



MONITORING

# Argos™ PB

Whole Body Contamination Monitors

Argos TPS Family: Argos “PB”  
Monitors for  $\beta$  Detection



## FEATURES

- Fast personnel throughput with exceptional coverage due to optimized counting geometry and shielding
- The Argos-5PB provides the ultimate in (two-step) contoured body coverage
- The Argos-3PB provides contoured body coverage with strategic positioning of detectors in an economical configuration
- Similar performance to gas flow proportional detectors (efficiency, background)
- Optimization of detector operating parameters may be done on an individual basis for enhanced performance
- Simultaneous monitoring of both sides of the hand with moveable detector for enhanced beta sensitivity
- Minimal gaps between detectors for smaller dead zones
- Space-saving design minimizes overall clearance requirements and allows for easy maintenance access from front and side of the unit
- WebRemote enabled: ergonomic and easy-to-use touch screen graphical user interface; accessible locally or via PC/tablet web browser
- Windows 7 Embedded operating system with LAN capability and USB ports
- Same “industry-best” software and serial bus electronics across Mirion Argos-TPS/AB, Cronos®-1/4 /11, Sirius™-5 and GEM™-5 family; no re-training needed
- Compliant with IEC61098 Standard requirements
- Algorithm based on Gaussian or Bayesian statistics (compliant with the ISO 11929:2019 Standard requirements)

## DESCRIPTION

The Mirion Argos-PB line of Whole Body Contamination Monitors provides user-friendly operation with thorough and reliable detection of external contamination on personnel working in nuclear environments. Both the Argos-5PB and Argos-3PB monitors feature our most advanced gasless, Thin Plastic Scintillator (TPS) detectors, optimized for the best possible beta response (along with minimizing the gamma response).

Until recently, the elimination of counting gas has been the only advantage of using of plastic scintillation detectors over traditional gas flow detectors in whole body monitors. The sacrifice for this advantage was in detector performance (low efficiency, bad uniformity) leading to longer count times. Mirion has successfully addressed the challenges of this gasless detector technology, minimizing the trade-off between operating costs and performance.

The Argos-3/-5PB gasless monitors offer the same industry-best contour geometry as the Argos-3/-5AB gas flow monitors. The need for counting gas is eliminated by using scintillation detectors with an embedded PMT to minimize dead space between detectors. This arrangement provides optimal contour geometry and coverage for the occupant.

All Argos monitors use a sophisticated “fast following” background trending and release-limit algorithm to provide the best performance in a stable or varying radiation field.

With Mirion WebRemote® software, an easy-to-use touch screen graphical user interface for industrial PC-based operation, results in improved health physics programs, better tracking of contamination and faster, more thorough personnel throughput at boundary points.

Excellent detector protection, modularity of components, and extensive diagnostics result in direct reductions in maintenance, repair, and operation costs.

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## OVERVIEW

The design of the TPS-B-579 detectors used in the Argos-PB monitors has been optimized to provide excellent signal-to-noise ratios and furthermore, the detection capability both across and along the detectors is extremely uniform. There is virtually zero edge effect degradation as shown in the uniformity diagram on the next page.

The Thin Plastic Scintillation detectors, TPS-B-579, are identical in form factor to the gas flow detectors from the Argos-3/-5AB family. Therefore, the current generation of Argos-3/-5AB family can be field upgraded to the TPS-B-579 detector technology\*.

The consequence of this improvement in both geometry and detector design is that count times will be significantly reduced compared to other competitive systems.

The TPS-B-579 detectors are designed such that no gas is required and their windows can be easily repaired.

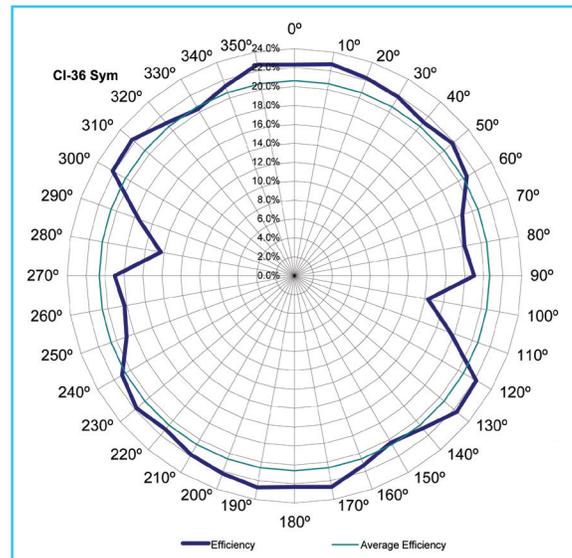
The overall benefit of the Mirion detector geometry and detector design is the reduction of count times compared to other competitive systems.

When gamma detection capability is needed, the Zeus™ option (consisting of a shadow shield and three large plastic scintillators) can be added to the Argos-PB unit. There is no difference between the Zeus option for Argos-3/-5 AB and for Argos-3/-5 PB.

## BODY COVERAGE

The Argos-5 design places detectors closer to the body than any competitive monitor. It has been configured to contour the human body as closely as possible while paying particular attention to those parts of the body most likely to be contaminated. Gaps between detectors have also been minimized. The benefit of this design is clearly shown by the horizontal scan to the right. The Argos-3PB provides the very best option for cost effective whole body coverage in the industry by encompassing all of the excellent features of the Argos-5PB except that it has fewer detectors (18 versus 25, respectively). The removed detectors are replaced by blank plates and have been strategically chosen to cover areas of the body least likely to be contaminated. This version provides the best value for money in a surface contamination monitor when the budget is limited. The Argos-3PB is upgradeable to the Argos-5 PB by simply installing additional detectors.

The scan below was done in accordance with the IEC 61098 Standard, which specifies a <sup>36</sup>Cl source moved around a phantom positioned 5 cm uniform from the front detector. It shows just how uniform the body coverage is when compared to the scans published in the literature of competitive monitors.



Argos-3/-5PB Horizontal Scan Efficiency for <sup>36</sup>Cl, IEC 61098 Phantom test 5 cm from center detector.

\*Applies to Argos-3/-5AB units manufactured since February 2008.

## Argos PB | **WHOLE BODY CONTAMINATION MONITORS**

### **ELECTRONICS**

The Argos-PB computer operates on Windows 7 Embedded Operating System and uses USB flash for transferring data. Data may be retrieved either via USB or LAN.

The High Voltage (HV), preamplification, amplification, counting, test pulse generation and other processing electronics are mounted right on the detectors. The cables between the detectors and computer are all direct current and low voltage.

### **SETTING PARAMETERS**

Parameter settings, testing, calibration and maintenance functions are accomplished locally or from a remote location using Mirion WebRemote. WebRemote enables tablet or PC connection to the Argos-PB via LAN or direct link.

Alternatively, the operator can use the standard Monitor Software, pre-installed on all Argos-PB contamination monitors, to provide local monitor access and functionality.

The following types of parameters are available for adjustment:

- Sensitivity of detection by detector/zone.
- Beta (and gamma when applicable) alarm levels in Bq, Bq/cm<sup>2</sup>, dpm, dpm/cm<sup>2</sup>, nCi, nCi/cm<sup>2</sup>, pCi, pCi/cm<sup>2</sup>, μCi or μCi/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- False alarm non-detection probability.
- HV Optimization using Figure-of-Merit calculations.
- Fixed or variable count times (calculated and optimized as a function of the alarm level setpoint, local background levels and desired accuracy of measurement).

### **MONITORING ASSISTANCE VIA USER INTERFACE**

Indicator lights at the entry show when the monitor is ready to use. While the occupant is being monitored, messages and a countdown are delivered both audibly (multiple languages are available) and visually on the LCD screen.

Occupant positioning is verified and corrected with the aid of photoelectric sensors, visual messages and voice prompts. Visible and audible alarms are given if contamination is detected. A "CONTAMINATED" result is shown on a large color LCD display with voice reinforcement and an LED lights up beside each contaminated detector.

The display shows the type (beta or gamma if applicable), the quantity and the location of the contamination based on which detector(s) is alarming. The system records data and date/time stamped logs showing the number of times the unit was used, parameters used, calibration settings, fault messages etc.

### **Gamma Detection (Zeus) Option**



- The Zeus option adds full gamma detection capability
- Three large plastic scintillators monitor body contamination
- Scintillators are shielded with 10 mm (~0.4 in.) of lead
- A 25 mm (~1.0 in.) lead curtain minimizes self-shielding effects

### **Other Options**

Consult the Mirion Contamination Monitor Configuration Guide for details of options that will enhance the use of this monitor.

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## REMOTE STATUS MONITORING

A user friendly dashboard enables the status monitoring (in service, contaminated, out of service, maintenance) of multiple contamination monitors over the LAN. The dashboard is accessible from a tablet or PC web browser and requires no proprietary software installation.

## MAINTENANCE

The Argos family of Whole Body Surface Contamination Monitors were engineered to simplify maintenance with easy access from front and center of the unit; as well as replacement and repair of the detectors.

A separate LED on each detector shows which detector is alarming and/or being addressed on the LCD screen.

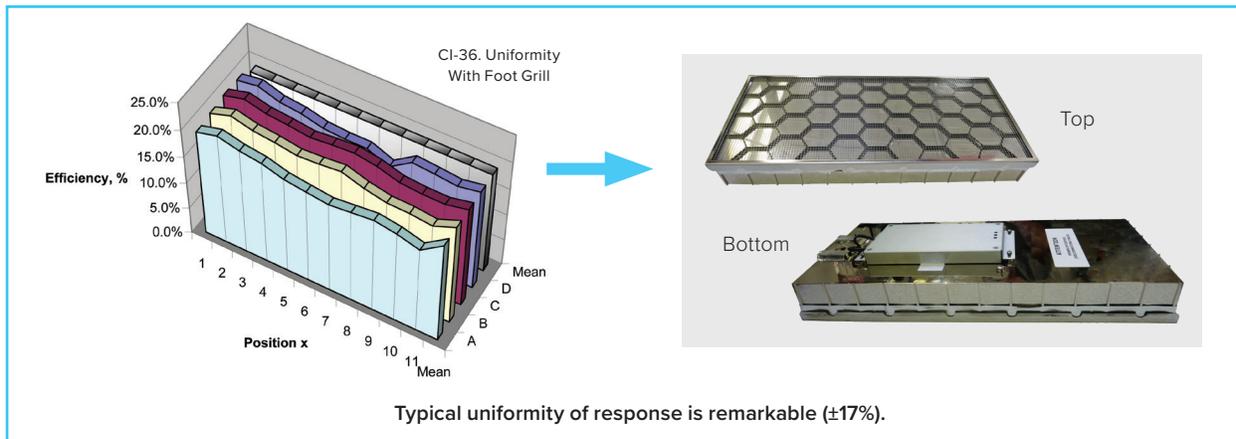
For ease of diagnostics, numerous test screens are available to enable precision monitoring and changing of parameters including high voltage and discrimination thresholds for each detector. To provide further assistance, rate meters show counts seen by each detector in real-time.

Calibration and alarm testing of all the detectors can be done in less than 30 minutes. It can be easily executed by just one person and is highly automated.

## EFFICIENCY

Typical 4π efficiency, rounded to the nearest whole number, measured with a 10 cm x 10 cm plate source placed in the center of the detector. “\*” indicates no alpha /beta discrimination.

Typical efficiencies	TPS-BG-579 detectors, on contact, with 0.25 mm thick fine mesh	TPS-BG-579 detectors, on contact, with 0.5 mm thick fine mesh	TPS-BG-579 detectors, on contact, with foot grill and 0.25 mm thick fine mesh
<sup>14</sup> C(β)	5%	5%	3%
<sup>99</sup> Tc(β)	16%	15%	10%
<sup>60</sup> Co(β)	14%	14%	11%
<sup>137</sup> Cs(β)	24%	25%	18%
<sup>36</sup> Cl(β)	25%	24%	20%
<sup>90</sup> Sr/ <sup>90</sup> Y(β)	32%	31%	23%
<sup>241</sup> Am(α)*	16%	15%	9%
<sup>239</sup> Pu(α)*	14%	12%	7%



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## SPECIFICATIONS

PHYSICAL	MODEL	
	Argos-5PB	Argos-5PB Zeus
SIZE (w x h <sup>S</sup> x d)*:	91.5 x 225.7 x 99.1 cm (36.0 x 88.9 x 39.0 in.)	91.5 x 225.7 x 104.3 cm (36.0 x 88.9 x 41.1 in.)
WEIGHT**:	333.3 kg (733.3 lb)	895.8 kg (1970.8 lb); Add 528 kg (1161.6 lb) for removable lead brick ingots
§...feet fully extended add 7.0 cm (2.8 in.) * ...Argos-3PB and Argos-3PB Zeus are the same size as their Argos-5 counterparts ** ...or less for Argos-3 configurations		

Plastic Scintillator Detectors	TPS
Quantity	Argos-5PB: 25
Quantity	Argos-3PB: 18
Type	Scintillation
Window (Note that the window assembly is field replaceable)	Multilayer Aluminized Mylar® at 1.2 mg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Radiation Monitored	Primarily Beta, some Alpha*

## ELECTRICAL

### Power Requirements:

- 220 V ac/50 Hz/1.0 A or 110 V ac/60 Hz/2.0 A mains 3 m (~10 ft) IEC standard cable (supplied; specify voltage and any special cable requirements on order; contact local Mirion affiliate for further information).

## CERTIFICATION



- IEC 61098 compliant
- ISO 11929:2010 compliant

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### Temperature Range:

- Operating (meets IEC61098): 0–40 °C (32–104 °F)
- Storage: 0–50 °C (32–122 °F)

### Relative Humidity:

- Operating (per IEC61098): ≤85% non-condensing at 35 °C (95 °F) maximum.
- Storage: 95% non-condensing

### Power Consumption:

Model	Power Consumption
• Argos-3PB:	160 VA
• Argos-5PB:	170 VA
• Argos-3/5 with Door/Barrier options*:	+90 VA

\*If installed and applicable; add this value to the above numbers.

## ORDERING INFORMATION

- 7062324 – Argos-3PB, 2-Step Whole Body Mon. TPS/B
- 818001 – Argos-5PB, 2-Step Whole Body Mon. TPS. /B
- 7062229 – Zeus3G, Gamma Capability for Argos-3
- 818002 – Zeus5G, Gamma Capability for Argos-5

### Options:

WebRemote-Kit Options (For Rugged, Y=1; For PRO Y=2; For Basic, Y=3)

- WebRemote-Kit#Y – WebRemote Software and Rugged/Pro/Basic Hardware.
- The Mirion contamination monitors can be integrated with Horizon® Supervisory Software to provide an integrated solution with Mirion instruments. Horizon complements the functionality of the WebRemote Contamination Monitor Interface.

### Typical Detector Configuration Arrangements for Argos-3/-5PB Monitors

