



ISOBUS in Functionalities

www.aef-isobus-database.org

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ISOBUS and AEF

Electronics increase the safety, effectiveness, precision and efficiency of agricultural equipment. In the past, however, every manufacturer used their own proprietary solutions, which required special adaption for every combination of tractor and implements. Even simple things like a speed signal frequently presented a certain obstacle. ISOBUS will simplify this by offering a plug and play solution for the future: only one terminal for a large selection of implements, regardless of the manufacturer. All signals, such as speed, position of the

lower links, power take-off RPM, etc. are available in standardized form for each implement. The communication between the implement and the farm management system is also standardized and simplified through the use of ISO-XML.



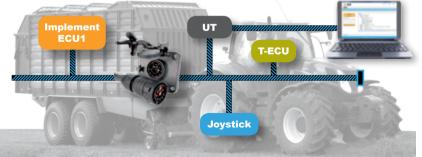




What makes an ISOBUS System?

A modern ISOBUS system consists of various components, including the tractor, terminal and implement. It is always a question of the performance of the terminal and implement

and, enventually, of the installed options.
 For increased transparency functionalities have been defined.





AEF ISOBUS Functionalities

An ISOBUS functionality is a product which can be explained and sold to the end user as a separate "module" on the ISOBUS.

One or more functionalities can be bundled together into a retail product intended to interconnect with other products that contain AEF functionalities.

In an ISOBUS system only the least common denominator of functionalities can be used. Only functionalities supported by all components involved are available. And only then the famous "plug and play" will work.

The description of the functionalities provided here is of course highly condensed. Details can be found in the relevant AEF publications.



UT - Universal Terminal

The capability of operating an implement with any terminal; also, the capability of using one terminal for operating different implements.





Auxiliary Control

AUX-O – Auxiliary Control "old" AUX-N – Auxiliary Control "new"

Additional control elements that facilitate the operation of complex equipment, such as a joystick; also, the capability of controlling implement functions by means of an additional control element.

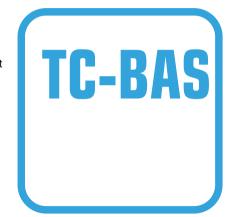
There are an "old" and a "new" auxiliary control which are not compatible. Implements and functions certified according to AUX-N cannot be operated with input devices certified according to AUX-O and vice versa.





TC-BAS — Task Controller basic (totals)

Describes the documentation of total values that are relevant for the work performed. The implement provides the values. For the exchange of data between farm management system and Task Controller the ISO-XML data format is used. Jobs can easily be imported to the task controller and/or the finished documentation can be exported later.





TC-GEO — Task Controller geo-based (variables)

Additional capability of acquiring location-based data — or planning of location-based jobs, as for example by means of application maps.





TC-SC — Task Controller Section Control

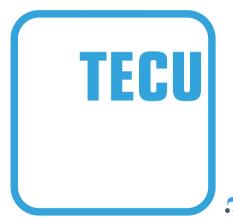
Automatic switching of sections, as with a plant protection sprayer, based on GPS position and desired degree of overlap.





TECU - Basic Tractor ECU

The tractor ECU is the tractor's "job calculator". This provides information, such as speed, power take-off RPM, etc. For the certification of this functionality, a connector on the back of the tractor and a terminal outlet in the cab are needed.

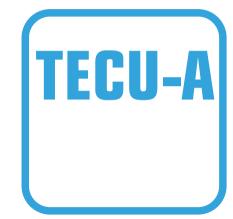




TECU-A — Advanced Tractor ECU

Under development

While the communication with TECU is uni-directional, i.e. the tractor provides certain information, TECU-A features the capability of bi-directional communication. The implement can include the tractor in its control process, for example by requesting a change in speed, 3-point linkage, etc. ("implement controls tractor").





SQC – Sequence Control

Under development

Describes the capability of grouping different functions of different ISOBUS components in a sequence (i.e. headland management). This functionality is currently under revision.





ISB - ISOBUS Shortcut Button

Under development

ISB makes it possible to deactivate functions of an implement that were activated by means of an ISOBUS terminal. This is necessary when the implement in question is not currently in the foreground, for example when several implements are being controlled by a single ISOBUS terminal. Which functions an ISB is able to deactivate on an implement can vary widely and must be defined by the respective manufacturer.





AEF Conformance Test and AEF Certification

The AEF conformance test project team has developed an automated ISOBUS test tool for assurance of conformance of ISOBUS components with the ISO 11783 standard. The tool will test functionalities exceeding the standard, such as section control, which were defined in the AEF Functionality Guidelines. The aim is a clearer description of the effectiveness of a manufacturerindependent ISOBUS system and increased operational reliability for the farmer. The tool is also available for the development

departments of AEF members, to enable continuous checking for compliance with the standard during the development phase of their own ISOBUS products.

Furthermore, independent international and regional test institutes commissioned by the AEF will use the same AEF test tool worldwide to test ISOBUS products in a manufacturer-independent environment against the standard and the AEF directives.



This certification process is obligatory for AEF members in order to make data for certified components available for the AEF database and for the general public.

This is supported by the newly developed AEF certification label. It confirms that the product tested complies with the ISO 11783 standard and furthermore with the supplementary AEF ISOBUS Functionality Guidelines.



Previous ISOBUS Conformance Test

The DLG certification has been used since 2000 when the first ISOBUS systems were introduced to the market. At that time, there was one functionality only: UT (Universal Terminal). Due to further development of the ISO 11783 standard and the AEF guidelines, new functionalities were defined such as Auxiliaries, Section Control, Sequence Control etc. However, certified systems still receive the ISOBUS label. But except for the implement-UT communication the end user does not know which other functionalities are included or certified or which additional



functionalities are needed to get an ISOBUS system running (i.e. Auxilliary for sprayers).



That is why the AEF has introduced a communication concept based on functionalities and an update of the ISOBUS label that will, in conjunction with the AEF ISOBUS Database. provide more information. This will be possible through the new AEF conformance test and certification. But as the ISO 11783 standard is constantly being expanded and revised the coming AEF conformance test will be undergoing constant development as well.

The result:

Besides the fact that the product complies with the ISO 11783 standard the user will also know which functionalities it supports.

ISOBUS performance test:

As a supplement to conformance, manufacturers therefore test their products in manufacturer-independent performance tests (such as the DLG-ISOBUS practical test, for example). These performance tests can include subjective, non-standardized test criteria that provide the user with useful results for practical application of the components. They are not standardized.



The AEF Certification Label

The new AFF certification label shows that ISOBUS components comply with the ISO 11783 standard and also with the supplementary AEF guidelines. The product successfully completed the newly developed AEF certification process. Six abbreviations in small squares symbolize functions, three squares with three dots each indicate that the system is open and expandable. Detailed information on the certified product can be found in the AEF database www.aef-isobus-database.org.

For the use of multiple components within the same ISOBUS system the functionality icons can be compared within the database to identify the lowest common denominator. Only functionalities which are supported by all components involved can be used jointly.







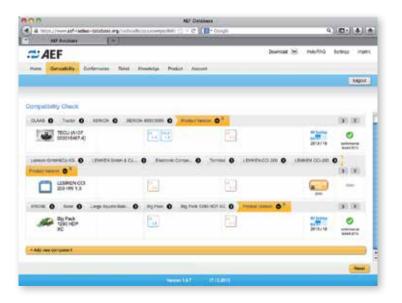
AEF ISOBUS Database

Who is responsible if components do not work together: the manufacturer of the tractor or of the implement? How do I find a fully ISOBUS-compatible implement for my ISOBUS tractor, in order to make use of the enormous advantages of the system? Is my existing implement perhaps ISOBUS-certified and compatible with the new ISOBUS tractor to be purchased? And if so, which functionalities can I use with the combination? These and many other questions are now answered by the AEF ISOBUS Database www.aef-isobus-database.org.

It contains all relevant information on all ISOBUS-certified machines and equipment. After selecting a combination of tractor and implements with a few mouse clicks, the user can see immediately if the selected combination is compatible and which Functionalities it is equipped with. Alternatives can also be compared with each other. If an implement cannot be found in the database, it is not certified.

The database helps retailers in advising their customers and also facilitates troubleshooting







by the after sales service department. This can significantly reduce downtime.

simplify the processes for conformity tests and

certifications.

Also, the industry collects reports on problems

in the database and this information remains.

available in the form of an ISOBUS knowledge base. It can also be used by the retailer's after sales service department for faster on-site diagnosis and troubleshooting. At the same time companies can use the database to

The database is updated continuously, since it is also used for determining the conformance

of machines and implements with the ISOBUS standard as well as the certification of this conformance.



Links

www.aef-online.org www.aef-isobus-database.org

Literature

AEF ISOBUS Guidelines etc.

