3G IBC Controller End of Life Notice

D.R. Joseph 3rd Generation IBC Controller Reaches End-of-Life

As of October 15, 2024, D.R. Joseph's 2nd and 3rd Generation IBC systems have officially reached end-of-life (EOL) term. This milestone marks the conclusion of an exceptional product lifecycle that began in 2003 with the 2G systems and 2009 with the 3G systems. The new 4th generation IBC and LFSizer products are available now and are direct compatible replacements for the 3rd generation controllers.

For the 2nd and 3rd generation systems, service and support will continue for as long as possible, with the limiting factor being availability of controller parts which are no longer being produced. Once those parts cannot be replaced or repaired, upgrade to the 4th generation controllers will be required.

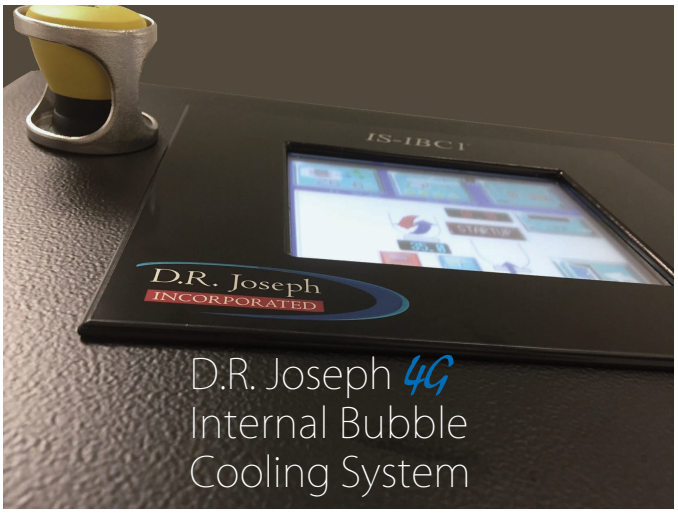
A positive note is the 3G IBC system field devices (sensors, valves, connection cables) are 100% electrically compatible with the 4G system. However, we do recommend replacing any field devices beyond the typical service life of 7 years to ensure optimum performance of the 4G system. No need to change blower inverters either. Essentially, the 3G controller can be removed and the new 4G control plugged in its place. 2G controllers will require additional field upgrades for bubble sensor communications and blower drive cables.

DRJ will also offer a limited time trade in program 2g and 3g controllers where we will provide a $1000.00 credit on any 4th generation IBC upgrade and a $1000.00 credit on any 4th generation LF Sizer upgrade.

Why the Transition?

This end-of-life decision was not taken lightly. Much like the phase-out of the 1st Generation controller, this move stems from increasing difficulty sourcing critical hardware. At the same time, it reflects our commitment to continuous improvement — a philosophy rooted in kaizen thinking: if something can be made better, it should be.

The successor to the 3G system — D.R. Joseph's 4th Generation IBC Controller — was developed with foresight into these very challenges. It offers powerful new capabilities, improved security, and backwards compatibility, all while making the upgrade process easier and more affordable than ever.



4th Generation IBC Control Platform

Next Steps

1. Locate Your Serial Number
Open the controller panel of your existing IBC system and find the serial number inside.

2. Send Your Info to Sales
Email the serial number to: sales@drjosephinc.com, or call +1-817-987-2030 to speak directly with a sales rep.

3. Get Your Upgrade Path
Sales will confirm compatibility and provide an upgrade plan. Note: Systems purchased after October 2024 are already up to date — no action needed.

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Why Upgrade to 4G?

- Quad-Core Processing for Modern Production Needs

The 4G system features a 500 MHz quad-core SCADA-grade processor, with two dedicated cores for analog/digital signal processing. This allows faster response times, better stability, and performance headroom for the challenges of today's resin blends, PCR materials, and high-speed automation environments.

- Built-In Cybersecurity

Today's extrusion environments demand secure connectivity. The 4G controller includes segmented Ethernet ports, Active Directory login support, and Modbus TCP/RTU with protocol converter options — helping your plant meet modern IT and cybersecurity standards.

- Smarter Automation, Less Waste

Automated layflat calibration, patented cage control, and blower balancing technologies not only reduce startup time and operator burden — they directly reduce resin waste, scrap, and edge trim. That makes the 4G system a strong tool for improving sustainability and profitability. The automatic valve calibration routine was also improved to provide a more accurate calibration by using double the sampling data compared to the 3G system.

- Retrofit-Ready with 3G Compatibility

The 4G system was intentionally designed with 3G customers in mind. In most cases, the upgrade requires no changes to field wiring or sensor placement — making the transition fast and cost-effective.

Looking Ahead

We understand that news of end-of-life status may cause concern. But this change is also an opportunity to strengthen your blown film line with the latest in performance, precision, and production security. The 4G system is not just a replacement — it's a platform for staying competitive in a fast-evolving market.

To learn more about upgrade paths, compatibility reviews, or ROI projections, contact us today. Our team is ready to help you plan a seamless transition.