ALLEN CODING
A DIVISION OF ITW

Codesoft

Label design software – XL-series specific settings

USER MANUAL

Important Notes

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1 Introduction

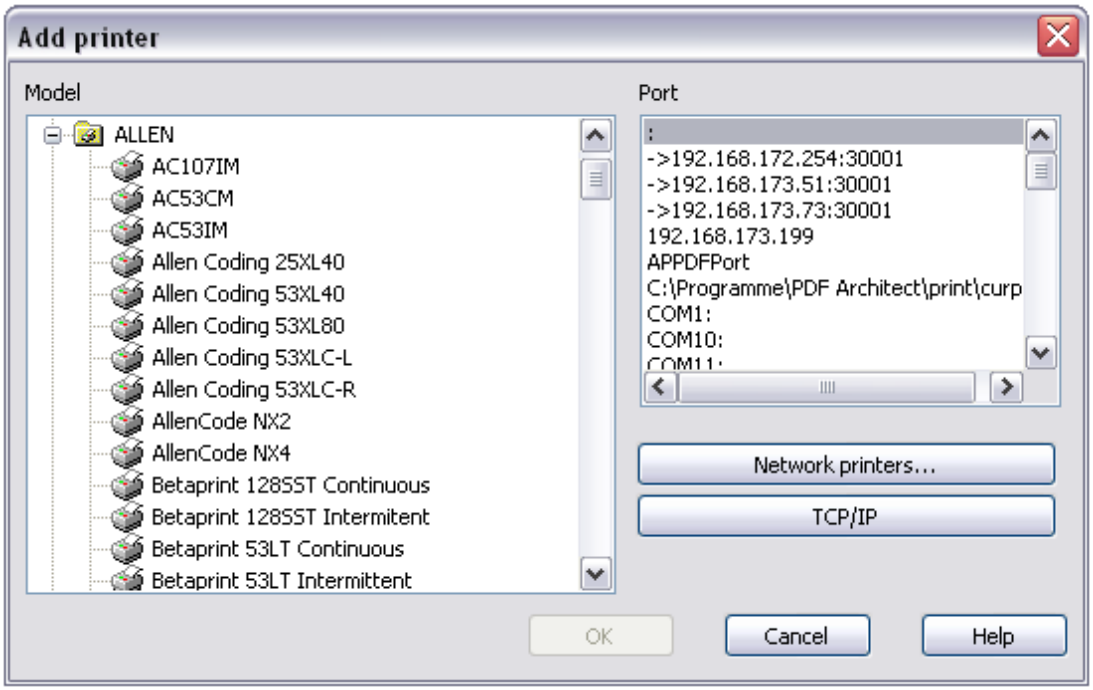
The printers of the XL-series are supported by Codesoft, which lets you design labels for your printer very quickly and easily through a WYSIWYG user interface.

This document describes the specific settings for the XL-series in Codesoft. It does not describe the general control of Codesoft. For this purpose, Codesoft provides an integrated help.

The driver itself is maintained and distributed by Codesoft. You can download it from the homepage of Teklynx (http://www.teklynx.com/).

2 Printer selection

First of all you have to choose the correct printer model form of the XL-series. This is done by adding a printer in Codesoft. Got to the brand Allen and unfold the models. After that you can choose the model.

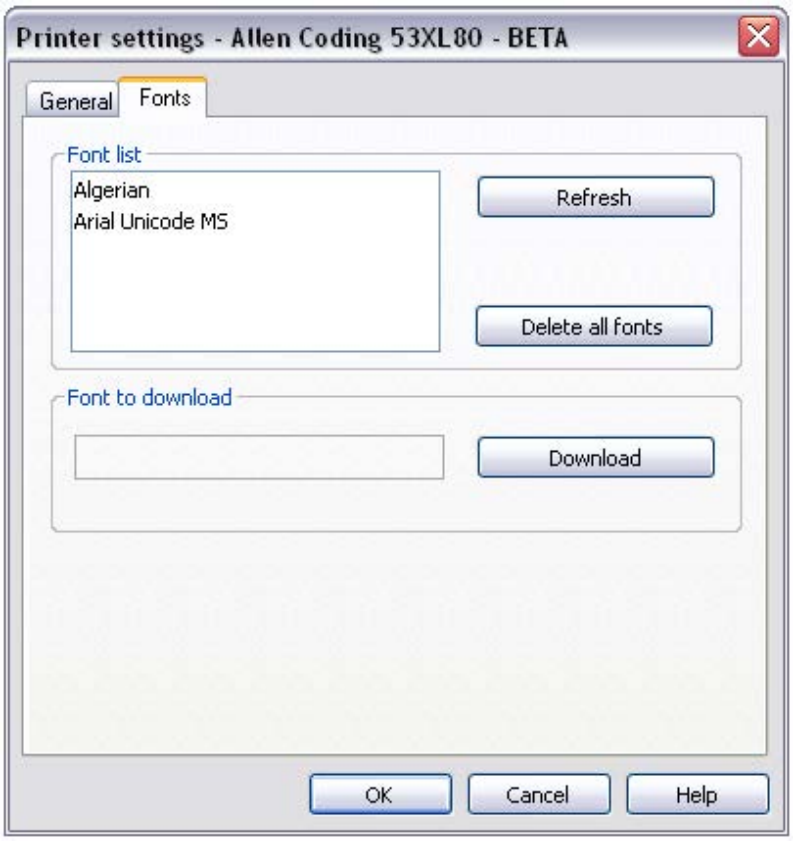


The XL-series covers the following printers:

Allen Coding 25XL40
Allen Coding 53XL40
Allen Coding 53XL80
Allen Coding 53XLC-L
Allen Coding 53XLC-R

3 Fonts

To access the font management menu, the printer has to be in ready mode and not in printing mode. Then it is possible to access the font management menu via the printer settings. Choose the tab Fonts to get the following view:



Refresh: Updates the list of fonts downloaded to the printer, pre-installed fonts are not listed.
Delete all fonts: Deletes all fonts previously installed on the printer.
Download: Allows downloading a font to the printer.

In addition to the resident fonts, the user could choose any Windows installed TrueType font. All Unicode characters could be printed using Truetype fonts, Asian included. XLU printers have about 23Mb of free space to keep down-loadable fonts.

NOTE

It is the responsibility of the end users to ensure that they comply with the font licensing requirements provided by the owners of such fonts. Any fonts stored in memory of LTU printers may require licensing from the font vendor.

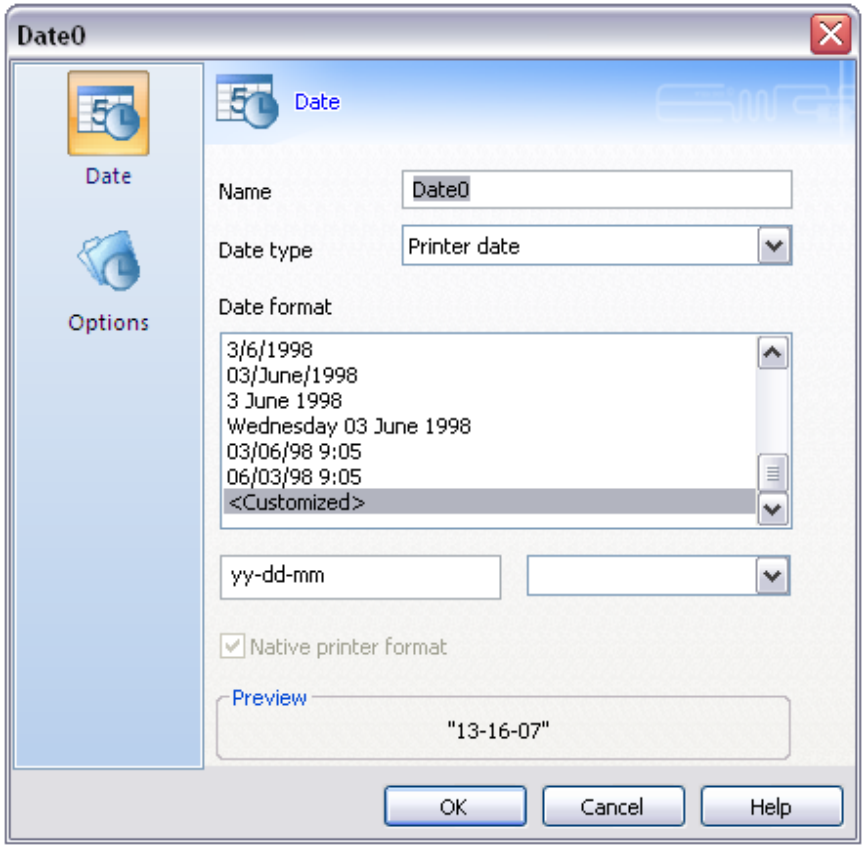
4 Data Sources

This chapter covers the different type of data sources that can be used while designing a label. Data sources are listed on the top right side of the label design view in Codesoft.

4.1 Date

4.1.1 Date and Time

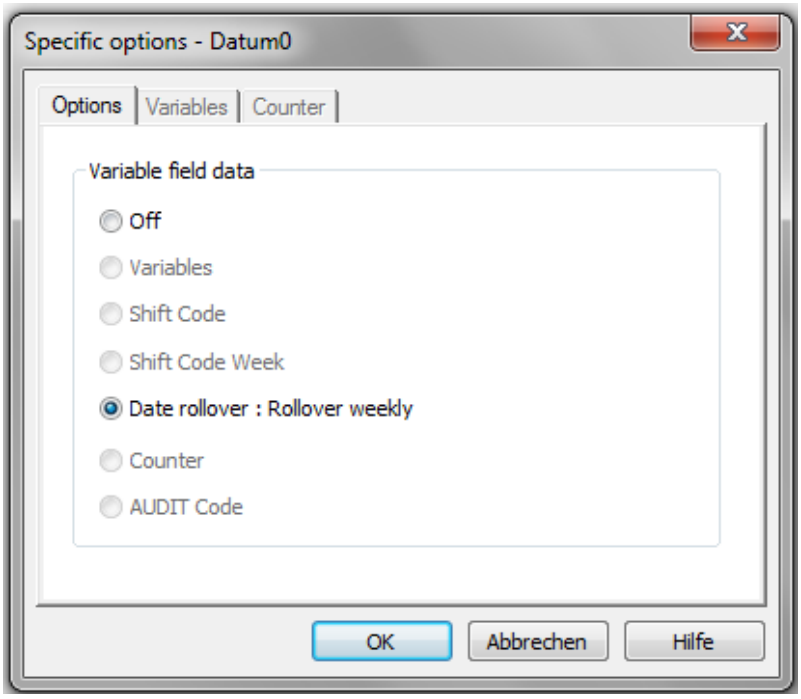
Here is an example of the dialog box displayed when selecting the date field.



To use the printer internal time, that will be updated automatically, you have to select **Printer date** as date type. After that it is recommended to assemble the date and time as a customized date format. The printer only allows combining year, month, week and day or hours and minutes. A combination of elements from both groups like year and hours has to be designed on the label by combining two date variables.

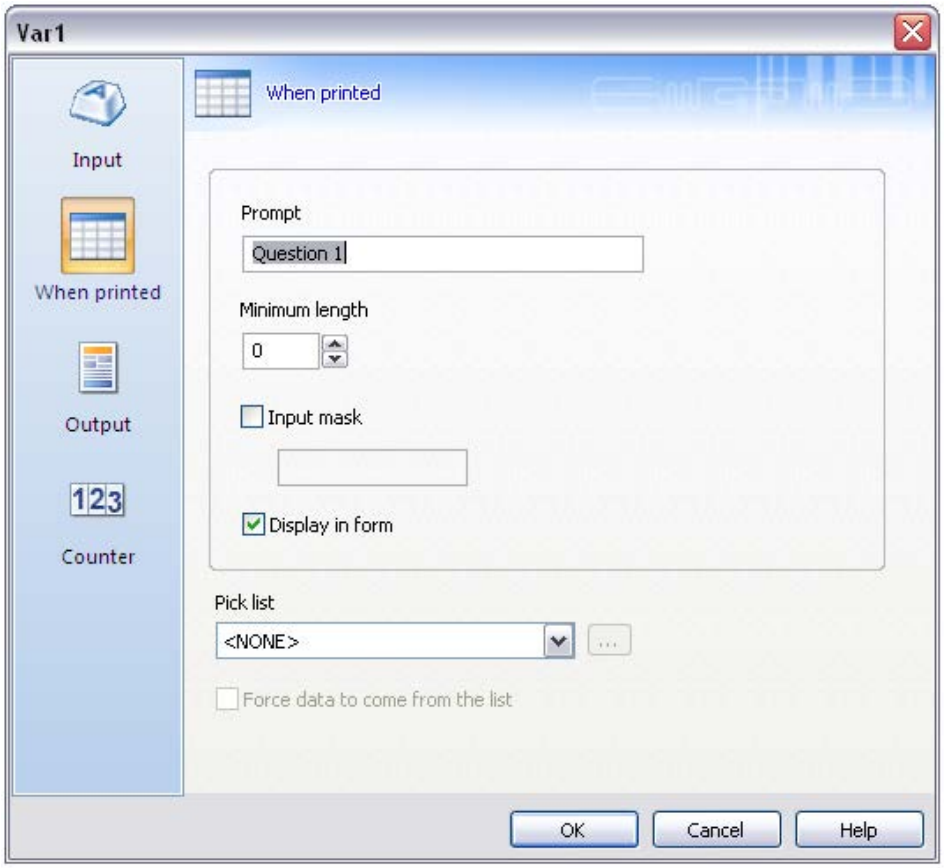
4.1.2 Seven day batch

A Seven day batch allows the printing of a single expiration date for an entire week. The day and hour that the expiration date changes is determined by the printer configuration. This can be done with a handheld like the PR5 or the iView. To use a Seven day batch you have to set up a printer internal date as described in section 4.1.1. Then you have to select the data base representation on the label by right clicking, then go to **Specific options...**. There you can define the date as a Seven day batch by selecting the option **Date rollover: Rollover weekly**.

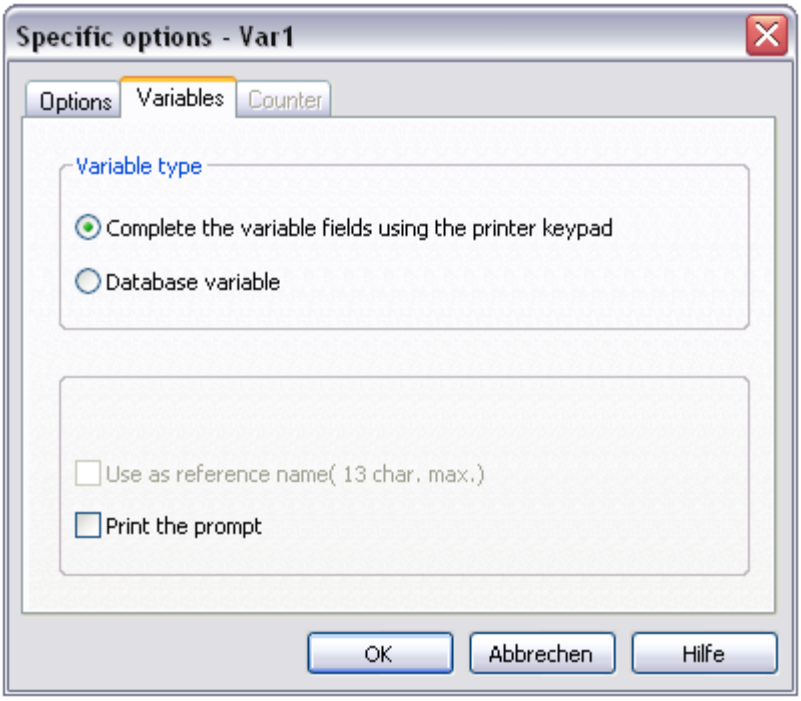


4.2 When printed – text prompt

Variable content that can be changed after loading the label has to be defined by adding a **When printed** data source. The prompt that will be asked when loading the label has to be entered in the line **Prompt** (see below).



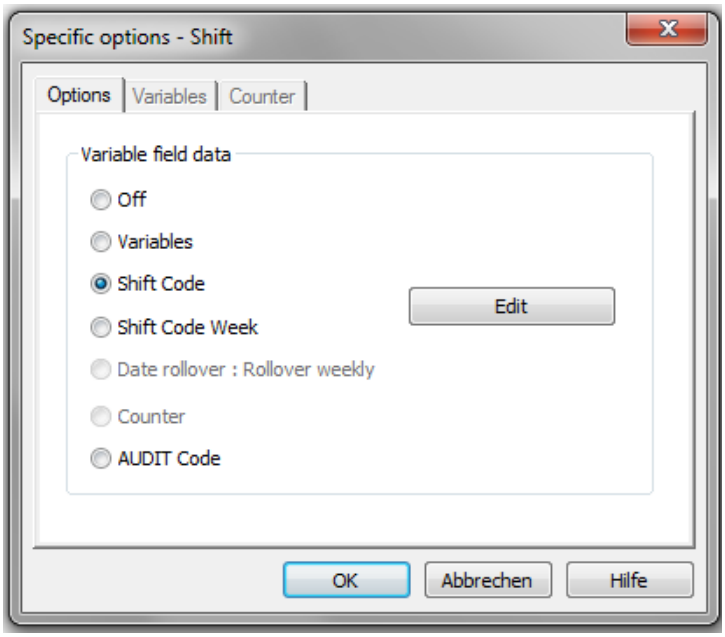
If this prompt has to be shown also if the label is loaded via a handheld like the PR5 or the iView, you have to select the data base representation on the label by right clicking, then go to **Specific options...**. There you have to select **Complete the variable fields using the printer keypad**. Selecting the option **Print the prompt** will also print out the prompt.



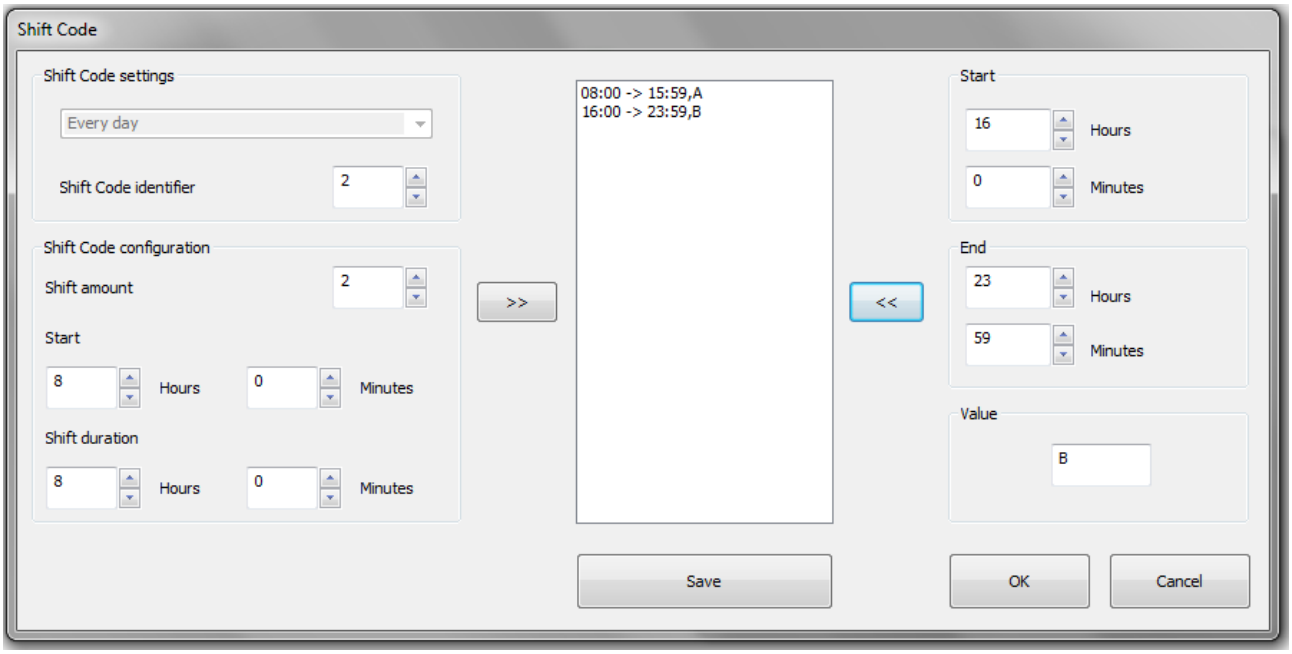
4.3 Advanced

4.3.1 Shift Code

Advanced fields allow setting up a shift code. After adding a new advanced field to the label you have to select the data base representation on the label by right clicking, then go to **Specific options...**.



There you have to select **Shift Code** followed by a click on **Edit**. This opens the following view:



It is possible to print up to 4 characters associated with intervals of time defined by the user. In the example dialog box above, we defined two shifts from 08:00 to 15:59, where the printer will print the letter A and another shift from 1:00 to 23:59 where the printer will print the letter B.

To set up the shift code you have to define the settings on the left side of the menu first. Begin by assigning a unique **Shift Code identifier** (a number) and setting up the number of shifts (**Shift amount**). Then you can define the start of the first shift in the field **Start** and the duration of the succeeding shifts in the field **Shift duration**. The program will

automatically set up the intervals when you click on the button with the two arrows to the right (**>>**).

To add or edit the associated print string, click each interval in the list in the middle and enter digits in the box marked **Value** followed by a click on the button with the two arrows to the left (**<<**).

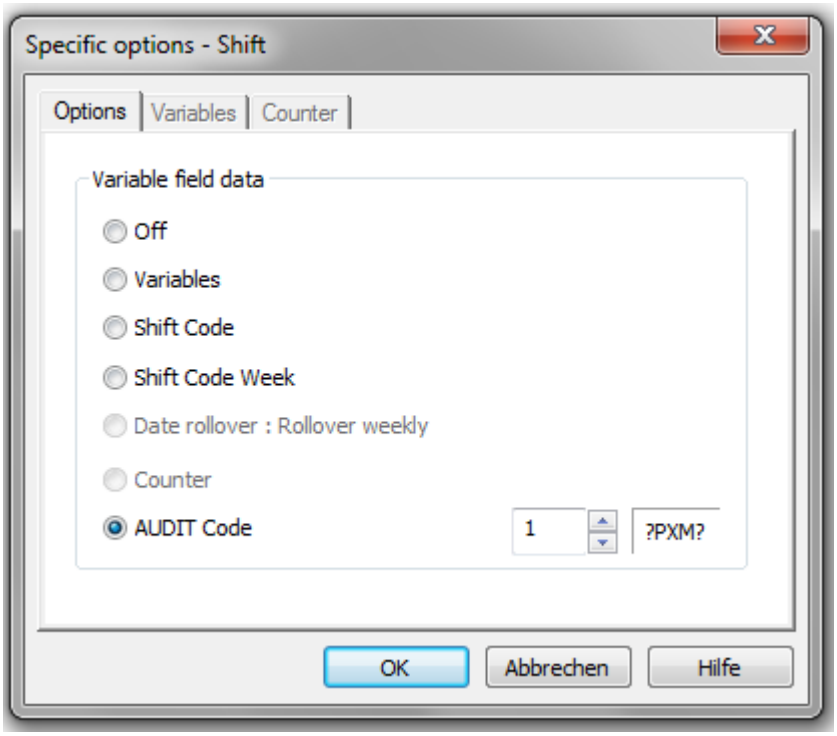
Before leaving the menu you have to **Save** the changes made to the shift code.

4.3.2 Shift Code Week

The option **Shift Code Week** works the same way, but here you can define a shift code for every day of the week by using the procedure described in 4.4.1 Shift Code.

4.3.3 AUDIT Code

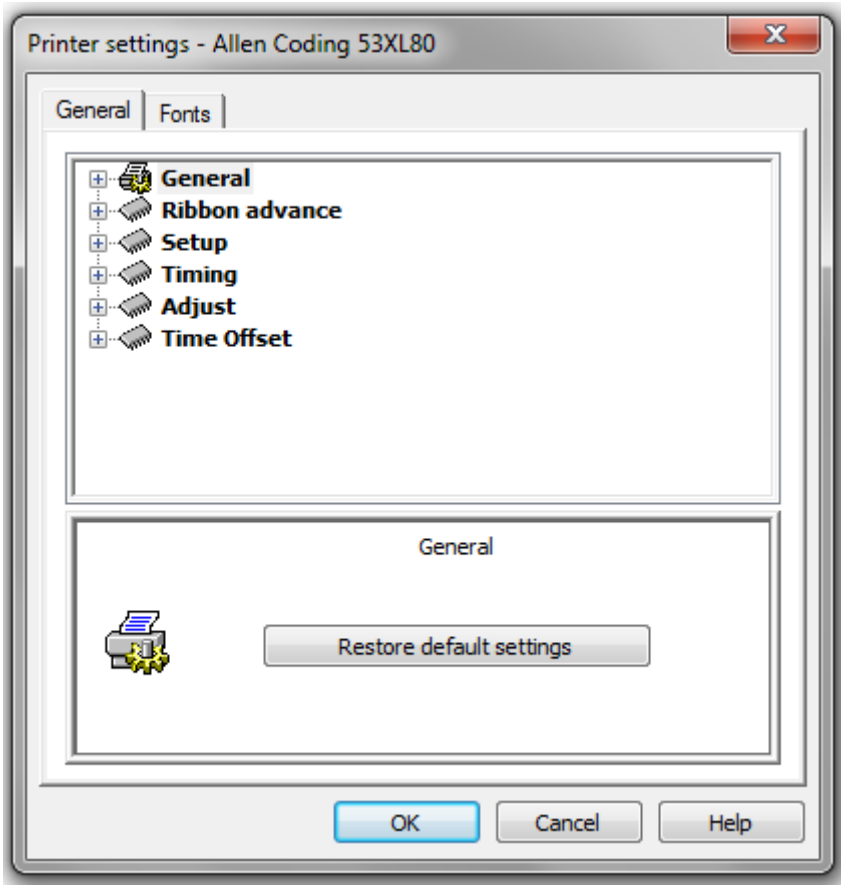
Selecting an AUDIT Code as specific option allows you to define two different audit codes. Those are number 1 and 2.



The question marks are place holder for the content that is defined later on with a handheld like the PR5 or the iView. Those are customer ID, line ID and site ID.

5 Printer Setup

The printer setup can be accessed from the main menu via File → Printer Setup…



It is organized in the following 6 sections: General, Ribbon advance, Setup, Timing, Adjust and Time Offset. Most of those sections have the following three options in common:

Send settings: Used to transfer the changes of the relevant section to the printer
Get settings: Reads the current settings from the printer
Set Default settings: Resets the changed settings

The additional settings are described in the following in dependence of the section they occur in.

5.1 General

Send modified data only: If on, the printing will not be stopped because a certain number of prints have been consumed.
Infinite print: If on, no limit is imposed, and the printer will only stop when explicitly stopped.
Contrast: Determines the level of black-white contrast of the print. Configure this parameter according to the type of thermal transfer (*ribbon)* used, the surface area printed and the printing speed.
External Signal Type: Select either a rising signal or a level signal to trigger a print.
Print speed: Defines the printing speed.
Backward Speed: The speed at which the print head returns to the home sensor.

5.2 Ribbon advance

Ribbon advance: The distance in mm the ribbon is advanced after printing.

5.3 Setup

Language: The language configured internally in the printer. Determines the format of dates and times.

Mirror print: Flip the label over the horizontal axis when printing, i.e. print a mirrored label. This can be used to print on the inside of a translucent material.

Printhead resistance: The electrical resistance of the print head as specified by the thermal bar manufacturer.

5.4 Timing

Print delay: Determines the time that elapses between activation of the external print signal and activation of the electrically operated valve that lowers the print head.

Electro valve: Defines the time interval between activation of the electrically operated valve that lowers the print head and the start of printing.

Ribbon Delay: Defines the time interval between the end of one print job and the start of the ribbon rewind process.

Cycle End Delay: Defines the waiting time between two print cycles.

5.5 Adjust

Ribbon: Determines if the printer expects a thermal transfer ribbon to be present. If off, the printer will print without checking if a ribbon is installed.

Lateral advance: Determines the lateral distance in millimetres between two prints made on a given piece of ribbon, if “Number of lateral advances” is configured to be greater than one.

Number of lateral advance: Defines the number of prints to be performed on a given piece of ribbon. If this value is set greater than one, the printer will rewind the ribbon after a print, then it will print the label again on the same segment of ribbon with a lateral shift defined by the “Lateral advance” value.
This can be used for ribbon saving purposes with labels that are not as wide as the ribbon itself, if the print material can be configured in such a way that the resulting lateral offset between prints can be integrated into the process or ignored.

5.6 Time Offset

Offset hour: Specifies the time to update a programmed date with hourly variation (that date is updated once a day).

Offset minute: Specifies the time to update a programmed date with hourly variation (that date is updated once a day).