

Linx 5900 & 7900



How To Create a Sequential
Number



THINKING ALONG YOUR LINES



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1 Introduction

This document tells you how you create a Sequential Number field.

You need a User Level C password to perform all the tasks that are described in this document.

1.1 Health and Safety

Make sure that you read and understand the Health and Safety information in the 'Safety' section of the *Linux 5900 & 7900 Quick Start Guide*.



2 About Sequential Numbers

A Sequential Number field is a field that contains a number that is updated automatically. The printer updates the number at each occurrence of a trigger event, which you can define. The number can contain both numerals (0 to 9) and letters (a to z, or A to Z). The number can contain Arabic or Farsi numerals.

2.1 Ranges

A Sequential Number normally contains a single range. The range can include numbers or letters, or a mixture of numbers and letters. Figure 1 shows some examples of acceptable ranges for a Sequential Number field.

Range	How the Sequential Number field changes
000 to 999	001, 002, 003, ..., , ..., 998, 999, 001, 002, ...
5001 to 10000	5001, 5002, 5003, ..., , ..., 9999, 10000, 5001, ...
A0a to Z9z	A0a, A0b, A0c, ..., , ..., Z9y, Z9z, A0a, ...

Figure 1. Example Sequential Number ranges

The three example ranges shown in Figure 1 are of a different size:

- There are 999 numbers in the first example range.
- There are 5000 numbers in the second example range.
- There are 26×10×26 (6760) numbers in the third range.

The Sequential Number field changes at each occurrence of the trigger event. In the examples shown in Figure 1, the Sequential Number field changes by an interval of 1 for each trigger event. See 'Interval' on page 12 to set the printer to use a different interval.

2.2 Format characters

You can insert a space or other character that is not a numeral or letter. For example:

/ = < > + . * @

You can put these characters in any position to format the printed number. When the number is updated, these characters do not move or change. For example, the following sequence of 999 numbers contains the “#” symbol:

0#01, 0#02,... ...9#98, 9#99

2.3 Multiple ranges

NOTE: You cannot create multiple sequential number ranges on the 5900 printer.

You can create Sequential Numbers that contain more than one range. If you do this, the printer prints the first range of the sequence, then the following ranges. For example, if you create a Sequential Number that includes all three ranges shown in Figure 1, the printer prints the following:

000, 001, ..., , 998, 999, 5001, 5002, ..., , 9999, 10000, A0a, A0b, ..., , Z9y, Z9z.



3 Create a Sequential Number

This example shows how to create a Sequential Number field that contains the range 001 to 999.

To create the field, perform the following steps:

- 1 At the **Print Monitor** page, select **Message Store > New** to display the **Message Editor** page with a new, blank message.

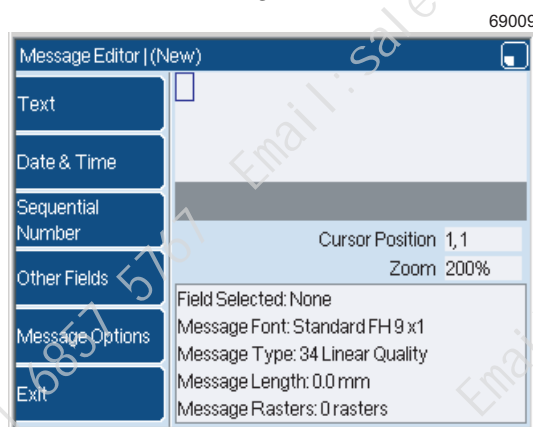


Figure 2. Message Editor page

- 2 Press the **Sequential Number** key to display the **Insert Sequential Number** page.

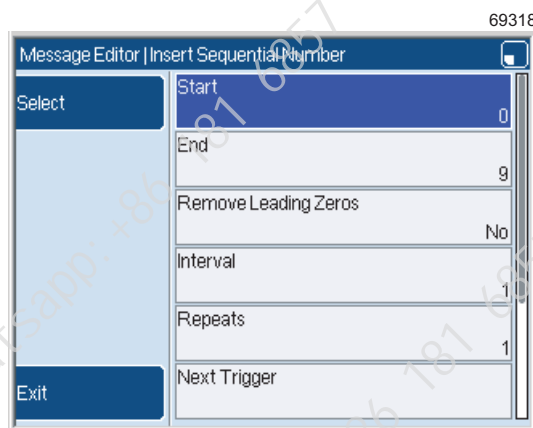


Figure 3. Insert Sequential Number page

This page shows the default values for the new range. The number has one digit and the range starts at 0 and ends at 9.

NOTE: Only the **Start** and **End** options are used in this example. The other options on this page are described in the next section (see 'Sequential Number configuration' on page 11).

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- 3 Select **Start** to display the **Start** page.

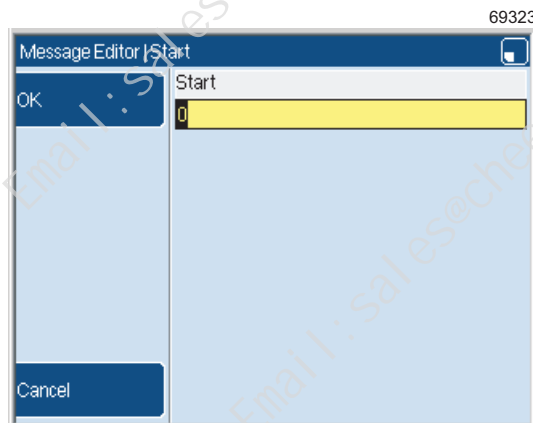


Figure 4. Start page

- 4 Change the displayed value to "001" then press the **OK** key to return to the **Insert Sequential Number** page.

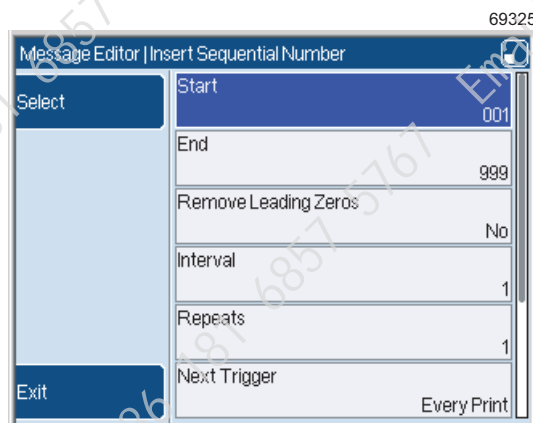


Figure 5. Insert Sequential Number page

The Start number has three digits and the printer adjusts the End number automatically, so that the number of digits is the same. The **Start** and **End** options show the new values.

NOTE: The range is complete. If you want to add a range to the Sequential Number, use the Down arrow key to highlight the **Add More Ranges** option (7900 printer only—the **Add More Ranges** option is not available on the 5900 printer). Then press the **Insert** key and repeat steps **3** to **4** to add a range.



- 5 Press the **Exit** key to return to the **Message Editor** page. The Sequential Number field is displayed in the message. The page displays the number 001, which is the Start number for this sequence.

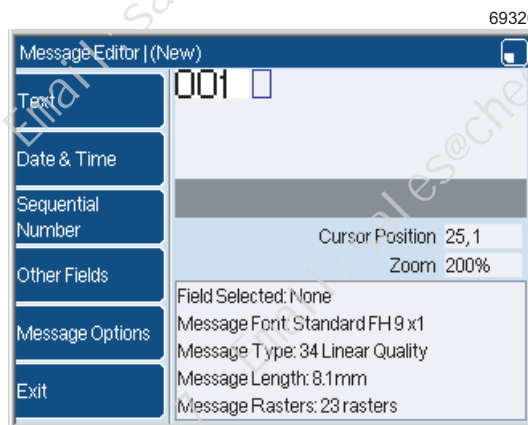


Figure 6. Message Editor page and Sequential Number field

Now you can exit from the **Message Editor** page and save your message, as shown in the *Linx 5900 & 7900 Quick Start Guide*.

Change the Start or End numbers

When you enter the Start number, the printer calculates the End number, as shown on page 5. If you change the Start number, and the End number becomes invalid, the printer must calculate a new value for the End number. The printer displays an information page.

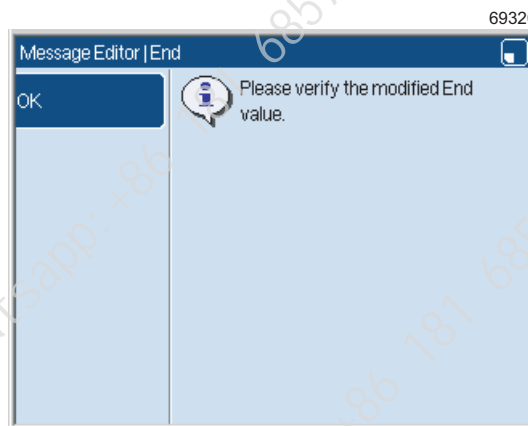


Figure 7. End value confirmation page

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Press the **OK** key to display the **End** page. The printer shows you the new value that it calculated.

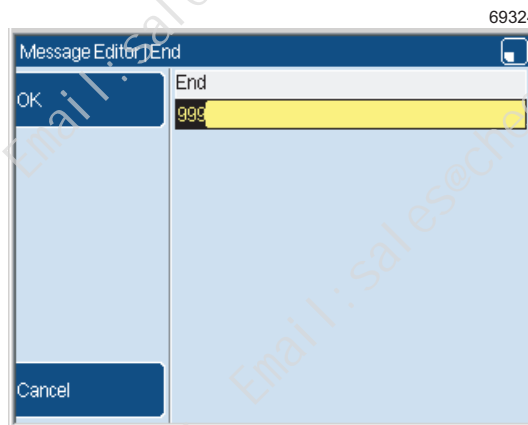


Figure 8. End page

Press the **OK** key to accept the new value.

The printer also displays an information page if you change the End number and the Start number becomes invalid.



3.1 Edit the Sequential Number

At the **Message Editor** page, select the Sequential Number field to see the edit options.

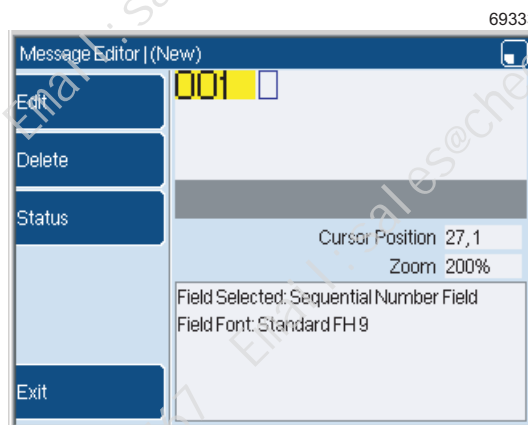


Figure 9. Sequential Number selected

Press the **Exit** key to remove the highlight, or select one of the following options.

3.1.1 Edit

Select this option to display the **Edit Sequential Number** page.

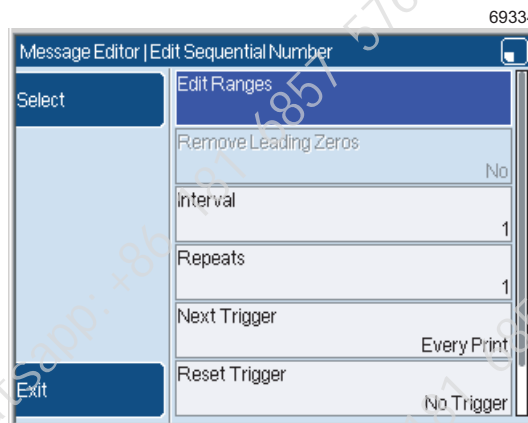


Figure 10. Edit Sequential Number page

The options are described in 'Configuration options' on page 11.

NOTE: If you select this option on the 5900 printer, the **Edit Ranges** option is not available.

3.1.2 Delete

Select this option to delete the Sequential Number field.



3.1.3 Status

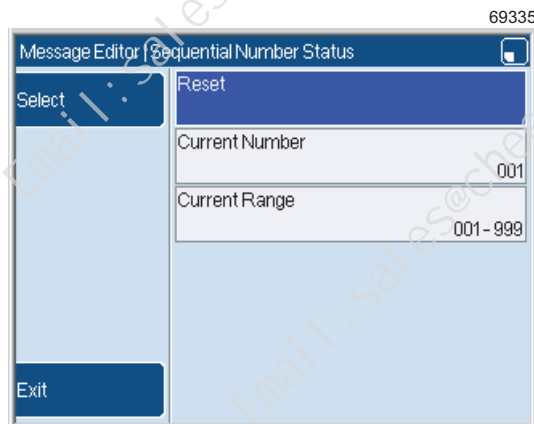


Figure 11. Sequential Number Status page

You can use this page to change the current status of the sequential number.

Reset

If you select this option, the printer immediately resets the sequence to the first number in the first range of the sequence.

Current Number

Use this option to set the current number. The number must be in the current range—see below.

NOTE: The printer does not accept any value that does not match the format of the numbers in the current range.



Current Range

NOTE: You cannot select this option on the 5900 printer. The option shows the current single range saved in the printer.

Use this option to change the current range of the sequence. The printer displays the ranges in the sequence.

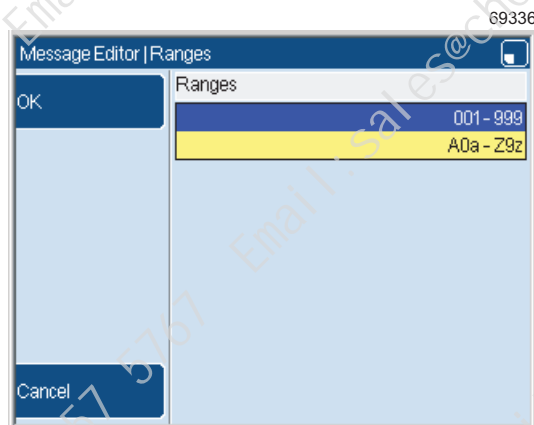


Figure 12. Ranges page

Highlight the required range and press the OK key to change the range.



4 Sequential Number configuration

The section 'Create a Sequential Number' beginning on page 4 tells you how to use the **Insert Sequential Number** page and the **Edit Sequential Number** page. This section tells you how to configure the settings for a Sequential Number field.

4.1 Configuration options

The **Insert Sequential Number** page is like the **Edit Sequential Number** page, but some options are different. These pages contain the following options.

4.1.1 Edit Ranges

NOTE: This option is not available on the 5900 printer.

This option is in the **Insert Sequential Number** page and in the **Edit Sequential Number** page. Select this option to display the **Ranges** page.

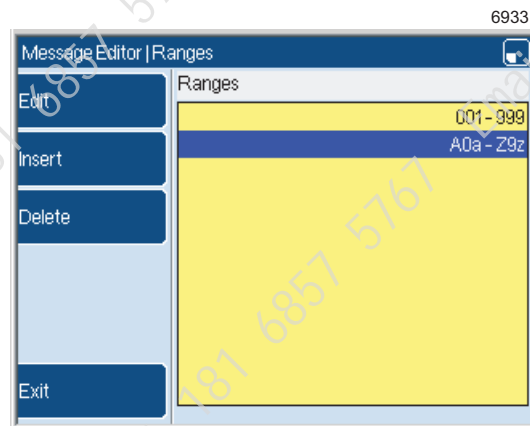


Figure 13. Ranges page showing two ranges

Use the arrow keys to highlight one of the ranges, then select one of the following options.

Edit

Use this option to change the Start and End numbers for the highlighted range.

Insert

Use this option to insert a new range.

Delete

Use this option to delete the highlighted range from the Sequential Number field.



4.1.2 Start

This option is in the **Insert Sequential Number** page. Use this option to enter the first item in the range. The format of the Start number controls the format of the End number.

NOTE: You can enter a maximum of 15 characters in the Start number and the End number fields.

- The Start number and the End number have the same number of characters. To create a range that starts at 1 and ends at 999, enter "001" in the Start number.
- If you need any format characters, insert these characters in the Start number.
- The printer does not change lower case letters to upper case letters (for example "a" to "A"), or upper case to lower case.

4.1.3 End

This option is in the **Insert Sequential Number** page.

The printer uses the Start number to calculate the End number automatically, but you can change the End number if necessary.

If the Start number contains any format characters, the printer always inserts these characters into the same positions in the End number.

4.1.4 Remove Leading Zeros

NOTE: The **Remove Leading Zeros** option is *not* available if any range in the Sequential Number includes a character that is not a number. The **Remove Leading Zeros** option is *not* available if the Sequential Number includes more than one range.

If you set this option to Yes, and the first characters in the number are zeros, the printer does not print these zeros. For example:

- "0008" is changed to "8".
- "0010" is changed to "10" (the third zero is not changed).

NOTE: The zero is *not* removed if the range is 0 to 9.

4.1.5 Interval

The Interval value is the size of the increase (or decrease) in the number at each occurrence of the trigger event. The following examples show how the Interval value changes the count sequence for numbers and letters.

Interval	Numbers	Letters
1	1, 2, 3, 4,...	a, b, c, d,...
2	1, 3, 5, 7,...	a, c, e, g,...
3	1, 4, 7, 10,...	a, d, g, j,...

4.1.6 Repeats

The Repeats value controls how many trigger events occur for each change in the number. The following examples show how the Repeats value changes the count sequence for numbers and letters.



Repeats	Numbers	Letters
1	1, 2, 3,...	a, b, c,...
2	1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3,...	a, a, b, b, c, c,...
3	1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3,...	a, a, a, b, b, b, c, c, c,...

NOTE: The maximum number of repeats is 31.

4.1.7 Next Trigger

Use this option to define the trigger signal that the printer uses to update the number. The trigger types that are available are described in 'Trigger types' on page 14.

4.1.8 Reset Trigger

Use this option to define the trigger signal that the printer uses to reset the number. The trigger types that are available are described in 'Trigger types' on page 14.

4.1.9 Add More Ranges

NOTE: This option is not available on the 5900 printer.

Select this option to add another range to the Sequential Number. The existing ranges and the new range must use the same settings—only the Start and End numbers are different.

4.1.10 Options

Select this option to display the **Options** page for the Sequential Number field.

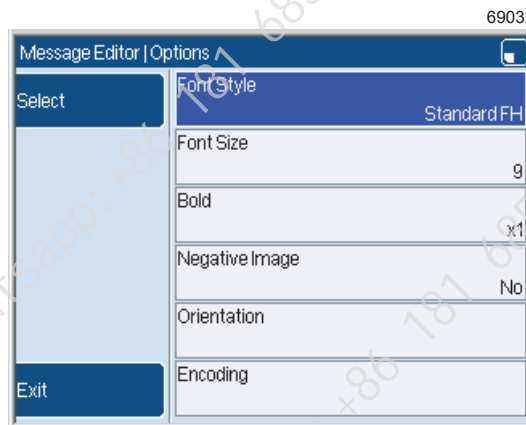


Figure 14. Options page

This page is like the **Options** page for other field types. The **Options** page is described in the *Linx 5900 & 7900 Quick Start Guide*.

4.1.11 Conversion

This option is used in cable printing applications, where a distance measurement is required. You can change the value of a sequential number in one set of measurement units to its equivalent value in another set of measurement units. For example, if the sequential number is '1' and the conversion value is set to 'Metres to Feet', the printed value will be '3.3' (that is, the number of feet in a metre).



The available conversion options are shown in Figure 15.

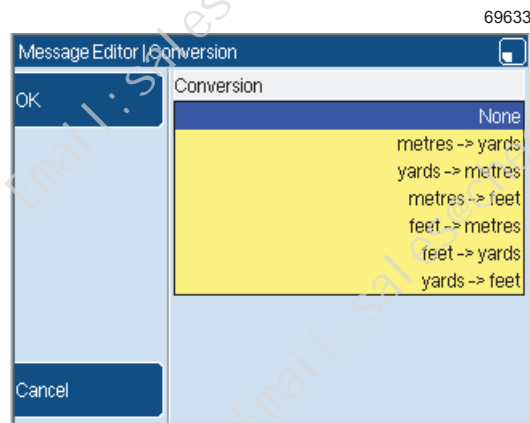


Figure 15. Conversion page

4.2 Trigger types

You can define the trigger event that tells the printer to update the sequential number (**Next Trigger**) or reset the sequence to the start (**Reset Trigger**). The trigger setup is the same for both the **Next Trigger** option and the **Reset Trigger** option.

When you select either the **Next Trigger** option or the **Reset Trigger** option, the printer displays the **Trigger** page.

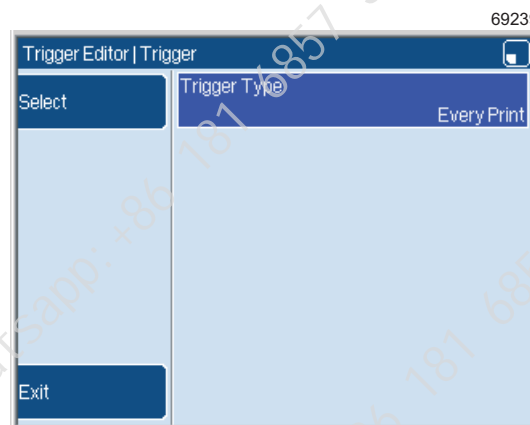


Figure 16. Trigger page: Every Print



Select the **Trigger Type** option to display a list of the trigger types that are available.

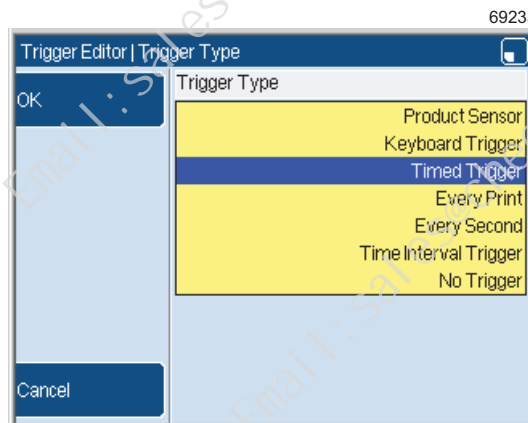


Figure 17. Trigger Type page

The trigger types that are available are as follows.

Product Sensor

The printer updates or resets the number when a signal is received from the product sensor. (For some applications the **Product Sensor** trigger and the **Every Print** trigger give the same result.)

If you use this type of trigger, the printer displays an additional option: **Product Sensor**.

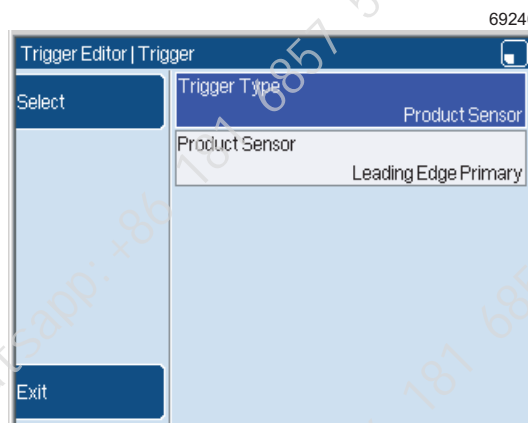


Figure 18. Trigger page: Product Sensor



Use the **Product Sensor** option to define the trigger signal that you use.

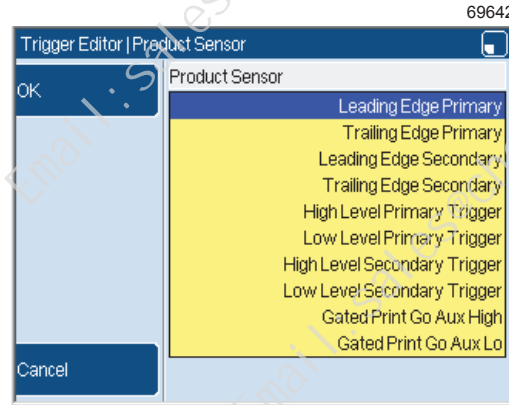


Figure 19. Trigger Editor: Product Sensor page

The trigger signal can be any of the following.

Leading Edge Primary

The rising edge of the signal from the Primary sensor.

Trailing Edge Primary

The falling edge of the signal from the Primary sensor.

Leading Edge Secondary

The rising edge of the signal from the Secondary sensor.

Trailing Edge Secondary

The falling edge of the signal from the Secondary sensor.

High Level Primary or Secondary

The Primary or Secondary sensor detects the presence of a product (the signal is active).

Low Level Primary or Secondary

The Primary or Secondary sensor does *not* detect the presence of a product (the signal is not active).

Gated Print Go Aux High

The 'gated' trigger types are available only for the **Next Trigger** option.



If you select this option, the printer displays an information page.

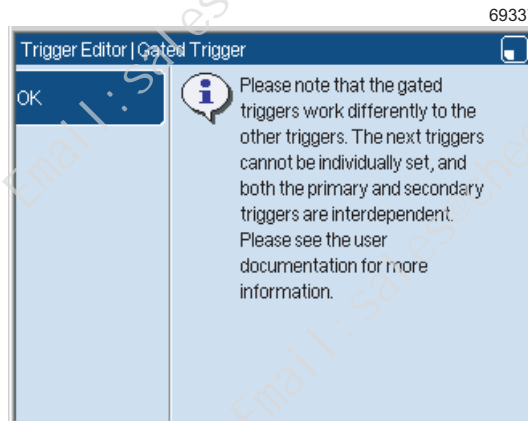


Figure 20. Gated triggers information page

NOTE: You cannot use the 'gated' trigger types unless the trigger type for the **Reset Trigger** option is 'No Trigger'.

In this mode, the field is updated at each print unless the secondary trigger device is in the high-level state.

Gated Print Go Aux Lo

This setting is like the 'Gated Print Go Aux High' setting, but in this mode, the field is updated at each print unless the secondary trigger device is in the low-level state.

Keyboard Trigger

The printer updates or resets the number when you generate a keyboard trigger signal. (To generate a keyboard trigger signal, press the [alt] key and the [T] key together.)

Timed Trigger

The printer updates or resets the number at a fixed time every day, or on the same day of every week, month, or year.

If you use this type of trigger, the printer displays additional options that you must set, as follows:

Timed Trigger

Select Daily, Weekly, Monthly, or Yearly.

Time

Set the time of day at which the trigger occurs.

Day of Week

If you set the **Timed Trigger** option to "Weekly", use this option to set the day of the week for the trigger.



Day of Month

If you set the **Timed Trigger** option to "Monthly", use this option to set the day of the month for the trigger. The range of allowed values is 1 to 31, or "EndOfMonth" (the last day of the month).

Month

If you set the **Timed Trigger** option to "Yearly", use this option to set the month for the trigger. Select the month from the list that is displayed.

Every Print

The printer updates or resets the number at every print. If the number is reset at every print, the number does not change. The printer prints only the first number in the first range.

Every Second

The printer updates or resets the number every second. If the number is reset every second, the printer cannot print more than the first numbers in the first range.

Time Interval Trigger

The printer updates or resets the number at fixed time intervals. If you use this type of trigger, the printer displays additional options that you must set, as follows:

Start Time

Use this option to set the time at which the first trigger occurs.

Time Interval

Use this option to set the time interval between triggers. The time interval format is "HH:MM:SS".

No Trigger

If you set the **Next Trigger** option to this trigger type, the number does not change and the printer always prints the same number.

If you set the **Reset Trigger** option to this trigger type, the sequence is not reset and the printer prints the whole sequence.