SmartID™ FAQs

Q: How many default service plans does the Digital Service Activation Meter (DSAM) have?

A: The DSAM has three default service plans:

- Drop Check
- Voice Video Data
- Voice Video Data MoCA

Q: Do you have any recommendations related to setting limits for additional service plans?

A: Service plans are set up to allow for path loss from the point of entry (POE) to the customer premise equipment (CPE) location. The default assumes a 15 dBmV input to the POE. With a minimum input to the CPE of -5 dBmV, 20 dB is the limit for path loss.

Additional plans can be set for other POE input levels. For example, a 20 dBmV input would have a 25 dB path loss limit; for 10 dBmV, a 15 dB path loss. If there is an amplifier in the network, the probe will still see acceptable levels. If the amplifier is causing a problem, it will show up in frequency response issues detected by other limits.

Q: What's the maximum distance that the SmartID can accurately measure?

A: The maximum length is 300 ft (100 m).

Q: Is there a dead-zone close to the probe in which a fault would not be detected?

A: The minimum distance detectable between events is approximately 2 ft (.6 m).

Q: What length jumper cable should be used to connect the probe to the outlet?

A: For more accurate interpretation of the coax network, coax jumpers are recommended to be less than 6 ft (1.8 m) in length or different from other jumper cables by 0.5 ft (.2 m).

Q: How is testing MoCA different from testing HPNA?

A: Both technologies require a relatively clean coax network to operate at their peak performance. They are two similar yet separate technologies, operating in different frequency bands with most MoCA networks above 1 GHz and most HPNA networks below 50 MHz. SmartIDs test the physical layer (coax network) to ensure it is clean of performance-robbing attenuation, micro-reflections, bad cables, and hidden, unnecessary coax elements. For both MoCA and HPNA, the key is to find and remove these problems to ensure a flawless communication path. The method for testing the physical layer with SmartID is the same except for a concentration on the two different frequency ranges for MoCA and HPNA.

Q: What network media types does SmartID test?

A: SmartID is designed to test only coaxial cable networks up to 300 ft (91.4 m) in length.

Q: Which JDSU meters are compatible with SmartID?

A: SmartID is compatible only with DSAM XT units (any model number) version 4.0 or higher.

Q: Do you have to test all the outlets at the same time, or can you test individual outlets?

A: You do not have to test all of the outlets at the same time, but it is recommended as that is the most efficient method for testing the whole home network. The test for the whole home is more inclusive and does not take significantly longer than testing a single outlet.

Q: Does the meter need a license?

A: No, the SmartID test functionality is standard on the DSAM with firmware version 4.0 and higher. In order to perform the test, only SmartID probes must be purchased.

Q: Is there a rechargeable probe option?

A: The probes use AA batteries. Rechargeable batteries work, but alkaline or lithium batteries are recommended and have proven to have a long lifespan in typical usage.

Q: Can the SmartID test results be uploaded to TPP?

A: The results can be uploaded to TPP in software version 4.7 or higher.

Q: Can I use SmartID to qualify the home install for using QAM64 in the upstream?

A: The SmartID test to every outlet verifies that the whole home network is operating according to its design parameters. This includes ingress, path frequency response and losses, and includes MoCA frequencies as designated in the service plan. As QAM64 and other signals are intended for transmission on the coax network, the SmartID test verifies that the install is capable of transmission of those signals according to design.

Q: Can SmartID be used to test the cable drop?

A: Yes, this is a common application. Simply connect a probe at each end of the drop cable and initiate a test using the Drop Check service plan.

Q: Does this unit check all frequencies from 0 – 1,000 Mhz and give you a spectrum analysis of these frequencies?

A: There is no traditional spectrum display; however, the SmartID test provides a detailed sweep response between 5 to 1,500 MHz for all SmartID probes connected. Different limits can be set for the different frequency ranges being tested, 5 – 45 MHz or 55 – 1000 MHz, as well as a MoCA channel (if desired) which can range from 850 to 1,525 MHz. Additionally, the test includes ingress test at each SmartID based on a test for the presence of RF above a threshold anywhere in the tested frequency range of 5 to 1,500 MHz.

Q: Will SmartID find a splitter if only one leg of that splitter has a probe on it?

A: If only one output leg of a splitter has a SmartID connected, the splitter will appear as a reflection, represented as an (!) fault on the DSAM SmartID mode display. Without a second SmartID connected to the second splitter output leg, it is impossible to be 100 percent certain that the splitter is not just a fault in the coax cable. With multiple SmartID probes connected, the mode is capable of detecting that a splitter is present based on losses and common reflections.

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