Dosing and Fluid Metering System (DŌS)

Setup Guide

Table of Contents

DOSING AND FLUID METERING SYSTEM – INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of this Apex expansion accessory. The DŌS is an easy to use fluid delivery system that connects seamlessly with your Apex system for ease of use and flexibility. Because DŌS is part of your overall Apex system, you can integrate its functions into its other monitoring and control functions.

FEATURES

- 2-part dosing (Calcium and Alkalinity)
- Other additives dosing
- Automatic water changes
- Micro-quantity dosing
- Delivery of liquid foods and supplements
- Compatible with all Apex Systems

INSTALLATION

WARNING: Your Apex Base Unit must be running firmware version 4.33_BD14 or higher to support the DŌS. The current firmware version can be checked from the Apex Display on the Self Test screen. If needed, please upgrade the Apex Base Unit firmware before proceeding with the installation. See the *Apex Setup and Programming Guide* for firmware upgrade instructions.

The DŌS can be placed on a tabletop or hung securely in a location free from moisture. Use #8 or #10 wood screws spaced 6 ½" apart if hanging. The DŌS keyhole slots can be accessed through the knockout mounting tabs on the back of its case. If mounting on drywall, use drywall anchors (mounting hardware not included).

- Mount all modules above the water line of the aquarium.
- Be sure to utilize drip loops on all power cords, AquaBus cables and probe cables.

WARNING: Water damage to the module will void your warranty! Mount all modules in locations safe from moisture exposure.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

The DŌS comes with 5 items in the box from Neptune Systems:
1. The DŌS module
2. 24vdc power supply
3. 6' Aquabus cable
4. 50 mL graduated cylinder
5. 4 meters of tubing, 6mm OD, 4mm ID, 1mm wall thickness

If you're missing any of these items, please contact Neptune Systems Support (see last page for contact information).

INITIAL CONNECTIONS

Plug one end of the included AquaBus cable into either of the AquaBus ports on the DŌS and the other end into an available AquaBus port anywhere on your existing Apex system. It makes no difference which AquaBus port is used and you do not need to power down the system when connecting AquaBus accessories as the system is plug-and-play. Then connect the power supply. There is no need to use an energy bar outlet – a wall outlet will suffice if available.

⚠️ WARNING: NEVER plug standard USB devices into any AquaBus connector or AquaBus accessories into computer USB ports. Damage to the AquaBus accessory and/or USB device may result.

STARTUP

Once you ensure you have the proper software version you can connect the DŌS to your system. As soon as the DŌS is connected to an active AquaBus, the module will power up and begin to initialize. When first connected to an Apex Base Unit (through the AquaBus), the DŌS will automatically be assigned an AquaBus address and be added to the Apex configuration. The LED Status indicator on the DŌS will flash green while it is being initialized. This takes a few seconds. Once initialized, the LED Status indicator will be solid orange. The LED Status indicator will flash orange if communication with the Apex Base Unit is lost.

Solid Orange	Ready
Flashing Orange	Fallback Mode
Solid Blue	Pump(s) running
Flashing Red	Over temp/Hardware issue
Flashing Green	Initializing
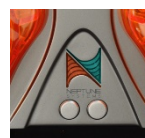
LED Status Indicator

VERIFY THE INSTALLATION

Verify the DŌS was initialized and added to the Apex configuration:

Apex Display: Setup – Module Setup – Modify Name – from this screen, you can see all AquaBus modules installed on the system.

Classic Apex Web Interface: Configuration – Module Setup – Verify the DŌS is listed in the Apex Module List and note the module number assigned to it.

There will be two programmable outlets automatically created when you connect the DŌS to your Apex system. They will be called DOS_X_1 and DOS_X_2 where 'X' is the module number assigned to your DŌS. It is these outlets that will be programmed. If you don't see these outlets after connection your DŌS, verify you have the proper firmware and that you have a solid orange status light for each of the pumps.

PREPARING YOUR TUBING FOR DŌS

After making your initial connections and verifying the installation, you'll want to physically mount or position DŌS in its permanent location. After doing so you'll want to measure your tubing for DŌS and cut it to the appropriate length.

On your DŌS pump cover and peristaltic assembly there is an "In" and and "Out" label. While the pump can run forward or reverse, typically it will run "in" to "out." So "in" will be liquid coming from a container and "out" will be going to your aquarium.

After measuring and cutting your tubing, remove the compression fittings from your pump cover and connect the tubing. Finally after connecting the tubing secure it to the assembly by locking the compression fittings back on your pump assembly

CALIBRATING DŌS

Your DŌS pumps must be calibrated before using or it WILL NOT dispense an accurate amount of fluid. THIS STEP IS IMPORTANT. The calibration is a simple process that is performed one pump at a time. You can calibrate using the Display module or the classic Apex web pages. Calibration is the process of running a pump for a fixed amount of time and confirming how much fluid it pumps using the graduated cylinder (included).

Put the in/suction tube into a glass of tap water. Put the out/discharge tube into an empty glass. Prime the pump by pressing the button on the front of the DŌS that corresponds to the left or right pump and hold it until all air bubbles are out of the tubing. Now put the discharge tube into the graduated cylinder and you can begin the calibration.

From the Display module, navigate to Setup – Module Setup – Config Module or via the web pages navigate to Configuration – Module Setup. Select your DŌS module. Then select the pump you want to calibrate. Pump #1 is the left side pump, #2 is the right side pump. Then press 'OK'. The pump will run for approximately 90 seconds then stop. After it stops, note how much water (mL) is in the graduated cylinder and enter that value. There will be about 40 mL of liquid, maybe a little more or less but it's that exact amount that becomes your calibration.

When viewing the graduated cylinder, it's important to view it directly level with the liquid level – don't view at an angle. Also, you will note that the liquid in the cylinder curves upward at the walls of the cylinder.   The bottom is called the "meniscus". Your reading must be from the meniscus. Precision is important here if you want accurate dosing so take some time and repeat the calibration if necessary.

Repeat the process for the remaining pump. Your DŌS is now calibrated. Any time you change the types of fluid you're pumping, change your tubing orientation or replace your pump tubing you should recalibrate.
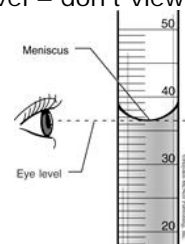
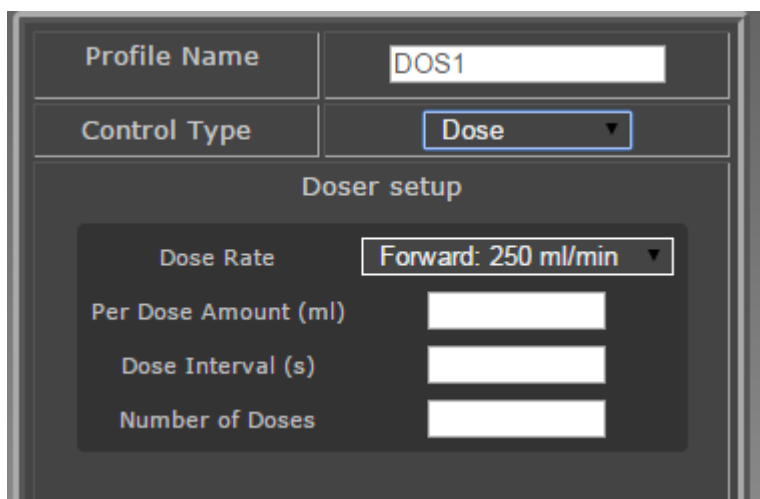## PROGRAMMING EXAMPLES (APEX FUSION INTERFACE)

For assistance with configuring your DŌS with Apex Fusion, please refer to the DŌS Getting Started Guide. In the Guide you can see two common applications of DŌS; Dosing Additives and Continuous Water Change.

PROGRAMMING EXAMPLES (CLASSIC WEB INTERFACE)

Most DŌS users should use the wizard in APEX Fusion for setting up a schedule for dosing and/or automatic water change using the DŌS. The programming guidance in this section is recommended only for advanced users or those who have unusual needs. Refer to the Apex Setup and Programming Guide or the Comprehensive Reference Manual for detailed instructions on how to configure and program profiles and outlets. These examples assume a basic understanding of profiles and outlets and use the Classic Interface.

NEW PROFILE TYPE

The DŌS has a new type of a profile (for more on profiles, please see the Comprehensive Reference Manual) that you can use to configure your pump.

Profile Name – Any unique name you chose, 8 characters or less, no special characters
Control Type – Select 'Dose'
Dose Rate – Select the appropriate rate for your application. Note you can select 7, 12, 25, 60, 125 or 250 mL/min in either forward (in to out) or reverse (out to in) direction.
Per Dose Amount (mL) – enter the dose in mL that you want.
Dose Interval (s) – What is the interval between the end of this dose and the end of the next dose?
Number of Doses – How many doses (dose + interval) per run of this profile?

Common profile errors:

'**Too much dosing in too short a period**' – this error occurs when the Dose Interval is too short. It is designed to prevent the pumps from overheating. The Dose Interval should be at least 3x the time it takes to deliver 1 dose. For example, if the Dose Rate is 12 mL/min and the Per Dose Amount is 3 mL, it should take 15 seconds to deliver that 3 mL dose. Therefore, the minimum Dose Interval should be > 45 seconds (3 x 15). The interval will be your dose (15 sec) plus a 30 seconds (2 x 15) pause plus at least 1 second. See the following diagram:

	DOSE INTERVAL	
DOSE #1	PAUSE	DOSE #2

'**Too much dosing in a given dose'** – this error occurs when the Per Dose Amount is more than 8x the Dose Rate and as above, is designed to keep the pumps from overheating. For example, with a Dose Rate of 60 mL/min, your Per Dose Amount should be <= 480 mL (8 x 60).

TESTING YOUR PUMP AND PROFILE

A simple profile and program will enable you to test your pump and give you an understanding of the logic behind both.

Using the web pages, modify a spare profile and enter the following data:

Profile Name – 'dostst'
Control Type – Select 'Dose'
Dose Rate – 60 mL
Per Dose Amount (mL) – 5
Dose Interval (s) – 31
Number of Doses – 2

In your dosing outlet (default name is DOS_X_Y, X is the Aquabus ID of the DŌS) enter the following program in 'Advanced' mode:

Set OFF
If FeedA 000 Then dostst   (if you're already using FeedA, just select an unused Feed mode)

To activate, select FeedA from either your Dashboard, the Display or your smartphone. Cancel the Feed mode if something doesn't seem correct.

This will deliver a sample dose of 5 mL over 10 seconds, pause for approximately 20 seconds then deliver another 5 mL dose, then stop. From here you can experiment with the times and dosing rates, testing each change simply by activating the appropriate feed mode.

SIMPLE 2-PUMP DAY/NIGHT DOSING EXAMPLE

Using what you learned during the test above, you can now configure a dosing profile and incorporate that into a dosing program. In this example, we will dose 5 mL every hour during the night from pump #1 and 5 mL every hour during the day from pump #2.

Profile setup:

	Profile #1	Profile #2
Profile Name	Nite_dos	Day_dos
Control Type	Dose	Dose
Dose Rate	60	60
Per Dose Amount	5	5
Dose Interval	3600	3600
Number of Doses	24	24

Program:

DOS_1

Set OFF
If Time 18:00 to 06:59 then Nite_dos

DOS_2

Set OFF
If Time 07:00 to 17:59 then Day_dos

You can add in additional rules to stop dosing if certain probe parameters are met. For example, if you're dosing Kalk and you want to only dose at night but stop if the pH rose above 8.4, you could use:

Set OFF
If Time 18:00 to 06:59 then Nite_dos
If pH > 8.40 then OFF

DOSING CALCIUM AND ALKALINITY

In this example, we need to dose Calcium and Alkalinity 30 minutes apart to avoid precipitation. If the pH rises above 8.40 we want to suspend dosing. Dosing will happen every hour but only at night.

	Calcium	Alkalinity
Profile Name	Ca	Alk
Control Type	Dose	Dose
Dose Rate	7	7
Per Dose Amount	1.1	2
Dose Interval	3600	3600
Number of Doses	12	12

Program

DOS_Ca   DOS_Alk

Set OFF   Set OFF
If Time 18:00 to 06:00 then Ca   If Time 18:30 to 06:30 Then Alk
If pH > 8.40 Then OFF   If pH > 8.40 Then OFF

AUTOMATIC WATER CHANGE

In this example, the DOS will be used to exchange old saltwater for new saltwater. Because of the precision of the DOS Dosing and Fluid Metering System we can accomplish this without the need for floats or elaborate program controls. The pumps will move a precise amount of saltwater each and every time.

The exchange will be 4 x 1,000 mL or just a little over 1 gallon of water each day and will take place over a 96-minute period. The exchange will run M – F for a total of approximately 10.5g per week. On a 100g tank, that would be 10% / week.

	Old Saltwater	New Saltwater
Profile Name	OSW	NSW
Control Type	Dose	Dose
Dose Rate	250	250
Per Dose Amount	1000	1000
Dose Interval	1500	1500
Number of Doses	4	4

Program

DOS_OSW

Set OFF
If Time 12:00 to 14:00 Then OSW
If DOW S-----S Then OFF

DOS_NSW

Set OFF
If Time 12:08 to 14:08 Then NSW
If DOW S-----S Then OFF

The first program will begin at 12:00 and pump out old saltwater. Each 'dose' will take 4 minutes (1000 / 250) and will pump out 1000 mL. The second program for the NSW will wait 8 minutes then start the exact same cycle and pump 1000 mL of NSW back into the tank. Meanwhile the OSW pump is waiting to cool down for 16 minutes after which time it will repeat the cycle. Same for the NSW pump. This will repeat another 2 times and 4000 mL of water (2.1 gallons) will have been exchanged.

If you wanted to extend this simply change the per dose amount, dose interval and number of doses. Simply changing the dose rate to 250 mL/min and dose amount to 2000 would exchange 2 gallons in the same time period.

MAINTENANCE

The peristaltic pump heads must be replaced periodically. The outer head casing, the rotor and pump tubing are replaced as a single unit. To remove a pump head assembly, squeeze the sides of the pump cover (Figure 1) and pull straight out from the DŌS being careful not to damage the plastic tabs (Figure 2).

Figure 1   Figure 2

Replacement pump heads can be ordered from the Neptune Systems online store.

NEPTUNE SYSTEMS LIMITED WARRANTY

Neptune Systems warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 1 year from the date of purchase. If repair or adjustment is necessary and has not been the result of abuse, Neptune Systems warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 1 year from the date of purchase. If repair or adjustment is necessary and has not been the result of abuse, misuse, or accidental damage, within the 1-year period, please return the product with proof of purchase, and correction of the defect will be made without charge.

For your protection, items being returned must be carefully packed to prevent damage in shipment and insured against possible damage or loss. Neptune Systems will not be responsible for damage resulting from careless or insufficient packaging. Before returning please obtain a return authorization (RMA) number from Neptune Systems. Returned merchandise will not be accepted without a RMA number. To obtain assistance with your Neptune Systems product, contact Neptune Systems technical support by phone or via the Technical Support Contact Web Page at https://www.neptunesystems.com.

Except for the warranty set forth above, Neptune Systems is not responsible for any damages including, but not limited to, consequential damage occurring out of or relating to the delivery, use or performance of Neptune Systems' products. Buyer's remedies for breach of warranty shall be limited to repair, or replacement and full or partial adjustment to purchase price.

Neptune Systems
15750 Vineyard Blvd, Suite 150
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
USA
www.neptunesystems.com
support@neptunesystems.com
Phone +1 408-779-4090   Fax +1 408-762-2042

©2017 Neptune Systems - All Rights Reserved

Dosing and Fluid Metering System (DŌS) Setup Guide v2.1

The symbols to the right mean that according to local laws and regulations your product should be disposed of separately from household waste. When this product reaches its end of life, take it to a collection point designated by local authorities. Some collection points accept products for free. The separate collection and recycling of your product at the time of disposal will help conserve natural resources and ensure that it is recycled in a manner that protects human health and the environment.