

February 26, 2008

TEAM UPDATE #12

GENERAL NOTICES

Modifications to rules are highlighted in **yellow**.

Labeling 120A Main Breakers & Pressure Relief Valves:

In the interest of proliferating good ideas, we would like to invite teams to clearly and obviously label the main 120A circuit breaker and any pressure relief valves on their robot. Clearly labeled main breakers and relief valves result in a safer robot, as it increases the ability for anyone to quickly and safely shut down a robot or exhaust the stored, pneumatic energy. Labeling these items is a recommendation, not a requirement. If these items are not labeled, it is not justification for a failed inspection. Many thanks to Dan Katanski, lead robot inspector, who has taken the time to draft labels that you can use. The files are posted on the *FIRST* website below the Inspection Checklist,

<http://www.usfirst.org/community/frc/content.aspx?id=452>.

Feel free to print the labels and bring them with you to your event!

PIC Programming at the Events:

We (*FIRST* staff) are aware that several *FIRST* IR boards have stopped working due to PIC code corruption. While the cause for the code corruption is unconfirmed (please refer to [Team Update #10](#)), the boards can be fixed by reprogramming the Microchip processor with upgraded PIC code. The upgraded PIC code has been posted to the [Additional Technical Resources](#) page on the *FIRST* website,

FIRST will also make the required resources for PIC reprogramming available at the FRC Regional Competitions. A designated volunteer or *FIRST* staff member at the event will provide the reprogramming service. Teams are not invited to do it themselves. The PIC reprogramming will be effective for *FIRST* IR boards that are otherwise in good shape. Reprogramming the PIC will not be effective if the board has been fried, dropped, drowned, eaten, burned, frosted, or otherwise damaged.

PIC reprogramming will be offered on the practice day of the event from 12pm to 2pm. The location will be determined and announced at the event. PIC reprogramming is only necessary once and is a quick process (less than 1 minute per board).

Having your *FIRST* IR PIC reprogrammed is completely optional, and is not required for use of the *FIRST* IR board in the Competition. Also, reprogramming a PIC on a functioning board is not necessary, but recommended, as the upgraded PIC code

includes added safeguards against PIC code corruption.

It is important to remember that once your PIC has been reprogrammed, you must re-train your *FIRST* IR board for the remote with which it will be used.

Section 0 – Introduction

No changes.

Section 1 - Communication

No changes.

Section 2 – Team Organization

No changes.

Section 3 – At the Events

No changes.

Section 4 – Robot Transportation

No changes.

Section 5 - The Awards

No changes.

Section 6 – The Arena

No changes.

Section 7 – The Game

No changes.

Section 8 – The Robot

The Inspection Checklist, Rev F, has been modified to include the following changes:

- Added statement to remind inspectors to add labels for robots that can exceed 80"
- Changed the motor per Victor/Spike inspection item to allow only one motor per Victor/Spike

Section 9 – The Tournament

No changes.

Section 10 – The Kit of Parts

No changes.

***FIRST* Guidelines, Tips and Good Practices**

No changes.