

# Interface Manual

## Sentinel Node

### Potentiometer

*SignalFire Model: Sentinel-POT-XXXX*



The SignalFire Sentinel Node with POT interface is an Intrinsically Safe device with the following features:

- Interface to potentiometer
- Supplies a 4.096V reference to the potentiometer
- Low-power operation from internal high capacity lithium primary battery pack.
- Sends data to a SignalFire Buffered Modbus Gateway
- Settable Modbus ID
- AES 128bit Encryption

## Specifications

Enclosure Size	3.5" tall × 5.0" wide × 5.0" deep
Power Source	Internal IS Lithium battery pack <i>SignalFire Part Number: 3BIS</i>  External Solar battery system <i>SignalFire Part Number: Sentinel-HCSolar</i>  DC-DC Converter <i>SignalFire Part Number: DCDC-Sentinel</i>  Other external power supply meeting the power entity parameters from the control drawing.
Temperature Rating	-40°C to +60°C
Radio Frequency	902-928MHz Ism Band, FHSS radio, internal antenna
Compliance	Certified for use in Class I, Division 1 groups C and D. EXi [EXi] FCC/IC Certified.



**WARNING:** Use of this equipment in a manner not specified by the manufacturer may impair the protection provided by the equipment.

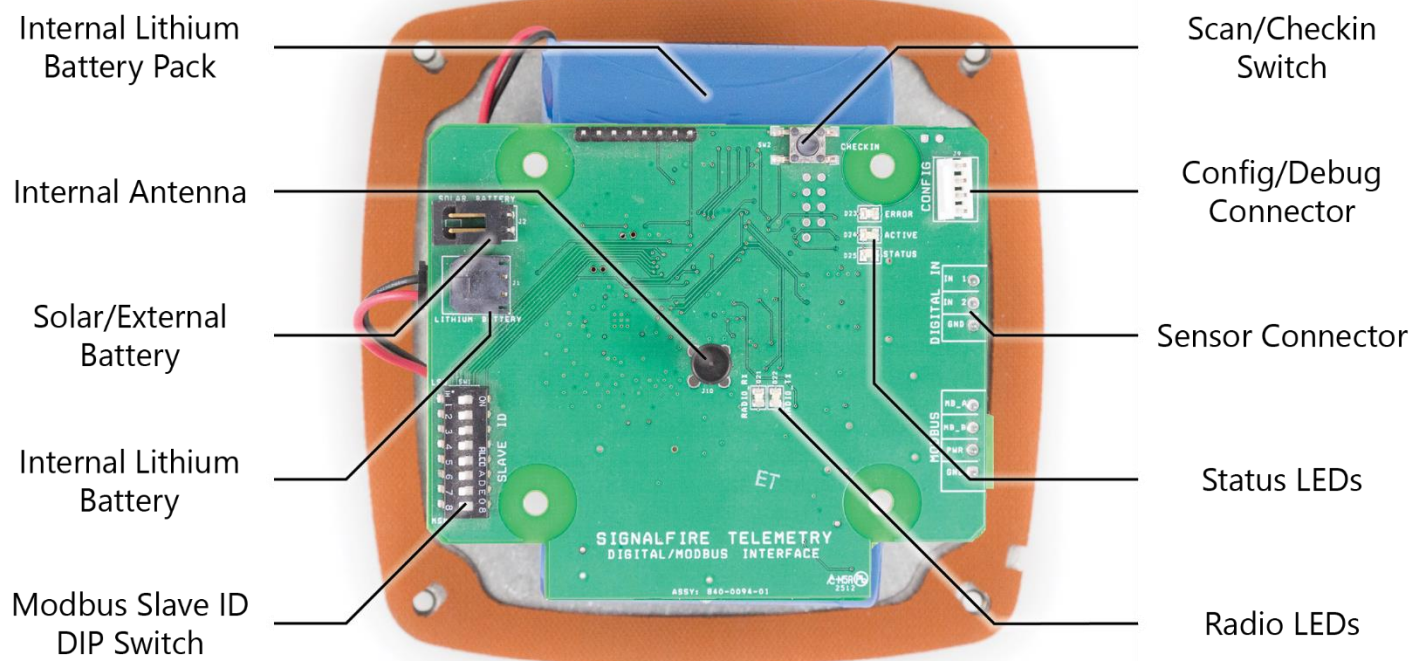


**WARNING:** The use of any parts not supplied by the manufacturer violates the safety rating of the equipment.

*The associated apparatus provides intrinsically safe outputs.*

*L'appareil associé fournit des sorties à sécurité intrinsèque.*

Refer to control drawing "Sentinel – Control Drawing – HART and Analog" for requirements when used in a Class I Division 1 area.



### Radio LEDs

- The Radio TX LED (**green**) flashes each time a radio packet is sent. This LED will blink rapidly while searching for the radio network.
- The Radio RX LED (**red**) blinks on each received radio packet.

### Status LEDs

- The Active LED (**green**) will blink at boot up and will blink rapidly when the sensor is being powered and read.
- The ERROR LED (**red**) will blink to indicate an error condition.

### Scan/Checkin Button

- If this button is pressed the Sentinel will send the current counter values to the gateway.

## Setup

The nodes need to be set up for correct operation before being fielded. The configurable items include:

- Network selection
- Check-in period selection
- Modbus Slave ID setting

All settings are made using the SignalFire Toolkit PC application and a serial programming cable. The Modbus Slave ID can also be set using the DIP switch.



**WARNING: Perform the steps in this section (Setup) in a safe location only.**

Using the SignalFire Toolkit

The SignalFire Toolkit application can be downloaded at [www.signal-fire.com/customer](http://www.signal-fire.com/customer). After installation, launch the software and the main toolkit window will open:



Select the COM port associated with the Sentinel Node and click "Auto-Detect Device on COM Port." This will open the device configuration window, where all device settings can be configured.

## Network Setting

The network is set using the SignalFire Toolkit. **The network, network group, and corporate ID/encryption key settings must match those of the gateway for them to communicate.**

Radio Network: 3  
Radio Network Group: 0  
Set

## Encryption

To protect your over-the-air data and prevent tampering, SignalFire networks come with encryption. Legacy products use a Corporate ID, but can be switched over to use an encryption key if the firmware and ToolKit are up to date.

To set up a legacy Sentinel to use encryption, click the checkbox labeled **Enable Encryption** inside the **Set Corporate ID** box. All newer Sentinels come with this option enabled with “signalfire” as the default encryption key.

Set Corporate ID  
 Enable Encryption  
Corporate ID: 7  
Set  
Help

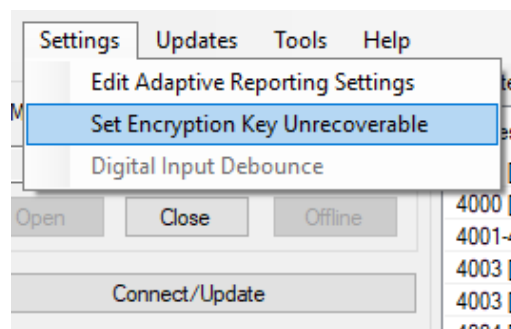
*Corporate ID*

Set Encryption Key  
 Enable Encryption  
Key: signalfire  
Set  
Help

*Encryption Enabled*

The box will then change into a **Set Encryption Key** box, and it will prompt instead for the encryption key you would like to use. Note that keys may not contain spaces or angle brackets. Enter it and then press **Set**. If you are setting up a new network, you will need to set the encryption key on all of your devices. If you are adding a Sentinel to a legacy network, you can simply set the Corporate ID without clicking the Enable Encryption box, and it will remain compatible with the older system.

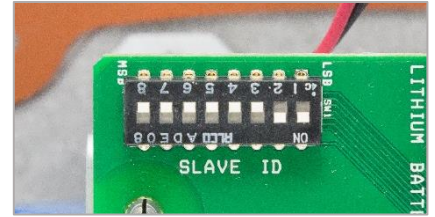
It is also possible to hide your encryption key so it cannot be read. This is the most secure option, but if you forget your key, there is no way to recover it – you have to reset the key on every device on its network. To enable this option, select **Set Encryption Key Unrecoverable** under the **Settings** menu.



*Setting the encryption key to be unrecoverable.*

## Modbus Slave ID

The Modbus Slave ID can be set with the SignalFire Toolkit, or with the DIP switch located on the device on older models. The DIP switch takes an 8-bit binary input which is converted into a slave ID from 1 to 240. In the picture below switch 1 and 2 are on, which is 00000011 and results in a slave ID of 3. The least significant bit (LSB) is on the right and is labeled 1 above the row of switches. The Sentinel must be power cycled after setting the DIP switch. Note: The DIP switch must be set to 0 (all switches off) in order to set the Slave ID with the SignalFire Toolkit.



## Sensor Check-in

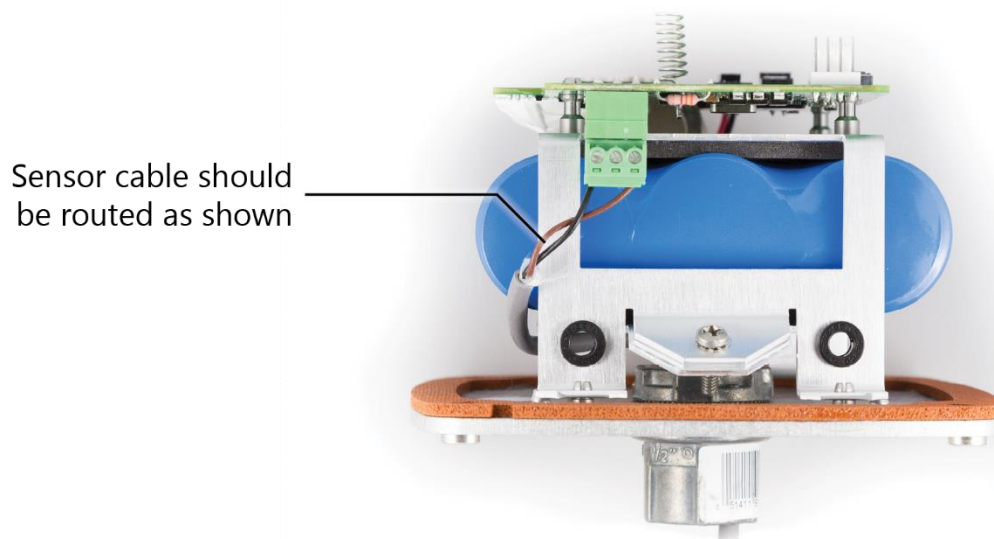
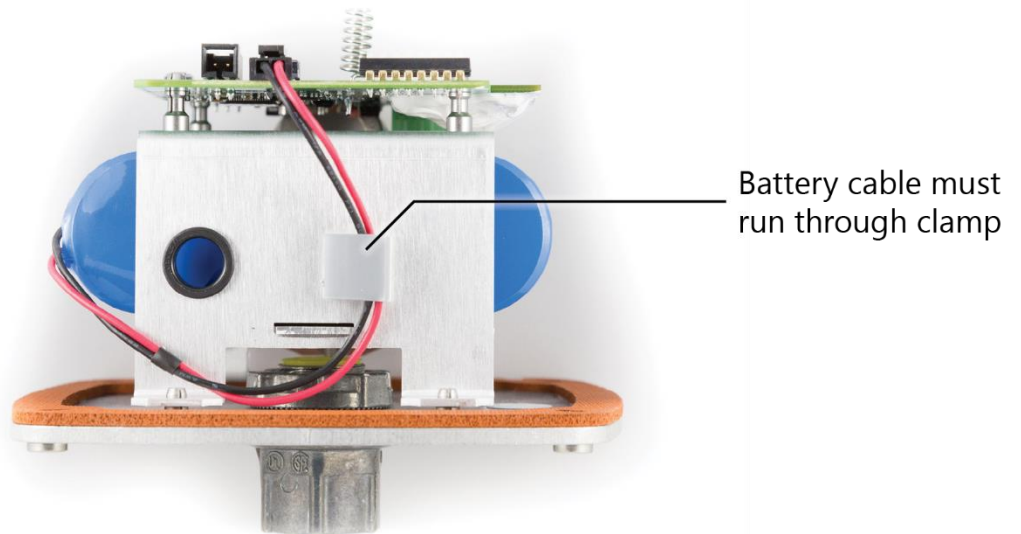
Check-in intervals of 5 seconds to 2 hours are supported. A warmup time of 1 second is recommended for the POT interface (under "Sensor On Time"). The sensor power mode should be set to LOW.

## Sensor Connections

### Wiring Requirements

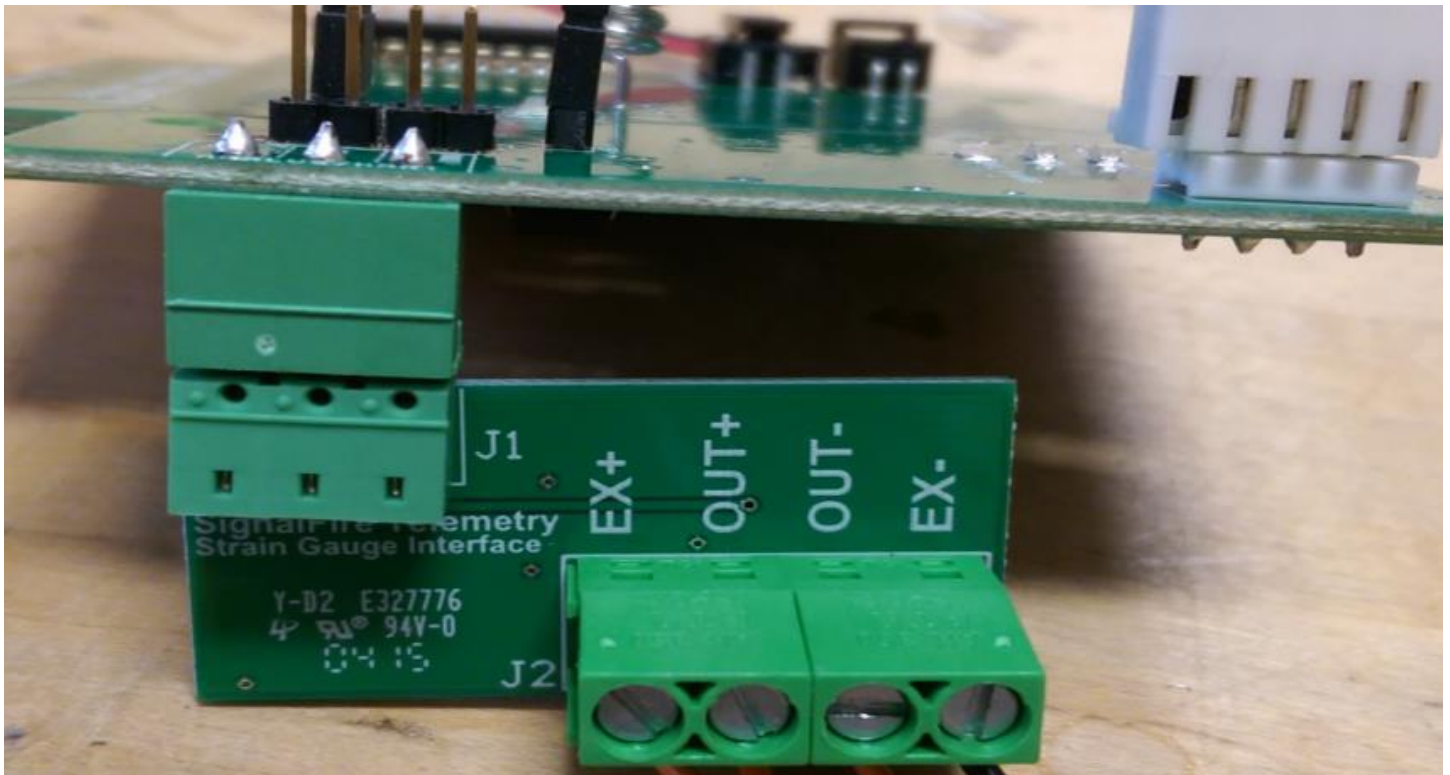
To ensure intrinsic safety is maintained it is required that the installer follow these guidelines when connecting sensors to the SignalFire node. See pictures for proper wire routing examples.

- The battery wire must be routed through the battery cable hold-down clamp.
- Strip the wires so that there is minimal exposed un-insulated wire when inserted into the screw terminal.
- All wiring should be neat and orderly.



<b>EX+</b>	4.096V Reference to top of POT
<b>OUT+</b>	Potentiometer wiper terminal
<b>OUT-</b>	Ground (bottom of POT)
<b>EX-</b>	Ground (bottom of POT)

Note that **both OUT- and EX-** must be connected to the bottom of the POT. The Jumpers on the Sentinel must also be configured for 1-5V mode.



*Potentiometer Connection Terminals*

### POT Calibration

For accurate scaling, it is recommended that the POT interface is calibrated to each POT. To do this, select "Analog Sensor Calibration" from the Tools menu in the Sentinel Analog Toolkit window. Set the POT to the "0V" side, click the Turn ON button to supply the voltage, enter 0 for the "Low Calibration Input", then hit Set. Next, turn the POT all the way to the 4.096V side and enter 4.096 in the "High Calibration Input" and click "Set/Cal". The POT input is now calibrated and will read the correct voltage.



## Remote Modbus Register Mapping

The Sentinel Node sends data to a SignalFire Telemetry Modbus Gateway. The data that is sent to the gateway is available at the gateway in registers where it can then be read by a Modbus RTU. Consequently, the node needs to have a unique (to the network it is in) Modbus slave ID which the gateway will use to store its unique data.

### Modbus Registers

Every check-in period, the sensors are read and data is sent to the gateway. The gateway will save the data under the set Modbus ID in 16-bit registers. The register map for this system is below.

### Register Map

Register Number	Register Address (Offset)	Description
43001	3000	A/D Counts (12bit legacy format)
43002	3001	Loop current in $\mu$ A (Reported as 0 if set to 1-5V mode)
43003	3002	Loop voltage in mV (Reported as 0 if set to 4-20mA mode)
43004-43005	3003-3004	Custom Scaling of Loop (two registers) (32bit Float)
43006	3005	Alarm High Notification (0=no alarm, 1=in alarm)
43007	3006	Alarm Low Notification (0=no alarm, 1=in alarm)
43008	3007	Alarm High Setpoint in mV or $\mu$ A
43009	3008	Alarm Low Setpoint in mV or $\mu$ A
49987	9986 or 65523	Low Battery Alarm (0 = battery above 3.0V, 1 = battery below 3.0V)
49988	9987 or 65524	Major revision number for the mainboard
49989	9988 or 65525	Minor revision number for the mainboard
49990	9989 or 65526	Major revision number for the radio
49991	9990 or 65527	Minor revision number for the radio
49992	9991 or 65528	High 16 bits of SFTS node address
49993	9992 or 65529	Low 16 bits of SFTS node address (the radio ID)
49994	9993 or 65530	Slave ID readback
49995	9994 or 65531	Received signal strength of last packet from the slave
49996	9995 or 65532	Battery voltage of the Modbus client, in millivolts
49997	9996 or 65533	Minutes until this slave will time out, unless new data is received
49998	9997 or 65534	Number of registers cached for this slave device
49999	9998 or 65535	Remote device type. 42 for Sentinel Analog

Note: The status registers are only available from the 49987-499999 (9986-9998) address range if the gateway is running firmware 7.52 or higher.

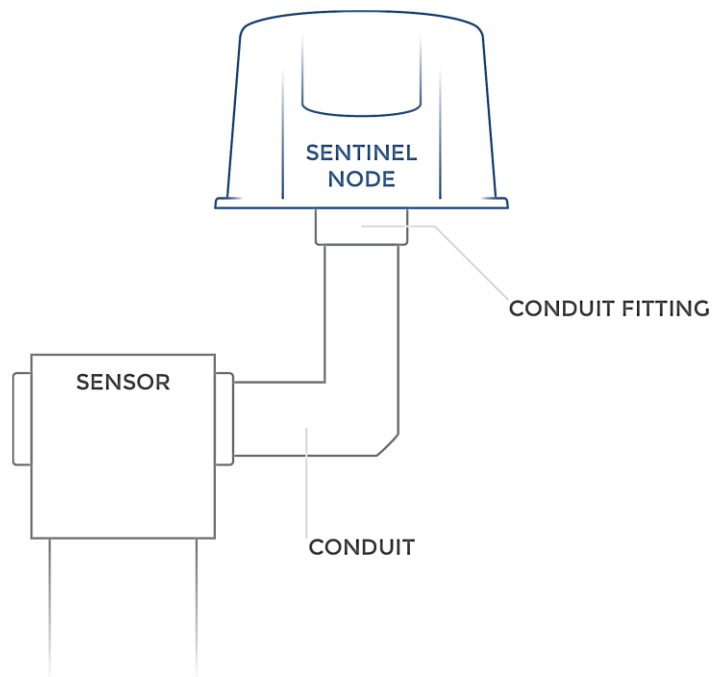
## Mounting and Care

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The unit comes with a watertight ½" NPT conduit fitting on the bottom mounting plate. The Sentinel is then directly mounted to the sensor with a short section of conduit.

### Direct Mount to Sensor with Short Conduit

This mounting method uses a short conduit run from the sensor and the unit is held in place by the conduit.



**WARNING:** The Sentinel must be mounted in a location free of high vibrations. Over time vibrations can damage the Sentinel or battery pack, which could impair its safety ratings. Do not mount directly to continuous vibrating equipment such as pumps or compressors.

## Internal Lithium Battery Replacement

Battery Packs can be changed with the node in place.

- 1 Open the cover from the enclosure.
- 2 Unplug the battery from the PCB, by depressing the locking clip on the connector.
- 3 Loosen the screw holding the battery door and slide the old battery out.
- 4 Slide in the new battery pack and tighten the battery door screw.
- 5 Connect the battery to the main PCB battery connector.
- 6 Install the enclosure cover.



**WARNING: Use of any battery other than the SignalFire part number 810-0008-02 will impair the protection provided by the equipment.**



**WARNING: If the internal battery is installed the external solar battery system or other power source may not be connected!**

## Cleaning Instructions

The outside of the enclosure may be cleaned with water, mild soap, and a damp cloth as needed. High pressure washing is not recommended.



**WARNING: Electrostatic Discharge Hazard! Care must be taken to avoid the potential of creating a charge on the enclosure or antenna. Do not wipe with a dry cloth. Do not brush against the enclosure with clothing or gloves.**



**WARNING: Only connect to the debug port in a safe area!**

Debug and configuration information is available if a connection is made via the debug port on the main board. A USB converter cable (available from SignalFire) must be used for this interface.

Debug and advanced configuration may be done using the SignalFire Toolkit PC application.

#### Technical Support and Contact Information

SignalFire Telemetry  
140 Locke Dr, Suite B  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
(978) 212-2868  
[support@signal-fire.com](mailto:support@signal-fire.com)

#### Revision History

Revision	Date	Changes/Updates
1.0	12/16/14	Initial release
1.1	5/13/15	Added detail for C1D1 certification
1.2	6/5/15	Updated design
1.4	9/14/17	Added section for encryption, updated warnings
1.5	2/7/19	Minor formatting updates

## APPENDIX - FCC and IC Statements

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Changes or modifications not expressly approved by SignalFire Telemetry, Inc could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Only the supplied coil antenna (Part number 810-0012-01) which is permanently soldered to the PCB may be used. This antenna has a maximum gain of 3dB.

### **WARNING!**

#### **FCC and IC Radiation Exposure Statement:**

This equipment complies with FCC's and IC's RF radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment under the following conditions:

1. This equipment should be installed and operated such that a minimum separation distance of 20cm is maintained between the radiator (antenna) & user's/nearby person's body at all times.
2. This transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a maximum (or lesser) gain approved for this transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.r.i.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.

*Conformément à la réglementation d'Industrie Canada, le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante.*

*This device complies with Industry Canada licence-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.*

*Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Industrie Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes : (1) l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et (2) l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.*