

## How do I protect alarm settings from uncontrolled change?

Once you have finalized the alarm settings that should be in your control system you will certainly want to make sure they stay there. There are valid reasons that an operator may need to change alarm settings on the fly. However, you need a way to review and control those changes. A good alarm management package will facilitate alarm settings reviews by automatically identifying discrepancies between what should be running and what actually is. Then you can immediately see any differences and either correct them or discuss making the new setting permanent.

There are some difficulties in automated change management, due to the way many DCS systems allow changes to be made. Most DCS systems allow changes at the controller or at the configuration database. Your MOC program needs to accommodate these potential issues.

LogMate supports a management of change program through automated configuration imports and comparisons. LogMate stores a copy of the authorized configuration that can be compared to the currently running configuration, automatically flagging any differences. In addition, because LogMate also collects and processes real-time events from the operations level, it will intercept any alarm changes made at the console, allowing those to be reviewed as well.

Through the LogMate Alarm KB an automated change approval process is in place to update the information in the KB when alarm changes are approved or denied. The handling of changes to your alarm system is a critical part of the alarm management lifecycle and the tools within LogMate help support efficient management as changes occur.

Effective change management ensures that the alarm system remains stable and viable. LogMate's management of change module becomes a "buffer zone" where proposed changes can be reviewed prior to implementation. Changes can be approved and passed on for implementation, or rejected. All edits are recorded in a change audit file.

An active configuration can be compared to an authorized configuration within the LogMate management of change module. Any discrepancies are flagged for immediate attention. Integrated change approval and online configuration comparison maintains the integrity of alarm settings.

- Review/approve/reject changes prior to implementation
- Timestamp and comment changes