Alarm.com Fire Communicator (ADC-FC100) - Frequently Asked Questions

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Fire Alarm Basics

What is a FACP?

Fire Alarm Control Panels (FACPs) are specialized security panels that warn people at the installation site of a fire-related emergency. These are common in many of the buildings we enter every day.

What is NFPA 72?

NFPA 72 is the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, and as stated in its scope: "NFPA 72 covers the application, installation, location, performance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarm systems, supervising station alarm systems, public emergency alarm reporting systems, fire and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment, and emergency communications systems (ECS), and their components."

What do NAC and SLC mean?

- **NAC**: Notification Appliance Circuit. This circuit connects fire alarm system output devices, such as bells, horns, strobes, and speakers, to the fire alarm panel. It alerts building occupants of emergencies.
    - Some panels may not have designated aux power terminals. In that case, some panels can configure the NAC terminals as an auxiliary power source. Please refer to the specific model FACP installation guide for more information.
- **SLC**: Signaling Line Circuit. The SLC loop is a 2-wire or 4-wire connection that enables addressable devices to communicate with the control panel.

Compatibility & Integration

What specific panels is the Alarm.com Fire Communicator compatible with?

The Alarm.com Fire Communicator (ADC-FC100) is considered universally compatible with FACPs that use Telco

touchtone dialers or relays.

How does CORE handle panel compatibility?

While the FC100 is considered universally compatible with FACPs, there are not any known incompatible FACPs as long as the panel has either POTS or relays (sometimes panels have both options; in that case, prioritize the POTS connections for a more robust experience).

The FC100 can report generic Contact ID (CID) events via relays, provided the relays are configured to match the FC100's inputs. In this case, the central monitoring station would need to support reporting in the CID format.

Is CID and/or SIA supported?

Both SIA and CID are supported. The specific protocol used should be supported by both the FACP and the central station.

Would we prefer POTS or Relay Reporting if a panel had both options?

For panels with both options, POTS is generally easier and more robust.

What service packages are supported?

Interactive Fire

Can we see an equipment/sensor list remotely?

No. The Alarm.com Fire Communicator is limited to events sent via the POTS interface or trouble conditions sent via the relays, so viewing an equipment list is not possible.

Can we use the LX30B on an FACP instead of the ADC-FC100?

No. The LX30B does not meet NFPA 72 and UL standards needed for supervising commercial fire systems.

Can I wire the FACP to the FC100 for both relay and phone line reporting simultaneously?

This is unsupported. We recommend that the dealer/installer prioritize using the phone line reporting method whenever possible, unless the FACP is not natively compatible with POTS/PSTN.

Network & Signal Requirements^

Are there extended antenna options for ADC-FC100?

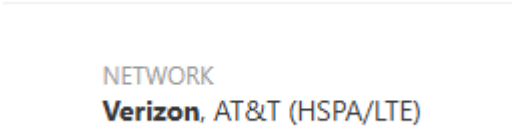
Yes. Currently, we do not have recommended replacement or alternative options. For UL requirements, the antenna should not exceed 9 inches above the panel cabinet.

How does Dual-SIM work?

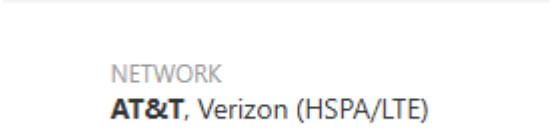
With Dual-SIM, one communicator can be used with either AT&T or Verizon, eliminating the need to stock multiple versions. If one SIM fails, the other will maintain communication with nearby cell towers.

In the Partner Portal and MobileTech app, the stronger carrier will appear in **bold** on the *Signaling* page. The other carrier can still be used if signal quality degrades. This determination happens automatically.

Example: This FC100 determined that Verizon had the stronger signal:

- 

This FC100 determined AT&T had the stronger signal:

- 

Note: The SIMs/carriers cannot be pinged independently at this time. This feature is being explored for post-GA release.

Installation & Power^

How does the Alarm.com Fire Communicator get power?

In accordance with the UL Certifications, the Fire Communicator will receive power only from the Fire Alarm Control Panel.

My panel offers touchtone and rotary dialing. Which one do I use?

Touchtone.

My panel has multiple ring/tip wire inputs. Which ones do I use?

Prioritize the Telco Ring/Tip 1 and Telco Ring/Tip 2 connections.

What if my panel only has 1 ring/tip wire input? Can I just use that with the FC100?

Yes. Ideally, panels have 2 sets in case a wire is damaged, but if a panel only has 1 ring/tip connection, it can still be used with the FC100.

Important: Do not jump the connection between T1 and T2 or between R1 and R2.

Should I be reading power off the ring/tip wire inputs?

- A reading of ~22–28VDC is expected while the panel is idle.
- Ring is Red/Positive and Tip is Black/GND when checking voltage.

What do the terminals (NO/6 + C6) do on the Fire Communicator?

- The Zone Terminals help report a loss of communication from the communicator. If the communicator loses communication with ADC, then a local trouble can be reported.
- If the panel doesn't have these terminals natively onboard the main panel board and their installation requires this configuration, they may need to add additional hardware to the FACP. Please refer to the FACP manufacturer for more information.

Relay Configuration: What if my panel does not have a supervisory relay?

- If the panel doesn't have an onboard supervisory relay, the FC100 can still operate using only the alarm and trouble relay outputs. Follow the same wiring and setup logic, but disregard the supervisory relay wiring steps.

Testing & Maintenance^

Is there a way to do a communication test locally with the module?

Not at this time. The module should communicate with Alarm.com within 3–5 minutes after a boot-up. However, if the module does not, you may need to troubleshoot for poor signaling. For more information, see Poor Signaling.

How do I do auto tests when using the FC100?

- **Panels using phone line reporting**: This setting is configured in FACP programming. Please refer to the panel manufacturer for configuring this setting.
- **Panels using relay reporting**: There is currently no way to generate an auto test in this setup. The FC100 will notify the central station and the fire panel of a loss of supervision. Tests, if needed, will need to be done manually.

Supervision and Communications^

How does the supervision period for the FC100 work?

The supervision period for the FC100 is similar to that of other Alarm.com module/panel offerings. This is configured by the service package.

Is a static IP supported?

Alarm.com does not support remote commands to configure a static IP on the Alarm.com Fire Communicator. However, this could potentially be done locally on a router in network settings. If a static IP is needed, consult the IT team.