compensate for atmospheric pressure automatically and thus we recommend they be considered not accurate enough to be used as a trusted baseline.

Three types of calibration are possible for this sensor.

Type	Name	Description
01	Zero-point calibration	Zero-point calibration establishes the sensor baseline using a reference gas with 0 Vol.-% CO ₂ (e.g., Nitrogen). This ensures that the sensor correctly interprets the absence of CO ₂ and compensates for any internal signal offset.
02	Clean air calibration	Clean air calibration establishes the sensor's baseline by exposing it to clean ambient air (approximately 0.06 Vol.-% CO ₂). This step compensates for internal signal offsets and defines the reference for "zero" CO ₂ concentration under ambient conditions.
03	Span calibration	Span calibration defines the upper reference point by exposing the sensor to a certified calibration gas with a known CO₂ concentration, typically close to the operating range (e.g., 5 Vol.-%). This ensures that the sensor output corresponds linearly to the measured gas concentration. Before a span point calibration is carried out, we recommend you first carry out either a zero-point or clean air calibration. By combining two different calibration points, the sensor achieves accurate linear interpolation across the full range. This delivers excellent long-term measurement stability and repeatable performance even under varying environmental conditions.

6.2 Zero-Point Calibration Requirements and Procedure

Before performing a **zero-point calibration**, verify that all of the following conditions are met:

Check	Condition	Description
01	Stable environment	Perform the calibration in a well-ventilated area with clean, uncontaminated air. Avoid locations near CO ₂ sources such as people, open incubators, exhaust outlets, or gas lines.

02	Reference concentration	The reference gas for zero-point calibration must be at least grade 4.0 nitrogen (99.99% purity).
03	Temperature equilibrium	The gas temperature should be approximately equal to the sensor temperature to prevent drift caused by temperature gradients. We recommend letting the reference gas container sit in the same room as the gas sensor for at least one hour before use so that both are at room temperature.
04	Gas flow	If using a gas supply, the flow rate must not exceed 1 L/min.
05	Atmospheric stability	Perform calibration under stable pressure conditions. Avoid drafts or rapid environmental changes.

Next, to perform a **zero-point calibration**, follow this procedure:

Step	Procedure
01	Power on the sensor and allow it to stabilize for at least 15 minutes.
02	Verify that the CO ₂ reading is stable.
03	Use a calibration cap to cover the sensor as you supply the gas through the tube - or, if calibration is being carried out in the incubator, flush the gas to the incubator. (A calibration cap is available for purchase from Micro-Hybrid.)
04	Continue supplying the gas until the CO ₂ levels are stable. When a cap is used, this will take approximately one minute. When the gas is flushed to the incubator, it will take approximately 15 minutes.
05	Send the zero-point calibration command STX 12030 ETX via the digital interface.
06	Wait for the sensor to return a confirmation message STX 0 ETX indicating successful calibration.
07	If calibration fails and therefore returns a result of STX 1 ETX , repeat the procedure after confirming gas purity, temperature stability, and flow conditions.
08	Once calibration is successful, record the calibration date, reference gas, and ambient conditions for quality and traceability.

6.3 Clean Air Calibration Requirements and Procedure

Before performing a **clean air calibration**, verify that all of the following conditions are met:

Check	Condition	Description
01	Stable environment	Perform the calibration in a well-ventilated area with clean, uncontaminated air. Avoid locations near CO ₂ sources such as people, open incubators, exhaust outlets, or gas lines.
02	Atmospheric stability	Perform calibration under stable pressure conditions. Avoid drafts or rapid environmental changes.

Next, to perform a **clean air calibration**, follow this procedure:

Step	Procedure
01	Power on the sensor and allow it to stabilize for at least 15 minutes.
02	Verify that the CO ₂ reading is stable.
03	In order to perform a clean air calibration, send the zero-point calibration command STX 120360 ETX which sets the reference value to 0.06 Vol.-% CO ₂ (600 ppm). (The 0.06 Vol.-% mentioned here is a general recommended figure. In real-world conditions, different rooms will typically have a CO ₂ measurement of between 0.04 and 0.08 Vol.-%. The operator of this sensor is free to adjust this figure as best suits their particular use case.)
04	Verify the response STX 0 ETX indicating successful calibration.
05	Record the calibration result, environmental conditions, and date for documentation.

6.4 Span Calibration Requirements and Procedure

Before performing a **span gas calibration**, verify that all of the following conditions are met:

Check	Condition	Description
01	Test gas	Use test gas with a dry and clean CO ₂ concentration between 0.500 and 20 Vol.-%.
02	Thermal stability	Ensure that the sensor has reached thermal stability before starting the span calibration.
03	Temperature equilibrium	The gas temperature should be approximately equal to the sensor temperature to prevent drift caused by temperature gradients. We recommend you let the reference gas container sit in the same room as the gas sensor for at least an hour before the gas is used, and that they be at room temperature.
04	Gas flow	If using a gas supply, the flow rate must not exceed 1 L/min.
05	Atmospheric stability	Perform calibration under stable pressure conditions. Avoid drafts or rapid environmental changes.

Next, to perform a **span gas calibration**, follow this procedure:

Step	Procedure
01	Power on the sensor and allow it to stabilize for at least 15 minutes.
02	Verify that the CO ₂ reading is stable.
03	Introduce the span gas and allow the reading to stabilize.
04	The command you send to initiate a span calibration will include the Vol.-% of the span gas you are using. For example, send Command STX 14055000 ETX if you are using a span gas of 5.0 Vol.-%. For a span gas with a 20 Vol.-% concentration, enter the command STX 140520000 ETX .

05	Wait for the confirmation message STX 0 ETX indicating successful calibration.
06	If calibration fails - producing a reading of STX 1 ETX - repeat the procedure after confirming gas purity, temperature stability, and flow conditions.
07	Calibration parameters are stored permanently in the sensor's internal memory, unless a factory reset is performed.

6.5 Routine Maintenance and Cleaning

Symbol	Name	Description
	Hot Surface	Always handle the sensor by its housing. All electronic components must remain outside any heated chamber.

To ensure long-term stability and accurate measurement results, the sensor should be visually inspected and maintained at regular intervals. Avoid touching or removing the PTFE filter itself, except for the purpose of replacing it.

Keep the filter clean and dry. Periodically check the PTFE filter or other protective membrane for dust or biological residue, without removing it. If a filter is ever removed, it should be replaced. If contamination is observed, carefully wipe the surface with a slightly damp, lint-free cloth. Alternatively, replacement filters are available for purchase from Micro-Hybrid upon request.

Depending on the application, especially after long periods of continuous operation or following 12 high-temperature sterilization cycles, we recommend the user perform signal verification, and if drift is noticed, perform zero-point calibration or clean air calibration. Check the plausibility of the readings to ensure they are within the expected range.

6.6 General Handling Guidelines, Troubleshooting, and Integration into End System

General Handling Guidelines:

- Change the filter in a dust-free environment and ensure no dust enters the apparatus.
- If a filter is ever removed, it should be replaced.
- Avoid stress on the connecting cables: never handle the apparatus by the cable or excessively twist/turn it.
- When the filter is attached to the housing, avoid touching it.
- Prevent mechanical stress, vibration, or bending forces on the connector and mounting threads
- Avoid exposing the sensor to aggressive, corrosive, or solvent vapors, and never clean it with agents containing acetone, toluene, or ammonia.

When storing the sensor, ensure it is kept in a dry, dust-free environment with temperatures ranging from -20 °C to +85 °C and relative humidity below 95% (non-condensing), as specified in the datasheet. Avoid long-term exposure to high humidity, corrosive atmospheres, or direct sunlight. During transport, the sensor should be properly protected in the original packaging in order to prevent mechanical shock or vibration damage.

Troubleshooting

When troubleshooting this sensor, it is possible to receive three distinct codes from it:

Code	Description											
Status code -3000	Status code -3000 means the sensor is in standby mode because it is over 85 °C. Solution: wait for the sensor to cool down.											
Status code -2000	Status code -2000 means the sensor is not yet ready to measure gas because it has not completed its warm-up phase. Solution: wait more than 15 seconds.											
Error code -1000	Error code -1000 is somewhat more complicated. This error code means that the sensor is currently unable to measure CO₂. This can happen for various reasons, clarified in the section below. More than one -1000 error may be seen if the temperature and/or air pressure values detected fall outside of expected measurement ranges. To explain, let's look at a command string and sensor response string in which no error occurs, and then discuss what additional error codes in different sensor string positions mean.											
Command string	STX 1100 ETX											
Example of sensor response string with no errors	<table><tr><td>STX 7 12345 1200 376 980 ETX</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>= Sensor ID</td></tr><tr><td>12345 / 2</td><td>= Timestamp (6172.5 s ≈ 1.7 h)</td></tr><tr><td>1200</td><td>= 1.2 Vol.-% CO₂ concentration</td></tr><tr><td>376</td><td>= Sensor temperature 37.6 °C</td></tr><tr><td>980</td><td>= Air pressure 980 hPa</td></tr></table>	STX 7 12345 1200 376 980 ETX	7	= Sensor ID	12345 / 2	= Timestamp (6172.5 s ≈ 1.7 h)	1200	= 1.2 Vol.-% CO ₂ concentration	376	= Sensor temperature 37.6 °C	980	= Air pressure 980 hPa
STX 7 12345 1200 376 980 ETX												
7	= Sensor ID											
12345 / 2	= Timestamp (6172.5 s ≈ 1.7 h)											
1200	= 1.2 Vol.-% CO ₂ concentration											
376	= Sensor temperature 37.6 °C											
980	= Air pressure 980 hPa											

If you see a response string containing a -1000 error in the **third sensor string position**, this corresponds to **CO₂ measurement**:

STX 7 12345 -1000 376 980 ETX

This -1000 error could have been reported for a number of reasons. A command could have been entered incorrectly, causing the sensor to misinterpret a request. Another possible cause is that a zero-point calibration took place with far too much CO₂ in the area. (In either case, perform a factory reset and then run a zero-point calibration. If the issue persists after these steps, the sensor requires professional service.)

It is also possible to receive additional -1000 errors in the same sensor response string.

For example, here is an example with a second -1000 error in the string. It is in the **fourth sensor string position**, which corresponds to **temperature measurement**:

STX 7 12345 -1000 -1000 980 ETX

This means both the CO₂ and temperature value reported were outside the valid expected range.

Here is another example where the temperature measurement position is valid, but an additional -1000 error in the **fifth sensor string position**, which corresponds to **air pressure measurement**. This sensor string is reporting that the CO₂ and air pressure measurements are both outside of the valid expected range:

STX 7 12345 -1000 376 -1000 ETX

Finally, one last example, indicating two additional -1000 errors in the **fourth and fifth sensor string positions**, meaning that in total **CO₂ measurement**, **temperature measurement** and **air pressure measurement** have reported values outside of expected ranges.

Here is what ranges of values are expected:

Code	Range accepted
Error Code -1000 (CO ₂ concentration position)	The accepted returned numerical range for CO ₂ concentration is -500 to 25000 (corresponding to -0.5 to 25 Vol.-%)
Error Code -1000 (temperature measurement position)	The accepted returned numerical range for CO ₂ concentration is -200 to 2500 (corresponding to -20 to 250 °C)
Error Code -1000 (air pressure measurement position)	The accepted range for air pressure is 500 to 1200 (corresponding to 500 to 1200 hPa)

It is unlikely that your environmental conditions will legitimately fall outside those limits, but not impossible. If you receive a -1000 error, please verify that the environment is within these valid ranges. If abnormal drift or persistent -1000 errors continue despite a factory reset and zero-point calibration, the sensor requires professional service.

Integration into End System

This device is intended to be installed as part of a larger electrical or laboratory system. Compliance of the complete installation depends not only on the device itself, but also on the design, wiring, protective measures, enclosure, software behavior, and operating concept of the final equipment.

The manufacturer of the final system, or the system integrator, is responsible for verifying that the complete system complies with all applicable safety, EMC, and performance requirements for the intended application.

This includes, but is not limited to, assessment of:

- correct power supply design
- electrical protection measures
- safe behavior in case of sensor fault, warm-up, missing communication, or invalid measurement values
- environmental protection against moisture, condensation, and contamination
- suitability for the intended installation environment



Caution

The device shall only be operated within the electrical, mechanical, and environmental limits specified in this manual.

The device must not be operated:

- outside the specified supply voltage range
- outside the permitted ambient temperature, humidity, pressure, or altitude limits
- in a condition where condensation, dripping liquid, or moisture ingress can affect the electronics
- with damaged housing parts, damaged cables, or missing protective components
- with accessories, replacement parts, or connection components not approved or specified by the manufacturer
- in any application for which the device is not intended

If safe operation is no longer possible, the device must be taken out of service and secured against unintended use.

Except for the procedures explicitly described in this manual, the device contains no user-serviceable parts. No parts other than the specified replaceable filter, if applicable, are intended for replacement by the operator.

Repairs, internal servicing, and replacement of components not explicitly identified for user replacement may only be carried out by the manufacturer or by personnel authorized by the manufacturer. Only manufacturer-approved spare parts and accessories shall be used.

Before cleaning, disconnect the device from the supply via the surrounding system and ensure that the device cannot be energized unintentionally. Only cleaning methods and agents that do not attack the housing, seals, cable materials, filter materials, or markings shall be used. Do not allow liquids to enter the device.

If the device has been exposed to hazardous substances, biologically active media, or other contamination during use, the operator must ensure appropriate decontamination before handling, return, or service.

7 Support, Regulatory, and Warranty Information

7.1 Support

We're here to support your NDIR journey. We want you to enjoy working with your NDIR sensor and to be successful in your measurements. This manual is designed to answer the most common questions along the way, but if anything remains unclear, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our team is always happy to help.

Contact	Detail
Address	Micro-Hybrid Electronic GmbH Heinrich-Hertz-Str. 8 07629 Hermsdorf, Germany
Telephone	+49 36601 592-0
Contact email	contact@microhybrid.com
Further Information	www.microhybrid.com

7.2 Warranty

All rights reserved. All information in this document is based on the latest knowledge, results of practical experience, and tests carried out. Earlier specifications are hereby invalid. All specifications - technical included - are subject to change without notice. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that the performance of the product is suitable for customer's specific application. No liability is accepted for indirect damage, in particular for the use or inability to use the product. Any liability we may have is limited to the value of the product itself.

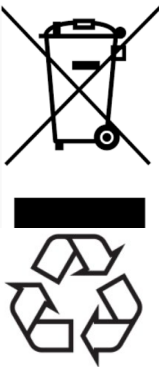
Opening the sensor as well as tampering with or damaging the device will void the warranty.

The warranty will also be voided if aggressive chemicals are used, contamination or liquids enter the device, or the instructions in this communication description are not observed.

Micro-Hybrid Electronic GmbH accepts no liability for consequential damage or damage to property or personal injury caused by failure to observe the module and communication description.



7.3 Safety and Compliance

Symbol	Name	Description
	WEEE Compliance	Do not dispose of this device as household waste. Dispose of it in accordance with local Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.

7.4 End-of-Life and Disposal

At the end of its service life, the sensor must be disposed of in accordance with applicable local, national, and international regulations for electronic components and materials.

Step	Procedure
01	Do not dispose of the sensor as household waste. It contains electronic components and materials that require proper recycling.
02	Dispose of the device through an authorized electronic waste collection point.
03	If applicable, remove cables, connectors, and mounting components before disposal.
04	Ensure that all contaminated parts (e.g., components exposed to gases or incubator media) are cleaned or treated in accordance with laboratory safety standards before disposal.

For service and returns:
Micro-Hybrid Electronic GmbH, Hermsdorf, Germany
Email: contact@microhybrid.com
Website: www.microhybrid.com

8 Appendix: Protocol description for CO₂ Gas Sensor Software

8.1 Error and Status Codes

UART Values	Current Values	Description
-1000	1 mA	Sensor defective
-2000	2 mA	Initialization phase
-3000	3 mA	No measurement currently possible
(-500) ... 0 ... 20000 ... (100000)	4 – 20 mA	Sensor OK. CO ₂ concentration (-0.5) 0 ... 20 (100) Vol.-%

Standard Port Settings:

Baud rate	9600
Data bits	8
Parity	none
Stop bit	1
Flow control	none

Timing:

Ready for communication after reset / power on	3 s
First measurement value after reset / power on	< 15 s
Measurement data update rate	1 s

8.2 Interface Protocol

Communication is realized with the help of ASCII characters. Transmitting and reading can be handled with terminal software like Windows HyperTerminal.

A standard command string is shown below:

Start	Command (4 characters)	Parameter 1	SP	Parameter 2	Stop
STX (Hex 0x02)	"1100"	"0"	0x20	"0"	ETX (Hex 0x03)

The sensor response uses the same frame structure. The different values are separated by the 'space' character: (**SP** - 0x20). All values are formatted as integers.

Example: Get Measurement Data

ASCII-String	STX	"1"	"1"	"0"	"0"	ETX
Hex	0x02	0x31	0x31	0x30	0x30	0x03

8.3 Commands Overview

Get Measurement Data (1100)

The "Get Measurement Data" command provides the sensor serial number, the timestamp followed by the actual measured value for CO₂ concentration, sensor temperature and air pressure. The temperature and pressure values are used for internal compensation algorithms. The update rate for the measurement value is 1 second. At temperatures above 85 °C, the sensor will automatically switch off the emitter. During this time, no measurement is possible and the CO₂ concentration value is fixed at -3000. When the temperature drops below 85 °C, the sensor automatically restarts the measurement process.

Command string:	"1100"
Parameter:	none
Sensor response:	STX Serial ID Sensor SP Timestamp [s * 2] SP CO ₂ concentration [Vol.-% * 1000] SP Sensor temperature [°C *10] SP Air pressure [hPa] ETX

Example:

Command string:	STX 1100 ETX
Sensor response:	STX 7 12345 1200 376 980 ETX
Decoded string:	SensorID = 7 Timestamp = 12345 / 2 = 6172.5 s = 1.7 h CO ₂ concentration = 1.2 Vol.-% Sensor temperature = 37.6 °C Air pressure = 980 hPa

Parameter	Min Value	Max Value	Error Value
SensorID	0	4294967295	-
Timestamp	0	4294967295	-
CO ₂ concentration	-500	100000	-1000 / -2000 /-3000
Sensor Temperature	-200	2500	-1000
Air pressure	600	1200	-1000

Zero Point Adjustment Command (1203)

The "Zero Point Adjustment" command performs a recalculation of the calibration parameter to align the present CO₂ measurement concentration to the set concentration. The alignment is possible for a concentration range up to 0.5 Vol.-%. After a successful adjustment, the new calibration parameters are saved permanently in the sensor.

Command string:	"1203"	
Parameter:	set concentration [Vol.-% * 1000] Possible Range (0 ... 0.5 Vol.-%)	
Sensor response:	STX 0 adjustment successful or 1 adjustment failed ETX	

Example:

Command string:	STX 120340 ETX (zero point adjustment to 0.04 Vol.-%)
Sensor response:	STX 0 ETX (adjustment successful)

The procedure for adjusting the calibration is as follows:

- The sensor should be powered on for a minimum of 15 minutes in a thermally constant atmosphere and fixed in the final installation position.
- If using zero gas, the nominal gas flow should not exceed 1 L /min and the gas temperature should be equal to sensor temperature.
- Wait until the concentration has stabilized.
- Send command "zero point adjustment" with the zero point concentration as parameter.

Change Baud Rate Command (1302)

The "Change Baud Rate" command allows adapting the sensor baud rate to the baud rate of the customer host systems. The new baud rate setting will be permanently saved in the sensor and activated at the next sensor restart.

Command string:	"1302"	
Parameter:	0	115200 Baud
	1	57600 Baud
	2	38400 Baud
	3	19200 Baud
	4	9600 Baud
	5	4800 Baud
	6	2400 Baud
Sensor response:	STX 0 adjustment successful or 1 adjustment failed ETX	

Span Point Adjustment Command (1405)

The "Span Point Adjustment" command performs a recalculation of the calibration parameter to align the present CO₂ measurement concentration to the set concentration. The alignment is possible for a concentration range from 0.5 Vol.-% up to 20 Vol.-%. After a successful adjustment, the new calibration parameters are saved permanently in the sensor.

Command string:	"1405"	
Parameter:	set concentration [Vol.-% * 1000] Possible Range (0.5 ... 20 Vol.-%)	
Sensor response:	STX 0 adjustment successful or 1 adjustment failed ETX	

Example:

Command string:	STX 14055000 ETX	(span point adjustment to 5.0 Vol.-%)
Sensor response:	STX 0 ETX	(adjustment successful)

The procedure for adjusting the calibration is as follows:

- The sensor should be powered on for a minimum of 15 minutes in a thermally constant atmosphere.
- Fixed in the final installation position.
- If necessary, perform a zero-point adjustment first (Command 2: Zero Point Adjustment).
- The nominal gas flow should not exceed 1 L/min and the gas temperature should be equal to sensor temperature.
- Wait until the concentration has stabilized.
- Send command "span point adjustment" with the reference concentration as parameter.

Humidity Compensation H₂O Partial Pressure Command (1706)

The "Humidity Compensation H₂O Partial Pressure" command performs an internal compensation algorithm to reduce the humidity influence of the CO₂ measurement. The humidity parameter is stored temporarily in the sensor and all following CO₂ measured values are compensated with the last setting. After power-on or sensor reset, the humidity value is automatically set to 0 hPa (compensation off). If the humidity parameter is out of possible input range, the last valid value will be transmitted as sensor response.

Command string:	"1706"	
Parameter:	Humidity [hPa * 10]	Possible Range (0 ... 200 hPa)
Sensor response:	STX Humidity [hPa * 10] ETX	received parameter

Example:

Command string:	STX 1706590 ETX	(set current humidity to 59.0 hPa)
Sensor response:	STX 590 ETX	(confirm received value)

Humidity Compensation H₂O and Temperature Command (1809)

The "Humidity Compensation H₂O and Temperature" command performs an internal compensation algorithm to reduce the humidity influence of the CO₂ measurement. This command performs the same humidity compensation as Command 5, "Humidity Compensation H₂O Partial Pressure", but additionally converts temperature and relative humidity to absolute humidity. The humidity parameter is stored temporarily in the sensor and all following CO₂ measured values are compensated with the last setting. After power-on or sensor reset, the humidity value is automatically set to 0 hPa (compensation off).

Command string:	"1809"	
Parameter 1:	relative humidity [%rH]	Possible Range (0 ... 100 %rH)
Parameter 2:	temperature [°C * 10]	Possible Range (0 ... 600)
Sensor response:	STX 0 adjustment successful or 1 adjustment failed ETX	

Example:

Command string:	STX180990 370 ETX	(set current humidity to 90 %rH at 37 °C)
Sensor response:	STX0 ETX	(confirm received value)

Sensor Reset Command (1908)

The "Sensor Reset" command performs a software reset and a reinitialization of all sensor parameters. All user-defined settings are kept.

Command string:	"1908"
Parameter:	none
Sensor response:	none

Set Factory Default Command (5005)

The command "Set Factory Default" sets all sensor parameters and calibration parameters to factory default values. All user-defined settings are deleted.

Command string:	"5005"	
Parameter:	none	
Sensor response:	STX 0 adjustment successful or 1 adjustment failed ETX	

Firmware Version Command (5104)

The command "Firmware Version" provides a string with the current firmware version.

Command string:	"5104"
-----------------	--------

Parameter:	none
------------	------

Sensor response:	STX Software version number ETX
------------------	---

Example:

Command string:	STX 5104 ETX
-----------------	----------------------------

Sensor response:	STX V3.41 ETX
------------------	-----------------------------
