Release date: May 11th 2010
Type Release: Bug Fix
Analysis Method affected: All

Caution: This program will not work if your service contract is out of date.

Summary: Some installations suffer from a problem of over-sensitivity to changes in the signal from the cup stand. The MeltLab AI (Artificial Intelligence) detects a cup on the stand and a sample being poured by the voltages coming from the cup stand. A few customers have reported “ghost” analyses where non-poured samples filed with empty curves, and where removing a cup from the stand caused the curve to disappear from the screen. (Currently the screen is supposed to clear when a new cup is placed on the stand.)

Cause: Foundries typically have electrical issues with stray voltages and floating grounds. Only a few systems are reporting these problems, so it is felt that pour grounding and shielding may be the issue. These voltages seem to be momentary and with little current behind them.

Fix: Additional code has been inserted into the program to delay changing the state of the cup stand (no cup, ready, active, and remove cup) by 1 second to make sure the voltage change we are acting upon was not momentary. Updating the software to a version later than 5.100511 (May 11th, 2010) will include this fix. No changes in configuration are required.

The new program can be downloaded at: www.meltlab.com by selecting the MeltLab XP Upgrade. One other note: This version of the program has been successfully tested on Win7 32bit, and Win7 64 bit professional edition. There are some issues in Win7 with the speed of reading inputs, but these problems only affect installations with 6 or more modules. Windows Vista remains on our “not recommended” list.