

Muting the AFA 500

There are four ways to silence the audible alarm on an AFA 500 fume hood or bio-safety cabinet alarm.

1. Temporary mute

When the monitor is in alarm mode, press the enter button. The horn will remain off for the duration of the alarm condition. When the monitor returns to safe mode, the alarm will be re-enabled for the next time the monitor has an alarm condition.

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If the user wants to use a *temporary mute with a ringback feature* — wherein the audible alarm will resume after a set time period — this can be accomplished by connecting two wires from the relay output terminals to the + and SW terminals on the sash high input relay. Once this connection is made, an low air alarm also will initiate the sash high alarm. If a user pushes the enter button for a temporary mute, it will re-sound after five minutes.

2. Permanent mute

When the monitor is in normal operation mode, press and hold the set button for 10 seconds. The audible alarm will beep three times to indicate the alarm is disabled. When the airflow is in the normal/safe condition, the green LED will flash to indicate the alarm has been disabled. When the airflow is in a fail/unsafe condition, the red light will blink and no horn will sound. To undo the permanent mute, press and hold the set button for 10 seconds. The audible alarm will beep three times to indicate the alarm is enabled.

NOTE 1: This setting is not stored in the 500's flash memory, so permanent mute will reset in the event of a power loss.

NOTE 2: The Labconco Guardian Jr. monitors do not have a set button. In order to establish a “permanent mute” on these units, connect one wire to both terminals on the alarm disable relay input, closing the contact. This requires very low voltage and current, 15VDC / 50mA max (0.05A), so 18 or 20 AWG wire will fit and be good enough.

3. Night Setback

This is a “temporary” mute activated by electric input. The monitor has two dry contact relay inputs on the back. To enable night setback, wire an external element (a building automation system or the hood power, the fan power, the room light, etc.) into relay input one. Then, when the external element changes states (turns on/turns off, etc.) it sends a signal to the relay to switch from open to closed. When the monitor enters night setback mode, the audible alarm is disabled. If there is sufficient airflow, the green light will blink. If there is an air fail condition, the red light will flash. Then, when the external element changes states back to the original condition, the relay switches back and the alarm returns to normal operating mode (the horn is re-activated automatically and the green light returns to solid state).

To make sure everything is set properly, activate the blower switch on and off while looking at

the monitor to make sure the mode is changing as intended.

This function is commonly used when the blower is switched off elsewhere, such as by a building automation system, which usually incorporates a volt free contact to mute the alarm.

When there is no automation system and the blower control is only a two-position switch in the room or on the hood, there must be a separate dry contact from the switch. The reason for this is the night setback function essentially switches its own voltage — one of the terminals on input 1 has the supply voltage on it (15VDC), this is then switched back into the other terminal to activate setback. If voltage from the blower switch is sent into input 1, the relay won't function as intended.

4. "Link" power

This approach involves wiring the monitor so when the power to an external source (such as the hood light) is shut off, the monitor powers off as well. This can be done by wiring the outlet that powers the monitor to lose power whenever the light loses power (kind of how a TV, DVD player, etc., all shut off when turning off the community surge protector/power strip). The monitor will remember its calibration when power is restored.