

# ST215

## Temperature Programmer Handbook



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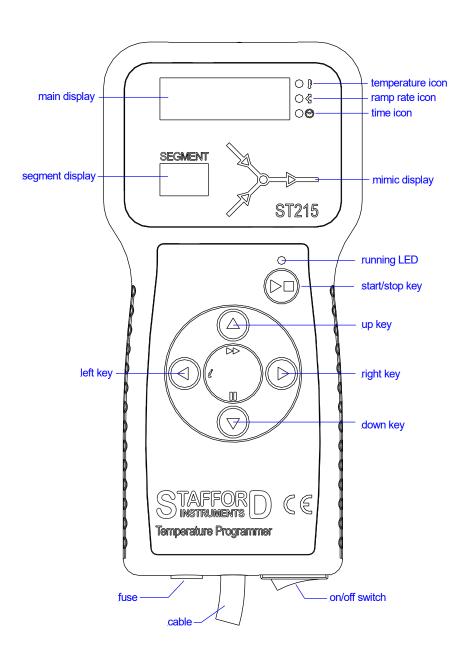
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## At a Glance



## **Quick Start Guide**

Switch on & wait for kiln temperature display

To run a firing program set up previously press the ►■ key

To stop the firing at any time press the ▶■ key again

To review firing data press the ► key to enter the programming mode

To change firing data press the ▲ & ▼ keys to change the displayed value

Use the ▶ key again as necessary to step to the next firing value or segment to be reviewed or changed

To mark the end of a program set a ramp rate to End with the ▼ key

To exit the programming mode either wait 20 seconds or press the ►■ key to start firing

If the keyboard is locked then press the ▲ & ▼ keys together & hold down for 5 seconds to unlock

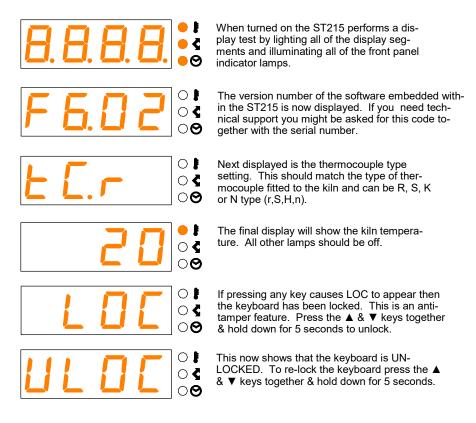
# **Contents**

At a Glance	2
Quick Start Guide	
Contents	4
Features	5
Turning On	6
Programming	7
Firing	
Cooling	10
Operating Notes	11
Adjusting While Firing	12
Error Messages	13
Other Features	15
Sample Glass Programs	16
Sample Ceramics Programs	17
Installation	18
Characteristics	24

## **Features**

- 32 programs each with 32 segments
- 1 controlled heating / cooling ramp + soak per segment
- Soak periods up to 99 hours 59 mins
- Ramp rates from 1 to 999°/hour + FULL
- Ideal for glass or ceramics use
- · Programs can be altered while firing
- Program pause and advance facilities
- · Keyboard lockable
- Delayed start facility up to 99 hours 59 mins
- Power failure recovery
- Energy used display
- Setpoint display
- Alarm buzzer & alarm output
- °C/°F operation

## **Turning On**



If any mimic panel lamps are on then the ST215 is firing. To stop the firing press the ightharpoonup key.



During firing the right-hand decimal point will light to show when heating power is being applied to the kiln.

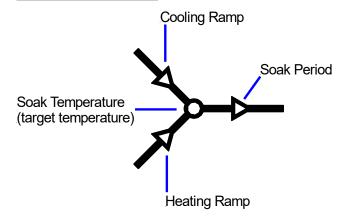




Note: During power up the SEGMENT display shows the operating units (°C/°F) of the ST215 (Installer adjustable).

# **Programming**

#### A firing segment



An ST215 firing segment comprises a ramp followed by a soak period. Two segments can be used for simple firing (biscuit firing for example) or several segments can be used per program for complex firing (crystal glazing or glass-making for example).

The ST215 ramps the kiln temperature at the required ramp rate until the kiln reaches the soak / target temperature. It then soaks (dwells) at the soak temperature for the soak period. It then runs the next segment until the end of the program is reached.

The ST215 is capable of both positive (heating) ramps and negative (cooling) ramps - as used in glassmaking for annealing. The type of ramp is clearly shown on the mimic display during firing.

The ramp rate is settable in the range 1°/hour to 999°/hour or FULL (full power) or End (end of program).

The soak / target temperature is settable over the range 0 to 1400°C (2552°F).

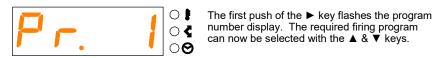
The soak period is settable over the range 00.00 (no soak) to 99 hours 59 mins.

Note: during soaking the ST215 display alternates every 15 seconds between kiln temperature and soak period remaining.

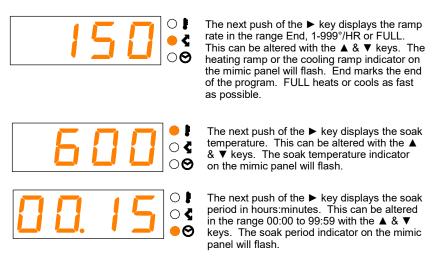
### Altering a program

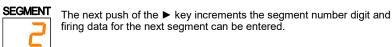


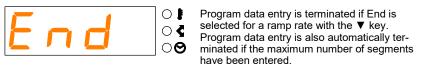
The controller settings can be reviewed by pressing the ▶ key.



Note: holding down the ▲ or ▼ keys causes rapid change of the displayed value.







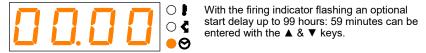
Note 1: available ramp rate displays are: End, 1 ... 999 & FULL. If End is shown but another segment is required then push the  $\blacktriangle$  key to obtain the required ramp rate (in the range 1°/hr to 999°/hr). If full power is required then push the  $\blacktriangle$  key until FULL is displayed. To mark the end of the program push the  $\blacktriangledown$  key until End is displayed

Note 2: to exit programming without cycling through all of the above steps wait 20 seconds without pressing any keys - the ST215 will revert to the idle display. Alternatively press the ▶■ key to exit programming and to begin firing immediately.

Note 3: the ◀ key can be used to reverse through the programming steps to correct errors or to exit programming mode.

# **Firing**

To start a firing press the ▶■ key. The firing indicator lamp will flash.



After 5 seconds, or immediately if the ▶■ key is pressed again, the firing will commence and the firing indicator lamp will remain lit.

To stop the firing prematurely at any time press the ▶■ key again. The firing indicator lamp will go out.

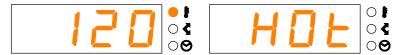
Hint: it is good practice to check that the program is correct by pressing the ▶ key & checking the program number & program contents before pressing the ▶ key to start a firing. It is also a good idea to have a written record of the contents of the firing programs kept and displayed near the kiln especially if there is more than one user of the kiln.

Note: during ramping the ST215 will perform either controlled heating or controlled cooling - as indicated on the mimic display. During soaking the ST215 display alternates every 15 seconds between kiln temperature and soak period remaining. At the end of each segment the segment number display will be incremented.

Information: The ST215 operates by calculating the amount of energy required by the kiln every 30 seconds (this period is installer adjustable). If for example 40% of full energy is required to maintain a particular ramp rate or a particular soak temperature then the ST215 will apply heating power to the kiln for 12 seconds every 30 seconds. The kiln heating indicator will light for 12 seconds every 30 seconds. If the kiln has a contactor then a loud click will be heard both when the kiln heating indicator lights up and when it goes out. If full heating power is required then the kiln heating indicator will remain lit. If full cooling is required the kiln heating indicator will remain off.

# Cooling

Upon completion of firing the ST215 lights all lamps on the mimic display and the kiln is allowed to cool naturally.



While the kiln temperature is above 40°C the display alternates every 5 seconds between the kiln temperature and HOt.



When the kiln has cooled to less than 40°C the display alternates every 5 seconds between the kiln temperature and End.

To return the ST215 back to idle condition ready for the next firing press the ▶■ key (or turn off the power to the instrument).

# **Operating Notes**

#### Kiln too slow

If the ST215 is programmed to heat the kiln at a faster rate than the kiln is capable of then the ST215 will turn on full power then wait until the kiln temperature has risen to the correct temperature before proceeding to the next ramp or soak segment.

Likewise if the ST215 is programmed to cool the kiln at a faster rate than the kiln is capable of then the ST215 will apply zero power then wait until the kiln has cooled to the correct temperature before proceeding to the next ramp or soak segment.

#### Heating & Cooling Ramps

The ST215 is capable of controlled ramps for both heating and cooling. The type of ramp required is determined by comparing the required soak temperature to the soak temperature in the previous segment and is shown on the mimic display.

### **▶** ■ Key Operation

If the ▶■ key is pressed during a firing then the firing will be halted (not paused). Pressing the ▶■ key again will cause the ST215 to restart the firing from the beginning. The ST215 will look at the current kiln temperature and if this is greater than the required soak temperature then the ST215 will automatically *cool* from current temperature to the soak temperature. This may not be what is desired so the ▶■ key should only be used to halt the firing in an emergency.

The program can be paused or program data can be changed while the controller is firing (see next section). This is a better option than using the ▶■ key. The program advance feature is however available to recover quickly from ▶■ key operation if required.

#### **Memory**

All programs & necessary data are remembered when the ST215 is turned off. In the event of power failure during firing the ST215 will automatically resume firing when power is returned (this feature can be disabled: see Installation section).

#### **Delayed Start**

By default the delayed start time period is initialised to 00:00 for each firing. The ST215 can however be configured to remember the delayed start time period (see Installation section).

# **Adjusting While Firing**

Firing values can be adjusted while the ST215 is firing. Also there are program pause and program advance features that are particularly useful for glass work.

### Adjusting Firing Values

While firing operate the ▶ key to select the required parameter as shown by a flashing lamp on the mimic display. The firing value is shown on the main display and can now be adjusted with the ▲ & ▼ keys in the usual way. The contents of the current segment or any segment still to be executed can be changed. Firing will still carry on as normal while these changes are being made. The ST215 will return to its normal running display 20 seconds after key presses cease (or immediately after End is displayed).

Changes made to programs in this way are stored and are used for subsequent firings.

## **Program Advance Facility**

While firing press and hold down the ▲ key for 3 seconds to obtain the ▶ (advance) function. The ST215 will sound a short beep and the executing program will immediately advance one step as indicated by lamps on the mimic panel. The effect of this is as follows:-

If ramping then the ST215 will switch to soak at the current kiln temperature. If soaking then the ST215 will advance to the next segment if any, or else it will end the firing.

Changes made to the operation of the ST215 in this way are temporary and are not stored

### **Program Pause Facility**

While firing press and hold down the ▼ key to obtain the II (pause) function. The ST215 will sound a short beep and the executing program will pause indefinitely at the current kiln temperature. To release the pause repeat the above action.



While paused, the kiln temperature display will alternate periodically with a scrolling PAUSEd display and a beep will be sounded.

#### **WARNING - PROGRAM PAUSE**

The program pause facility should be used with care. Program execution is suspended and the kiln will be held at its current temperature. If left too long at high temperatures kiln damage could result. Pause will automatically release after an Installer-defined time period (default: 2 hours - see Installation section).

# **Error Messages**

If the ST215 detects a problem the buzzer will sound and an error message will be displayed. This error message will alternate with a display of kiln temperature. The segment number display will show where the error occurred.

To obtain more information on the error operate the ◀ key. The first press will display the maximum temperature reached in the firing. The second press will display the length of time that the error has been present. The buzzer will mute.



Heating error. The kiln temperature is not increasing as required. The kiln has been on full power for 15 minutes but the temperature has not increased by at least 2°C.

Possible causes: kiln door or lid not closed properly or door switch faulty or needs adjusting. Heater element open circuit or elements too old. Electrical power phase failure or contactor failure.



Thermocouple or thermocouple wiring open circuit. Get thermocouple and wiring checked. Replace thermocouple if necessary.



Thermocouple reversed (kiln temperature apparently less than -40°C). This is an installation fault. Get wiring checked.



Cooling error. The kiln has been on zero power for 30 minutes but the kiln temperature has not fallen by at least 1°C.

Possible causes: contactor failure (contacts welded?) or thermocouple connection intermittent or high resistance.



Kiln temperature overshoot. The kiln temperature exceeds the desired temperature by a preset limit as shown below:-

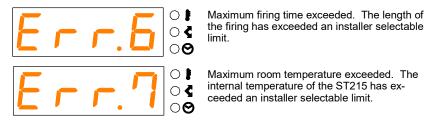
Desired	Tem	perature

More than 600°C

#### Overshoot allowed

+20°C

)°(
)°(
)°(



Possible causes: kiln room vent fan failure, kiln room too small, ventilation grills blocked, damper or bung left open, controller mounted too close to kiln.

All these error messages cause the ST215 to terminate the firing. The alarm buzzer will sound once per second. To reset the ST215 turn off the power to the instrument and have the fault investigated and rectified by your installer or kiln service engineer.

Note: these error messages are provided to detect kiln faults and so offer some protection to the kiln.

Technical note: these error messages will cause the alarm relay to open.





Program Error. This error message is displayed if a potential error is detected within the firing program when the ▶■ key is pressed to start a firing. The alarm buzzer will sound 3 times and the segment display will show the

suspect segment number. To clear this error press the ▶ key. The ST215 will now enter programming mode to allow the suspect program to be viewed and altered if necessary. If a fault is found then correct it. If no fault is found then press the ▶■ key again to force the firing program to start. A potential programming error is defined as a very low ramp rate to a very low temperature. Such a programming fault might cause very long firing times with potential kiln damage.

Page 14 ST215 User Handbook

## Other Features

### **Energy Used & Setpoint Displays**

Operate the ◀ key at any time to show the amount of electrical energy used in kWh. If pressed during a firing it shows the energy used so far. After a firing it shows the total energy used for that firing. This information is stored while power is off and is only reset to zero when a new firing is started. If the value displayed is always 0.0 then the kiln power rating has not been configured - see the installation section of this handbook.

Operating the ◀ key a second time shows the current set-point (the temperature which the ST215 is currently trying to achieve).

## Keyboard Lock Facility

The keys on the ST215 can be locked so that pressing them has no effect. This is an anti-tamper feature used to ensure that the operation of the ST215 or the program data cannot be altered by un-authorised people. The ST215 can be locked when it is idle (not firing) or while it is firing. It cannot be locked while it is being programmed.



Press the ▲ & ▼ keys together & hold down for 5 seconds to lock or to unlock.

## Power Failure Recovery

If power fails during firing then the ST215 recovers as follows:-

For power failure during start delay the ST215 times off the remaining start delay when power returns. For power failure during ramping the ST215 continues the ramp it was previously executing. For power failure during soaking the ST215 ramps back up to soak temperature at the correct ramp rate then applies the remaining soak period. This recovery scheme can be disabled if required (see installation section) - the ST215 will then lock up with FAIL displayed and kiln off in the event of power failure.

Sample Glass Programs

The ST215 is provided pre-programmed with the glass firing programs below. These programs may be modified or over-written as required.

Program No.	Program Description	Seg 1 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 1 Soak Temp °C	Seg 1 Soak Time hr:mn	Seg 2 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 2 Soak Temp °C	Seg 2 Soak Time hr:mn	Seg 3 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 3 Soak Temp °C	Seg 3 Soak Time hr:mn	Seg 4 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 4 Soak Temp °C	Seg 4 Soak Time hr:mn	Seg 5 Ramp Rate °C/hr
_	4-6mm Float Glass Fuse	150	538	00:10	FULL	840	00:20	FULL	538	00:45	182	427	00:15	End
2	4-6mm Float Glass Slump	150	538	00:00	200	700	00:15	FULL	538	00:15	182	427	00:00	End
3	6mm Bullseye™ Fuse	222	677	00:30	333	795	00:10	FULL	482	01:00	83	371	00:01	End
4	6mm Bullseye™ Slump	167	640	00:10	FULL	482	01:00	56	371	00:01	End	1	-	1
2	6mm Spectrum System 96 ™ Fuse	200	500	00:00	FULL	804	00:12	FULL	540	00:40	150	510	00:20	End
9	6mm Spectrum System 96 TM Slump	155	704	00:20	FULL	540	01:30	FULL	510	00:10	26	371	00:00	End
7	Bottle Firing Cycle	170	510	00:00	250	780	00:10	FULL	510	01:00	70	400	00:30	End
8	Low Stain	200	570	00:10	FULL	516	00:30	100	300	00:00	End	-	-	-
6	High Stain	200	665	00:10	FULL	550	00:20	FULL	516	00:30	100	300	00:00	End

# **Sample Ceramics Programs**

The ST215 is provided pre-programmed with the ceramics firing programs below. These programs may be modified or over-written as required.

Program Number	Program Name	Seg 1 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 1 Soak Temp °C	Seg 1 Soak Time hr.mn	Seg 2 Ramp Rate °C/hr	Seg 2 Soak Temp °C	Seg 2 Soak Time hr.mn	Seg 3 Ramp Rate °C/hr
11	Slow Bisque	60	600	00.00	FULL	1000	00.00	End
12	Normal Bisque	100	600	00.00	FULL	1000	00.00	End
13	High Bisque	100	600	00.00	FULL	1140	00.00	End
14	Brush-on Earthenware Glaze 1000°C (Cone 6)	100	300	00.00	FULL	1000	00.00	End
15	Standard Earthenware Glaze 1100°C	100	300	00.00	FULL	1100	00.00	End
16	Earthenware High Temperature Glaze 1140°C	100	300	00.00	FULL	1140	00.00	End
17	Mid-Range Stoneware Glaze 1200°C	100	300	00.00	FULL	1200	00.00	End
18	Standard Stoneware Glaze 1260°C (see note)	100	300	00.00	FULL	1235	00.00	End
19	Onglaze 780°C	100	400	00.00	FULL	780	00.00	End
20	Lustre 750°C	100	400	00.00	FULL	750	00.00	End

#### Note

It has been found that a kiln controller will give greater heat work as the temperature increases. Therefore to achieve a stoneware firing of cone 8-9 we suggest setting the final soak temperature to 1235°C. A slight adjustment can then be made after the first firing. It should be remembered that kiln controllers are indicators of temperature and the effects of faster or slower firings may cause extreme variations in the end result. This is known within ceramics as "heatwork". Cones are measures of heatwork and it is strongly recommended that cones are always used in conjunction with a kiln controller to appreciate the differences between heatwork and temperature indicated by the controller. Stoneware firings will also demonstrate the greatest potential differences between heatwork and indicated temperature.

## Installation

### Safety Warnings



DISCONNECT BEFORE REMOVING COVER (NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE)

#### **WARNING**

ISOLATE KILN & PROGRAMMER FROM ELECTRICAL SUPPLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING INSTALLATION OR REPAIR WORK

### Installer Information

Installation Category: II

Pollution Class: 2

100-240V ~ 50/60HZ 1.0A

Fuse: 3.15A Anti-surge 20mm ceramic HRC



IP50

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### **EMC**

To meet Electromagnetic Compatibility requirements the controller lead should not exceed 3.0m in length.

This instrument is designed for use mainly in Domestic, Commercial & Light Industrial environments where electromagnetic interference may cause a loss of accuracy of the displayed temperature reading of up to 3°C. Specified accuracy will be restored when the interference is removed.

## Mounting

#### **Mounting Location**

Mount the instrument on a suitable vertical surface which will not get hot. Choose a position where the instrument is not exposed to direct heat from the kiln - especially when the kiln door or lid is open.

#### Wall Mounting Bracket

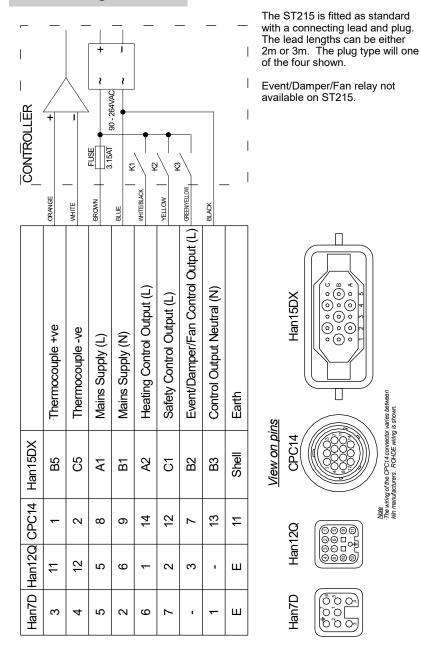
This is a 'holster' style ABS moulded bracket which can be attached with 2 screws. The bracket mounting holes are spaced 70mm. The instrument can be removed from this bracket for in-hand programming if required.

### **Contactor Coil Suppression**

The coil of the each kiln contactor **should be suppressed** with an RC suppressor. The RC suppressor must be connected directly across the coil terminals on the contactor. Suitable proprietary RC suppressors are often available from contactor manufacturers as add-on blocks.

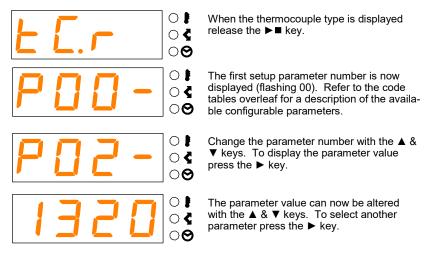
A suitable RC suppressor with insulated wire leads (fly leads) is the Okaya Electric XEB1201B. These are available from Stafford Instruments Ltd. - our part number: "SUPP".

### **Connecting Lead**

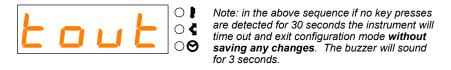


### Configuring

To enter configuration mode power down the ST215. Press and hold down the ►■ key while powering up the ST215.



Pressing the ▶■ key at any time causes the configuration parameters to be stored. The instrument will then reboot



#### **ERROR MESSAGES**

Certain error messages can be disabled by the use of configuration parameters. Error messages should normally be left enabled. Error messages should only be disabled as a short term measure - to diagnose kiln problems for example.

The alarm output contact closes at the start of a firing and opens when the firing is complete. If an error message is generated the firing is terminated, the alarm buzzer sounds and the alarm output contact opens. This output is usually used to drive a secondary (policeman) contactor to isolate power to the kiln elements.

Error messages are provided to detect kiln faults and so offer some protection to the kiln. For increased protection the use of a heat fuse or other independent over-temperature trip is recommended. For maximum protection an independent thermocouple, trip & heater contactor circuit should be used.

Note: Power fail recovery may need to be disabled if un-attended firing is not allowed.

## Setup Parameters

No.	<u>Function</u>	Min.	Max.	<u>Default</u>	Notes
0	Thermocouple type	0	3	2	0=K, 1=N, 2=R, 3=S
1	Error 1 enable	0	1	1	0=disabled, 1=enabled
2	Max. user temperature	100	1400	1320	°C
3	Display brightness	0	6	3	0=dim, 6=bright
4	Error 4 enable	0	1	1	0=disabled, 1=enabled
5	Error 5 enable	0	1	1	0=disabled, 1=enabled
6	Error 6 firing hours trip	10	1000	1000	1000=disabled
7	Room temperature trip	30	71	50	°C. 71=disabled
8	Power fail recovery enable	0	1	1	0=disabled,1=enabled
9	Paused time limit (hours)	1	11	2	11=disabled
10	Set point offset	-99	99	0	°C
11	Proportional band	1	999	55	°C
12	Integral time (seconds)	0	9999	200	0=disabled
13	Differential time (seconds)	0	999	10	0=disabled
14	Kiln element power	0	9999	0	1 unit = 0.1kW
43	Engineer lockup on error	0	1	0	0=disabled, 1=enabled
44	Control cycle time	5	120	30	Seconds
45	Event/Damper/Fan (RL3) Function	0	3	0	Not used on ST215
46	Remember start delay	0	1	0	0=forget, 1=remember
47	Skip start delay after power failure	0	1	0	0=resume delay, 1=skip delay
50	USB Data Logging Sample Period	5	300	60	Not used on ST215
00					

## Configuration Notes

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Note</u>
10	<b>Setpoint offset:</b> This is added to the setpoint defined by the user program. This will normally be left at 0.
43	Engineer lock-up on error: If this feature is enabled then errors cannot be cleared by cycling the power to the controller i.e: cannot be cleared by the user. This forces an engineer call out to determine the cause of the error and a repair to be implemented.
46	Remember start delay: By default this feature is disabled and the controller sets the initial value for start delay to 00:00. If enabled the controller remembers the user entered start delay from the previous firing (useful for repetitive overnight firings). In either case the actual start delay can be edited by the user.
47	Skip start delay after power failure: By default this feature is disabled and in the event of a power failure while executing the start delay, the controller times off the remainder of the start delay when power is restored. If enabled the controller immediately starts firing when the power is restored. Note: the controller does not contain a real time clock and so does not know how long the power has been off.
60	Operating Units °C/°F: When units are changed the controller will reload its default set of programs (in either °C or °F units as required). Warning! - this will over-write any existing firing programs!

ST215 User Handbook Page 23

## **Characteristics**

#### **Electrical**

Power supply

Voltage range: 90 - 264VAC Frequency: 50/60Hz

Power: Controller 4VA (max)
Switched outputs 125VA

Fuse: 3.15A slow-blow HRC 20mm x 5mm ceramic

Control Relays (2)

Contact type: SPST NO Switched Line voltage O/P @500mA max

(for contactor driving)

Lead & Connector

Thermocouple

R,S,K & N type.

2m or 3m flexible grey polyurethane lead Fitted with either Han7D, Han12Q, Han 15DX or CPC14 connector

**Environmental** 

Operating temperature range: -10°C to +55°C Storage temperature range: -10°C to +55°C

**Error Handling** 

Thermocouple failure detection
Thermocouple reversal detection
Heater failure detection
Kiln over-temperature detection
Room over-temperature detection
Lock-up on error facility
Firing run time hours limiter
User program check
Alarm buzzer (buzzer)

Other

Keyboard lock facility & indication Kiln heating indicator Program running indicator Energy used display

**Wall Bracket** 

Material: ABS flame retardant UL 94V-0

Colour: Black RAL9011

Fixing slot centres (vertical): 70mm

Fixing slot size: 8mm x 4mm

#### **Temperature**

Temperature setting

Range: 0 to 1400°C (R/S) 0 to 1200°C (K/N)

Resolution: 1°C

**Control Accuracy** 

P.I.D. Control

Reading accuracy: ±0.25% FSD ±1 digit

Time

Start delay range: 00:00 to 99hr 59min Soak time range: 00:00 to 99hr 59min

Resolution: 1 min

Ramps

Ramp rate: 1 to 999°/hour or FULL Ramps can be heating or cooling

**Enclosure** 

Material: ABS flame retardant UL 94V-0

Sealing: IP51

Size: 80/68mm(W), 165mm(L), 28mm(D) Colour: Black/Dark Grey

(RAL9011/RAL7012)

Weight

Instrument + cable + wall bracket: 0.50kg (max)

**Packaging** 

Packaged size: 248 x 185 x 58mm Packaged weight: 0.570kg (max)

(€

This instrument complies with Council Directive 89/336/EC (EMC) & Council Directive 2006/95/EC (safety)

Council Directives 2002/96/EC & 2003/108/EC



The crossed out bin symbol, placed on this product, reminds you of the need to dispose of the product properly at the end of its life. Electrical & Electronic Equipment should never be disposed of with general waste but must be sepa-

rately collected for proper treatment. In this way you will assist in the recovery, recycling & reuse of many of the materials used in this product.

Page 24 ST215 User Handbook