

February 16, 2010

TEAM UPDATE #11

GENERAL NOTICES

Weather affects build season:

From Bill's Blog, 2/15/10:

Over the last week, I received several requests to extend the FRC build season due to the unprecedented snow in the mid-Atlantic region. I had to take a number of items into consideration as I looked for a way to accommodate those requests.

Robot Ship Date is set every year well in advance so that FedEx, UPS and the drayage companies may all make special arrangements for the unusual volume of activity FRC creates on a single day in February. Moving Robot Ship date back may hamper on-time delivery of robots to week one events and is expected to increase costs. Plus there is the challenge of finding a fair and equitable way of determining which teams were affected by the snow and which were not.

The Game Design Committee and I decided that, although Robot Ship Day must remain February 23rd, this year, all FRC teams will be allowed to hold back 65 pounds of their robot's weight on Robot Ship Day. (That's roughly half of the total weight of an FRC robot.) Teams may continue to work on the items they hold back and then hand-deliver the items to their event.

As you pack your robot for shipment, please keep in mind the 2010 shipping overage rules mentioned in my December 15th blog and outlined in Section 4.4.2.3 of the Game Manual. If your crate exceeds 400 pounds (a possibility if you send a full crate to the event, then add the 65 pounds of items you hand carried in before you ship it home or to your next event) the drayage company will charge your team an overage fee for their portion of the pickup or delivery and FedEx will take the extra cost of shipping your overweight crate out of the FedEx donation thereby affecting all FRC teams. Please pack carefully.

Software updates:

Please note that National Instruments has posted updates that are required for all teams. Teams are reminded that they must have the most recent version of the software to compete.

- FRC LabVIEW Update 2.1 for 2010
<http://joule.ni.com/nidu/cds/view/p/lang/en/id/1534>
Required for all teams, regardless of if their using LabVIEW for programming because it also updates the cRIO image.
Teams will see a message and link on the LabVIEW Getting Started Window.
- Driver Station Update 1.1 for 2010
<http://joule.ni.com/nidu/cds/view/p/lang/en/id/1535>
Required for all teams to install on the classmate.

Please note that the links are the same as the current location - NI just updated the zip files to download.

NI has posted information about the “fixed and known issues” for the updates here: <http://digital.ni.com/public.nsf/websearch/487FB316344500E6862576C8004CC32D?OpenDocument>.

Section 0 – Introduction through Section 6 – The Arena

No changes.

Section 7 – The Game

Section 7 - The Game, Rev I has been updated to fix typos accidentally included after the incorporation of *Team Update #10*. It is now true to the edits described in *Team Update #10*.

Section 8 – The Robot

Section 8 - The Robot, Rev I has been updated to include the following edits:

WITHHOLDING ALLOWANCE – A limited amount of FABRICATED ITEMS that are withheld from the ROBOT shipping requirements (specified in **Section 4**) and retained by the team following the shipping deadlines. These items are then hand-carried to a competition event by the team. The OPERATOR CONSOLE is automatically included in the WITHHOLDING ALLOWANCE. Beyond that, the incoming material maximums specified in Rule <R38> limits the amount of FABRICATED ITEMS included in the WITHHOLDING ALLOWANCE.

Please note that for “Bag & Tag” teams attending 2-day events, the WITHHOLDING ALLOWANCE is fixed for the entire period between robot ship date and the start of the competition season. This means that teams cannot withhold certain FABRICATED items after ship date, but then exchange them for other items during their “Robot Access Period” as described in Section 4.8.3.1.

<R38> Teams may bring a maximum of ~~65~~40 pounds of custom FABRICATED ITEMS (SPARE PARTS, REPLACEMENT PARTS, and UPGRADE PARTS, plus all WITHHOLDING ALLOWANCE items) to each competition event to be used to repair and/or upgrade their ROBOT at the competition site. All other FABRICATED ITEMS to be used on the ROBOT during the competition shall arrive at the competition venue packed in the shipping crate or lockout bag with the ROBOT.

- A. Exception: the OPERATOR CONSOLE is not included in the incoming parts weight restriction.
- B. Exception: Any competition legal 12V batteries and their associated half of the Anderson cable quick connect/disconnect pair (including no more than 12 inches of cable per leg, the associated cable lugs, connecting bolts, and insulating electrical tape) are not included in the incoming parts weight restriction.

<R77> The relief valve must be attached directly to the compressor. **If the relief valve is already set to 125psi, teams are not allowed to adjust it. If the relief valve is not set to 125psi, teams are required to adjust to release air at 125psi.** The valve **may or may not have** been calibrated prior **to being supplied to teams.**

Section 9 – The Tournament through Section 10 – The Kit Of Parts

No changes.