

Z-Wave Gas Reader

From your Z-wave network directly to the cloud!



DESCRIPTION

The NorthQ Gas Reader is a small device based on the Z-Wave wireless standard-ideal for home automation. The Gas Reader can store up to three months of consumption data and has a battery life of 10 to 15 months.

NorthQ also provides an (OEM) version for system integrators so 3rd parties can integrate the Power Reader or other NorthQ products into their own system. Full API is available under NDA.

FEATURES

- Save up to 23% on your gas bill
- Easy and simple installation
- Keep track of your gas consumption
- Compatible with an extensive diversity of meters
- Set and receive alarms
- Access to features and services on homanager.tv
- Dedicated sensor heads for magnetic and silver spot meters

COMPATIBILITY

The Z-Wave Gas Reader is compatible with all NorthQ Gateways and with the NQ-920 -EU Z-Wave USB Stick.

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Technical Specifications

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

Frequency	868.42 MHz EU Version
Range	25~35 meters indoor 50~110 meters outdoor
Meters Supported	Silver Spot Magnetic Dial Electronic
Wireless Connectivity	Z-wave

BUTTON OPERATION

1x	Wake-up
2x	Sleep
3x	Include mode (requires a learn mode command)
7x	Factory reset (Warning: all data will be deleted)

BUTTON OPERATION

Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NorthQ NQ-900-EU• NorthQ NQ-901-EU• NorthQ NQ-902-EU• Other Z-Wave Gateways
USB Stick	NQ-920-EU

EXTRA SPECIFICATIONS

Weatherproof	Both sensor cable and main unit
Cable Length	5 meters
Storage Space	About 3 months of consumption data (values every 15 minutes)
Wall-Mount Accessories	Included
Firmware Update	Wireless

CERTIFICATES

Z-Wave	Certificated
CE Certificates	88/387/EEC; 2004/108/EC; 2006/95/EC

OPERATING CONDITIONS

Operating Temperature Range	0 ~ 50°C
Operating Humidity Range	20 ~ 90%
Storage Temperature Range	-20 ~ 70°C
Storage Humidity Range	15 ~ 95%

PRODUCT SIZE

Sensor Head	28.6 x 26.6 x 9.1 mm
Main Unit	93 x 75 x 34 mm

SUPPORTED COMMAND CLASSES

- COMMAND_CLASS_BASIC
- COMMAND_CLASS_BATTERY
- COMMAND_CLASS_WAKE_UP
- COMMAND_CLASS_FIRMWARE_UPDATE_MD_V2
- COMMAND_CLASS_TIME_PARAMETERS
- COMMAND_CLASS_METER_V2
- COMMAND_CLASS_CRC_16_ENCAP
- COMMAND_CLASS_CONFIGURATION
- COMMAND_CLASS_MANUFACTURER_SPECIFIC_V2
- COMMAND_CLASS_VERSION
- COMMAND_CLASS_METER_TBL_MONITOR



NORTHQ

POWER & GAS READER

(NQ-9021/9031/9041-EU)

(NQ-9121/9131/9141-EU)

Technical Integration
Z-Wave Commands

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I. Device Information

The Power Reader is a metering device capable of counting pulses from any electricity or gas meters. The device stores timestamped consumption in its internal memory every 15 minutes.

Note: The Power Reader for electricity metering has different firmware than the Power Reader for gas metering. Please make sure you have the appropriate firmware on your device before you start integrating / installing it. The proper way of distinguishing between the two firmware versions is by using the MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC command class.

Device presentation:

- NIF:

Generic device class: GENERIC TYPE METER

Specific device class: SPECIFIC TYPE SIMPLE METER

- SUPPORTED COMMAND CLASSES:

COMMAND_CLASS_BASIC

COMMAND_CLASS_BATTERY

COMMAND_CLASS_WAKE_UP

COMMAND_CLASS_FIRMWARE_UPDATE_MD_V2

COMMAND_CLASS_TIME_PARAMETERS

COMMAND_CLASS_METER_V2

COMMAND_CLASS_CRC_16_ENCAP

COMMAND_CLASS_CONFIGURATION

COMMAND_CLASS_MANUFACTURER_SPECIFIC_V2

COMMAND_CLASS_VERSION

COMMAND_CLASS_METER_TBL_MONITOR

- MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC for electricity firmware:

Manufacturer: 150

Product: 1

Product type: 1

- MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC for gas firmware:

Manufacturer: 150

Product: 1

Product type: 16

II. Functioning modes

The Power Reader has two functioning modes:

- real-time mode
- normal mode

In real-time mode, the Power Reader will keep the antenna always on. In normal mode, the Power Reader will go to sleep and wake up as instructed by the WAKE UP SET command.

III. Command classes

In the following section each command class is described in detail. Make sure to read the "Integrating with third party controllers" part of the document after going through the command classes.

1. COMMAND_CLASS_BASIC

Using the command class basic, the controlling node can control the Power Reader's LED. A basic set command will trigger the Power Reader's LED to light up. The Power Reader will respond to the BASIC SET command with a BASIC REPORT representing the LED status.

The basic get command is not supported.

2. COMMAND_CLASS_BATTERY

Using this command class, the Power Reader can be queried for battery level. The battery level is report according to the command class specification as a value between 0 and 100. Value 255 for low battery is not supported.

3. COMMAND_CLASS_WAKE_UP

Use this command class to specify for often should the Power Reader wake up when in normal mode. The command class is according to the command class specification.

4. COMMAND_CLASS_FIRMWARE_UPDATE_MD_V2

The Power Reader is firmware updateable. Performing a firmware update will erase all the historical consumption in the Power Reader's memory. The command class is implemented according to the command class specification. If you want support for firmware updates on your controlling device contact NorthQ directly for access to latest firmware.

The firmware update request get command must have the following parameters:

- **vendor:** 0x96
- **product id:** 0x0101
- **checksum:** the checksum is performed on the entire firmware file including headers. Initial crc value is 0xFFFF.

5. COMMAND_CLASS_TIME_PARAMETERS

Use this command class to set the Power Reader's realtime clock. The command class is according to the command class specification.

NOTE: The Power Reader will not store any timestamped consumption until the realtime clock is set.

6. COMMAND_CLASS_METER_V2

Use this command class to get the current total meter consumption. For the electricity firmware the meter type reported is 0x01 (electricity). For gas firmware the meter type reported is 0x02 (gas).

The scale for this command class is 0x00 (kWh - for electricity meter and m³ for gas meters).

7. COMMAND_CLASS_CRC_16_ENCAP

This command class is implemented according to the command class specification. Use it only if the controlling device is placed in a noisy environment for extra security.

8. COMMAND_CLASS_CONFIG

Through the configuration command class, the controlling node will configure the Power Reader.

Register 0x01 - Pulse factor (4 byte register) - In this register the controlling node must set the meter's impulse or rotation factor x 10.

Ex: For a mechanical meter with a rotation factor of 150, the value for this register must be set to 1500 (150 x 10). The rotation factor is usually written on the meter and its unit of measurement is rot / kWh.

NOTE: Some mechanical meters express their rotation factor in rot / Wh instead of rot / kWh. In this case the value must be converted to rot / kWh before multiplying by 10 and writing this value in the register. In order to convert rot / Wh to rot / kWh the value has to be multiplied by 1000.

For an electronic meter with an impulse factor of 1000 the value for this register must be set to 10000 (1000 x 10). The impulse factor is usually written on the meter and its unit of measurement is imp / kWh.

NOTE: Some electronic meters express their impulse factor in imp / Wh instead of imp / kWh. In this case the value must be converted to imp / kWh before multiplying by 10 and writing this value in the register. In order to convert imp / Wh to imp / kWh the value from the meter has to be multiplied by 1000.

For a gas meter read using the silver spot on one of the digits, the value written in this register is calculated with the following formula:

value = $Pow(10, x)$ where X is the index of the red digit that has the silver spot.



Figure 1 Determining the index of red digit with silver spot

For a gas meter read through magnetic contact, the value written in this register is impulse factor * 10. The impulse factor is usually written on the meter and it's expressed in imp / m³.

Register 2 - sensor type (1 byte register) - In this register, the controlling node has to set the meter type on which the Power Reader is placed.

For electricity firmware, set 0x01 to this register for electronic meter or 0x02 for mechanical meter. Mechanical meters can be distinguished by their rotating disk while the electronic meters can be distinguished by their digital display and blinking LED.

For gas firmware, set 0x01 to this register for magnetic contact meters or 0x02 for silver spot meters.

Register 7 - filter inhibit threshold (1 byte register) - Set this register to 0 in order to make the Power Reader start automatic calibration when placed on electricity mechanical meters.

Register 9 - pulse count (4 byte register) - This register holds the total number of pulses. Use this register to set the user's total meter consumption. In order for the Power Reader to report the proper total meter consumption the value for this registered has to be initialized with $\text{total_meter_consumption_stated_on_the_meter} * \text{impulse factor}$.

Ex: For a mechanical meter with a rotation factor of 150 and the total meter consumption 100.3, the value written in this register must be: 15045 (150 x 100.3). The total meter consumption written on the meter can be a user input variable at installation.

Register 10 - keep alive period (2 byte register) - At every wake up notification, the Power Reader stays alive for 3 seconds. If the controlling node can't guarantee a response for the Power Reader within 3 seconds, then this register should be set to the number of seconds that it will take the controlling node to send a response / request to the wake up notification.

Register 11 - realtime register (2 bytes) - This register notifies the controlling mode when the realtime mode has started and when it ended. The configuration report contains the number of seconds * 20 left until the realtime mode is over. A configuration report with value 0 notifies the controlling node that the Power Reader is going to normal mode.

NOTE: The wake up no more information has no effect in realtime mode. In order to tell the Power Reader to go to sleep from realtime mode, the controlling node has to set this register to value 0.

Register 12 - serial number (4 bytes) - This register contains the serial number of the Power Reader.

NOTE: The serial numbers written on the Power Reader are in HEX, not decimal.

Register 15 - calibration status (4 byte) - A configuration report of this register will inform the controlling node of its current calibration status on the meter.

The calibration progress is calculated as $(\text{value}[1] - 65 + \text{value}[2] / \text{value}[3]) * 25$

The calibration is finished successfully when $\text{value}[0] = 2$ and $\text{value}[2] = \text{value}[3]$.

The calibration has failed if $\text{value}[0] \neq 1$ OR $(\text{value}[0] = 2 \text{ AND } \text{value}[2] \neq \text{value}[3])$

9. COMMAND_CLASS_MANUFACTURER_SPECIFIC

The Power Reader will respond to a MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC GET command with the following information:

- MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC for electricity firmware:

Manufacturer: 150

Product: 1

Product type: 1

- MANUFACTURER SPECIFIC for gas firmware:

Manufacturer: 150

Product: 1

Product type: 16

10. COMMAND_CLASS_VERSION

This command class is implemented according to the command class specification.

11. COMMAND_CLASS_METER_TBL_MONITOR

The meter tbl monitor command class is implemented according to the command class specification.

NOTE: The Power Reader will not report any data through this command class if the time parameters were not set.

IV. Power Reader push button commands

The Power Reader can take commands by pressing the button. The following commands are supported:

- By pressing the button 1 time the Power Reader will enter real-time mode. The proper configuration reports will be sent to notify the controlling node.
- By pressing the button 2 times the Power Reader to wake up from sleep and send a wake up notification.
- By pressing the button 3 times the Power Reader will send a Node Information frame.
- By pressing the button 5 times the Power Reader will start meter calibration on mechanical meters.
- By pressing the button 7 times the Power Reader is reset to factory defaults.

V. Integrating the Power Reader with third party controllers

In order to properly integrate the Power Reader with a controller, the following steps have to be taken:

At installation:

- set the time parameters otherwise the Power Reader will not timestamp / store any data. If you do not do this you will only be able to see total meter consumption through the meter command class.
- set the wake up interval as a multiple of 15 minutes
- a Power Reader with an already configured wake up node (i.e. wake up node != 255) most probably has historical data in his storage. You can pull that from the Power Reader as the user might want to see his historical consumption through your UI.
- use the basic command class or NOP commands to perform a range test to the Power Reader and inform the user if the Power Reader is out of reach.
- make sure that the Power Reader's registers are configured properly with meter type / impulse factor / pulse count
- make sure you don't forget to do a meter calibration if the Power Reader is placed on a mechanical meter. Otherwise the measurements will be inaccurate. Check command class configuration for details on how to do a calibration.
- the Power Reader's serial number has to be queried and displayed to the user.
- the Power Reader automatically enters real-time mode at pairing. Make sure the Power Reader is sent to sleep as soon as possible after everything is installed.

At every wake up notification:

- do not ask more than the METER TBL MONITOR data at each wake up
- ask for the battery level only once per hour
- if the controlling node detects a missing wake up notification or a wake up notification too early it has to set the time parameters again
- use low power transmission at each wake up notification. If the response doesn't arrive, then switch to regular power transmission. If the controlling node and the Power Reader are placed close together, using low power transmission will show a major battery lifetime improvement. The communication software in the controller may choose not to try low power communication for a longer period of time if the Power Reader failed to respond to a certain amount of low power transmissions.
- sending wake up no more information will force the Power Reader to send an ACK to the controlling node. Not sending wake up no more information actually improves battery lifetime in this case. The Power Reader will go to sleep after the time in register 10 expires.

Misc:

- make sure your controller knows how to properly set the Power Reader to sleep from real-time mode by setting register 11 to 0.
- make sure your controller's UI notifies the user that requesting live data from the Power Reader (i.e. real-time mode requests) will cause the batteries to deplete very fast.

- the wake up interval must not be less than 15 minutes
- do not use CRC 16 command class unless it is absolutely necessary as it will require the antenna to send more bytes than the regular command class. By sending more bytes, the battery lifetime is affected.
- leave register 10 at 3 seconds

If all these requirements are fulfilled and the Power Reader is close to the gateway, the battery lifetime with the original batteries is 8 months.