

COMM+2/EX

User Manual | 3087



SEALEVEL®

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Introduction

The Sealevel COMM+2/EX provides the PC with 2 asynchronous serial ports providing a versatile interface field selectable as RS-232 for modems, printers, and plotters, as well as RS-422/485 for industrial automation and control applications.

Before You Get Started

What's Included

The COMM+2/EX is shipped with the following items. If any of these items are missing or damaged, please contact Sealevel for replacement.

- **COMM+2/EX Serial I/O Adapter**

Advisory Conventions



Warning

The highest level of importance used to stress a condition where damage could result to the product, or the user could suffer serious injury.



Important

The middle level of importance used to highlight information that might not seem obvious or a situation that could cause the product to fail.



Note

The lowest level of importance used to provide background information, additional tips, or other non-critical facts that will not affect the use of the product.

Factory Default Settings

The COMM+2/EX factory default settings are as follows:

Port #	Base Address	IRQ	Electrical Specification
Port 1	280	5	RS-422
Port 2	288	10	RS-422

To install the COMM+2/EX using factory default settings, refer to Installation.

For your reference, record installed COMM+2/EX settings below:

Port #	Base Address	IRQ	Electrical Specification

Card Setup

The COMM+2/EX contains several jumper straps that must be set for proper operation.

Address Selection

Each port on the COMM+2/EX occupies eight consecutive I/O locations. A DIP-switch is used to set the base address for these locations. Be careful when selecting the base address as some selections conflict with existing ports. The following table shows several examples that typically do not cause a conflict. SW1 sets the I/O address for port 1 of the COMM+2/EX and SW2 sets the address for port 2.

Address	Binary	Switch Position Setting						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
280-287	1010000XXX	Off	On	Off	On	On	On	On
2A0-2A7	1010100XXX	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	On
2E8-2EF	1011101XXX	Off	On	Off	Off	Off	On	Off
2F8-2FF	1011111XXX	Off	On	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
3E8-3EF	1111101XXX	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	On	Off
300-307	1100000XXX	Off	Off	On	On	On	On	On
328-32F	1100101XXX	Off	Off	On	On	Off	On	Off
3F8-3FF	1111111XXX	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off

Figure 1 - Address Selection Table

The following illustration shows the correlation between the DIP-switch setting and the address bits used to determine the base address. In the example below, address 300 is selected as a base. Address 300 in binary is XX11 0000 0XXX where X = a non-selectable address bit.



Figure 2 - DIP-Switch Illustration



Setting the switch 'On' or 'Closed' corresponds to a '0' in the address, while leaving it 'Off' or 'Open' corresponds to a '1'.

Refer to Appendix A for common address contentions.

Card Setup, Continuing

Port Enable/Disable

Each port on the COMM+2/EX can be enabled or disabled with switch position 8 on the DIP-switch. The port is enabled with the switch 'On' or 'Closed' and disabled when 'Off' or 'Open.' If any port is disabled, be sure to disable the interrupt request for that port by removing the IRQ jumper.

Interface Selection

RS-422/485

To select the RS-422/485 mode of operation install dip shunts in sockets found at E6 and E7. E6 sets Port 1 and E7 sets Port 2.

RS-232

To select the RS-232 mode of operation install dip shunts in sockets found at E5 and E8. E5 sets Port 1 and E8 sets Port 2.

IRQ Selection

Headers E1 and E2 select the interrupt request for each serial port (E1 - Port 2, E2 - Port 1). If COM1: is selected, the corresponding jumper must be on the IRQ4 setting. If COM2: is selected, the corresponding jumper must be on IRQ3.

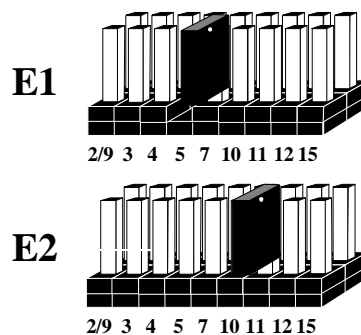


Figure 3 - Header E1 and E2, IRQ Selection

Any two or more ports can share a common IRQ, provided a polling driver is used, by placing the jumpers on the same IRQ setting and setting the appropriate selections at E3. The following examples show the setup if a polling driver is used. NOTE: Windows does not provide a polling driver. Consult your particular software for IRQ selection. If no interrupt is desired, remove the jumper.

Card Setup, Continuing

Interrupt Modes

Headers E9 and E10 select the interrupt modes for each port. Each port must be set in the correct mode to insure proper installation. E10 sets Port 1 and E9 sets Port 2.

'**N**' indicates the (**N**)ormal, single interrupt per port mode. '**S**' Indicates the (**S**)hared interrupt mode, which allows more than one port to access a single IRQ. Any two or more ports can share a common IRQ by placing the jumpers on the same IRQ setting and setting the appropriate selections at E1. Consult your particular software for IRQ selection. If no interrupt is desired, remove the jumper. '**M**' indicates the inclusion of a 1K ohm pull-down resistor required on one port when sharing interrupts.

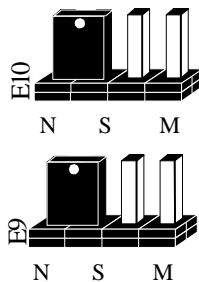


Figure 4 - Headers E9 and E10, Normal IRQ Mode

Set the jumpers to '**S**' for shared interrupt mode on all blocks sharing an IRQ except one. Set that port block for '**M**.' This provides the pull-down resistor circuit that makes sharing of IRQs possible. If you are using more than one COMM+2/EX or a compatible adapter in a bus you should only have one port set to '**M**'. The following example shows both ports sharing a single IRQ.

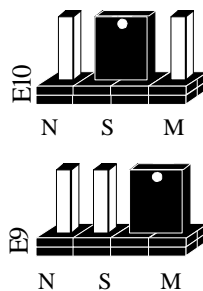


Figure 5 - Headers E9 and E10, Shared IRQ Mode

Card Setup, Continuing

Set the jumper to 'S' if using more than one COMM+2/EX in a bus or to completely remove the pull-down resistor for hardware compatibility. Setting the adapter in this configuration when it is not accompanied by a pull-down resistor will prevent the ports from triggering an interrupt.

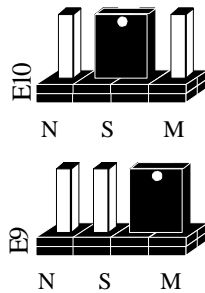


Figure 6 - Headers E9 and E10, Sharing IRQ's with another adapter

Headers E3 and E5

Position 'A' Determines whether the RS-485 driver is enabled by the UART signal Request To Send (RTS) or always enabled. With the jumper installed in position 'A,' RTS enables the driver. Removing the jumper enables the driver regardless of RTS. **E4 sets Port 1** while **E3 sets Port 2**. This jumper should only be set to 'A' if you are running the board in a multi-drop polled environment such as RS-485, and you have software that 'knows how to talk' on the RS-485 bus. For normal point-to-point RS-422 (such as terminal emulation), make sure that a jumper at position 'A' is not in place.

Positions 'B' & 'C' determine whether the board provides a direct ground connection (as in RS-232 and most RS-422), or a 100 ohm high impedance ground. The high impedance ground is normally used by RS-485 (and some RS-422) to avoid ground loop currents with long cables. Position 'B' selects the direct ground and position 'C' selects the 100 ohm high impedance ground.

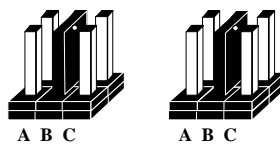


Figure 7 - Headers E3 and E4 (Factory Default)

Software Installation

Operating System Installation

Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP



Do not install the adapter in the machine until the software has been fully installed.

1. Begin by locating, selecting, and installing the correct software from the [Sealevel software driver database](#)
2. Type in your part number (3087) or select your adapter from the listing.
3. Click the 'Install Drivers' button.
4. The setup file will automatically detect the operating environment and install the proper components.
5. To confirm that the SeaCOM driver has been successfully installed, click on the 'Start' button, and then select 'All Programs.' You should see the 'SeaCOM' program folder listed.
6. Run the Add/Remove Hardware utility located in Control Panel. Double click the icon to launch the Wizard. When the Choose Hardware Task appears choose Add/Troubleshoot a device. At that point Windows will search for Plug and Play devices. Since the ISA board is not Plug and Play it will not be found. If Windows finds something you were not expecting, cancel that install and click Next. When Choose a Hardware Device appears select Add a new device. Windows will then ask if you want it to search and you select No, I want to select the hardware from a list. Then click Next. After choosing Next you will see Hardware Type. If you are installing a single port serial card select Ports (COM & LPT). If you are installing a multiport serial card, (two or more ports), choose Multi-port serial adapters. Click Next. The Select a Device Driver window will appear. On the left side find Sealevel Systems, Inc. and on the right side of the window select the card type you are installing.
7. Windows will now show a warning message that it could not detect the settings of the device and that you must enter the settings manually. Click OK. The Add New Hardware Wizard Properties window will appear. This window will show the default settings for the I/O address and one IRQ. The one IRQ will mean that you will be sharing one IRQ for all ports on the board for a multi-port card. You will only need one IRQ if installing a single port card. Since Windows cannot detect the settings there may be a conflict with another device or the settings shown may be not the settings you wish to use. To change the settings, choose Basic configuration 0001 next to the heading Setting based on. When this configuration is chosen the Resources window will appear with all

Software Installation, Continued

question marks. Simply choose each Input/Output Range and IRQ and change the settings to match the board settings. Make sure there are no conflicts with other devices that would appear at the bottom of the window under Conflicting device list. After you have either accepted the default settings or changed the settings, the Start Hardware Installation window will appear. Click Next.

8. The next window that may appear will be the Digital Signature Not Found. Do not search for digitally signed software and continue with the installation. The Completing the Add/Remove Hardware Wizard window will appear. You will be given a chance to change the resource settings again at this point if necessary. Choose Finish. At this point you will need to restart your computer. After restarting the Found New Hardware window will appear for each port that you are installing. To confirm that the drivers installed you can now look in Device Manager under Ports (COM & LPT) and each of the ports should show with their corresponding COM number.

LINUX INSTALLATION

Refer to [Linux Archives - Sealevel](#). This link contains valuable information on installing your serial adapter in the various Linux releases. Also included is a series of files explaining proper Linux syntax and typical Linux serial implementations.

QNX

For the most up to date information on the QNX4 software support, please call Sealevel Systems' Technical Support, (864) 843-4343. Our technical support is free and available from 8:00AM-5PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. For email support contact: support@sealevel.com.

Physical Installation

The adapter can be installed in any 8 or 16 Bit ISA expansion slot and contains several jumper straps for each port that must be set for proper.



Do not install the adapter in the machine until the software has been fully installed.

1. Turn off PC power. Disconnect the power cord.
2. Remove the PC case cover.
3. Locate an available ISA slot and remove the blank metal slot cover.
4. Gently insert the ISA adapter into the slot. Make sure that the adapter is seated properly.
5. Replace the screw. (This is required to ensure FCC Part 15 compliance.)
6. Replace the cover.
7. Connect the power cord

Installation is finished.

Technical Description

The COMM+2/EX adapter utilizes the 16550 UART chip. This chip features programmable baud rate, data format, interrupt control and has a 16 byte transmit and receive FIFO.

Features

- Fully independent operation of ports allowing two ports RS-232, two ports RS-422/485 or one port of each.
- Addressable as COM1: - COM4: or any other I/O address up to 3FF Hex.
- 'Shareable' IRQs allow more than one port to share a single IRQ provided the proper driver is used..
- IRQs 2/9-5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15 supported
- Support for non-standard baud rates available. These baud rates (such as 31.25K or 76.8K baud) are supported by installing a different oscillator. Please consult Sealevel Systems Technical Support for more information.

Line Termination

Typically, each end of the RS-422/485 bus must have line terminating resistors. A 100 ohm resistor is across each RS-422/485 input and a 1K ohm pull-up/pull-down combination bias the receiver inputs. If more than two RS-485 nodes are configured in a multi-drop network, only the nodes at each end of the bus should have the 100 ohm resistors installed.

Technical Description, Continuing

Connector Pin Assignments

RS-232 (Male DB9)

Signal	Name	Pin #	Mode
TD	Transmit Data	3	Output
RTS	Request To Send	7	Output
DTR	Data Term Ready	4	Output
GND	Ground	5	
RD	Receive Data	2	Input
DCD	Data Carrier Detect	1	Input
DSR	Data Set Ready	6	Input
CTS	Clear To Send	8	Input
RI	Ring Indicator	9	Input



These assignments meet EIA/TIA/ANSI-574 DTE for DB-9 type connectors.

RS-422/485 (Male DB9)

Signal	Name	Pin #	Mode
GND	Ground	5	
TX+	Transmit Data Positive	4	Output
TX-	Transmit Data Negative	3	Output
RTS+	Request To Send Positive	6	Output
RTS-	Request To Send Negative	7	Output
RX+	Receive Data Positive	1	Input
RX-	Receive Data Negative	2	Input
CTS+	Clear To Send Positive	9	Input
CTS-	Clear To Send Negative	8	Input

Specifications

Environmental Specifications

Specification	Operating	Storage
Temperature Range	0° to 70° C (32° to 158° F)	-50° to 105° C (-58° to 221° F)
Humidity Range	10 to 90% R.H. Non-Condensing	10 to 90% R.H. Non-Condensing

Manufacturing

All Sealevel Systems Printed Circuit boards are built to UL 94V0 rating and are 100% electrically tested. These printed circuit boards are solder mask over bare copper or solder mask over tin nickel.

Power Consumption

Supply line	+12 VDC	-12 VDC	+5 VDC
Rating	50 mA	50 mA	195 mA

Physical Dimensions

Board length	6.9 inches (17.53 cm)
Board height including Goldfingers	4.2 inches (8.89 cm)
Board height excluding Goldfingers	3.9 inches (8.13 cm)

Appendix A – Troubleshooting

Sealevel Software is supplied with the Sealevel Systems adapter and may be used in the troubleshooting procedures. Using this software and following these simple steps can eliminate most common problems without the need to call Technical Support.

- Identify all I/O adapters currently installed in your system. This includes your on-board serial ports, controller cards, sound cards etc. The I/O addresses used by these adapters, as well as the IRQ (if any) should be identified.
- Configure your Sealevel Systems adapter so that there is no conflict with currently installed adapters. No two adapters can occupy the same I/O address.
- Make sure the Sealevel Systems adapter is using a unique IRQ. While the Sealevel Systems adapter does allow the sharing of IRQs, many other adapters (i.e., SCSI adapters & on-board serial ports) do not.
- Make sure the Sealevel Systems adapter is securely installed in a motherboard slot.
- When running DOS or Windows 3.x refer to the supplied Sealevel Software and this User Manual to verify that the Sealevel Systems adapter is configured correctly. WinSSD is available as a standalone utility and is included with Sealevel's SeaCOM, SeaLINK and SeaMAC software suite. This diagnostic program is written with the user in mind and is easy to use.
- For Windows95/98/ME/NT/2000, the diagnostic tool 'WinSSD' is installed in the SeaCOM folder on the Start Menu during the setup process. First find the ports using the Device Manager, then use 'WinSSD' to verify that the ports are functional.
- Always use the Sealevel Systems diagnostic software when troubleshooting a problem. This will eliminate any software issues from the equation.

If these steps do not solve your problem, please call Sealevel Systems' Technical Support, (864) 843-4343. Our technical support is free and available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time Monday through Friday. For email support contact support@sealevel.com.

Appendix B – How To Get Assistance

Please refer to Troubleshooting Guide prior to calling Technical Support.

1. Begin by reading through the Trouble Shooting Guide in Appendix A. If assistance is still needed please see below.
2. When calling for technical assistance, please have your user manual and current adapter settings. If possible, please have the adapter installed in a computer ready to run diagnostics.
3. Sealevel Systems provides an FAQ section on its web site. Please refer to this to answer many common questions. This section can be found at <http://www.sealevel.com/faq.asp>.
4. Sealevel Systems maintains a web page on the Internet. Our home page address is www.sealevel.com. The latest software updates, and newest manuals are available via our web site.
5. Technical support is available Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time. Technical support can be reached at (864) 843-4343. For email support contact support@sealevel.com.

RETURN AUTHORIZATION MUST BE OBTAINED FROM SEALEVEL SYSTEMS BEFORE RETURNED MERCHANDISE WILL BE ACCEPTED. AUTHORIZATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING SEALEVEL SYSTEMS AND REQUESTING A RETURN MERCHANDISE AUTHORIZATION (RMA) NUMBER.

Appendix C – Electrical Interface

RS-232

Quite possibly the most widely used communication standard is RS-232. This implementation has been defined and revised several times and is often referred to as RS-232 or EIA/TIA-232. The IBM PC computer defined the RS-232 port on a 9 pin D sub connector and subsequently the EIA/TIA approved this implementation as the EIA/TIA-574 standard. This standard is defined as the *9-Position Non-Synchronous Interface between Data Terminal Equipment and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment Employing Serial Binary Data Interchange*. Both implementations are in widespread use and will be referred to as RS-232 in this document. RS-232 is capable of operating at data rates up to 20 Kbps at distances less than 50 ft. The absolute maximum data rate may vary due to line conditions and cable lengths. RS-232 is a single ended or unbalanced interface, meaning that a single electrical signal is compared to a common signal (ground) to determine binary logic states. The RS-232 and the EIA/TIA-574 specification define two types of interface circuits, Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment (DCE). The COMM+2/EX is a DTE device.

RS-422

The RS-422 specification defines the electrical characteristics of balanced voltage digital interface circuits. RS-422 is a differential interface that defines voltage levels and driver/receiver electrical specifications. On a differential interface, logic levels are defined by the difference in voltage between a pair of outputs or inputs. In contrast, a single ended interface, for example RS-232, defines the logic levels as the difference in voltage between a single signal and a common ground connection. Differential interfaces are typically more immune to noise or voltage spikes that may occur on the communication lines. Differential interfaces also have greater drive capabilities that allow for longer cable lengths. RS-422 is rated up to 10 Megabits per second and can have cabling 4000 feet long. RS-422 also defines driver and receiver electrical characteristics that will allow 1 driver and up to 32 receivers on the line at once. RS-422 signal levels range from 0 to +5 volts. RS-422 does not define a physical connector.

RS-485

RS-485 is backwardly compatible with RS-422; however, it is optimized for party-line or multi-drop applications. The output of the RS-422/485 driver is capable of being Active (enabled) or Tri-State (disabled). This capability allows multiple ports to be connected in a multi-drop bus and selectively polled. RS-485 allows cable lengths up to 4000 feet and data rates up to 10 Megabits per second. The signal levels for RS-485 are the same as those defined by RS-422. RS-485 has electrical characteristics that allow for 32 drivers and 32 receivers to be connected to one line. This interface is ideal for multi-drop or network environments. RS-485 tri-state driver (not dual-state) will allow the electrical presence of the driver to be removed from the line. Only one driver may be active at a time and the other driver(s) must be tri-stated. RS-485 can be cabled in two ways, two wire and four wire mode. Two wire mode does not allow for full duplex communication and requires that data be transferred in only one direction at a time. For half-duplex operation, the two transmit pins should be connected to the two receive pins (Tx+ to Rx+ and Tx- to Rx-). Four wire mode allows full duplex data transfers. RS-485 does not define a connector pin-out or a set of modem control signals. RS-485 does not define a physical connector.

Appendix D – Asynchronous Communications

Serial data communications implies that individual bits of a character are transmitted consecutively to a receiver that assembles the bits back into a character. Data rate, error checking, handshaking, and character framing (start/stop bits) are pre-defined and must correspond at both the transmitting and receiving ends.

Asynchronous communications is the standard means of serial data communication for PC compatibles and PS/2 computers. The original PC was equipped with a communication or COM: port that was designed around an 8250 Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter (UART). This device allows asynchronous serial data to be transferred through a simple and straightforward programming interface. A start bit, followed by a pre-defined number of data bits (5, 6, 7, or 8) defines character boundaries for asynchronous communications. The end of the character is defined by the transmission of a pre-defined number of stop bits (usually 1, 1.5 or 2). An extra bit used for error detection is often appended before the stop bits.

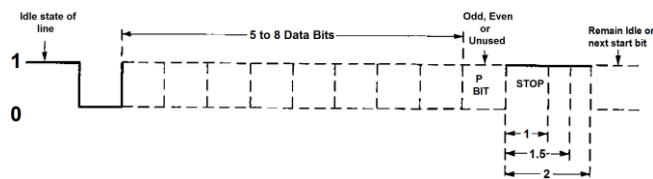


Figure 8 - Asynchronous Communications Bit Diagram

This special bit is called the parity bit. Parity is a simple method of determining if a data bit has been lost or corrupted during transmission. There are several methods for implementing a parity check to guard against data corruption. Common methods are called (E)ven Parity or (O)dd Parity. Sometimes parity is not used to detect errors on the data stream. This is referred to as (N)o parity. Because each bit in asynchronous communications is sent consecutively, it is easy to generalize asynchronous communications by stating that each character is wrapped (framed) by pre-defined bits to mark the beginning and end of the serial transmission of the character. The data rate and communication parameters for asynchronous communications have to be the same at both the transmitting and receiving ends. The communication parameters are baud rate, parity, number of data bits per character, and stop bits (i.e., 9600, N, 8, 1).

Appendix F - Compliance Notices

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Statement



This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for Class A digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in such case the user will be required to correct the interference at the user's expense.

EMC Directive Statement



Products bearing the CE Label fulfill the requirements of the EMC directive (89/336/EEC) and of the low-voltage directive (73/23/EEC) issued by the European Commission. To obey these directives, the following European standards must be met:

- **EN55022 Class A** - "Limits and methods of measurement of radio interference characteristics of information technology equipment"
- **EN55024** - "Information technology equipment Immunity characteristics Limits and methods of measurement".



This is a Class A Product. In a domestic environment, this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures to prevent or correct the interference.



Always use cabling provided with this product if possible. If no cable is provided or if an alternate cable is required, use high quality shielded cabling to maintain compliance with FCC/EMC directives.

Warranty

Sealevel's commitment to providing the best I/O solutions is reflected in the Lifetime Warranty that is standard on all Sealevel manufactured I/O products. We are able to offer this warranty due to our control of manufacturing quality and the historically high reliability of our products in the field. Sealevel products are designed and manufactured at its Liberty, South Carolina facility, allowing direct control over product development, production, burn-in and testing. Sealevel achieved ISO-9001:2015 certification in 2018.

Warranty Policy

Sealevel Systems, Inc. (hereafter "Sealevel") warrants that the Product shall conform to and perform in accordance with published technical specifications and shall be free of defects in materials and workmanship for the warranty period. In the event of failure, Sealevel will repair or replace the product at Sealevel's sole discretion. Failures resulting from misapplication or misuse of the Product, failure to adhere to any specifications or instructions, or failure resulting from neglect, abuse, accidents, or acts of nature are not covered under this warranty.

Warranty service may be obtained by delivering the Product to Sealevel and providing proof of purchase. Customer agrees to ensure the Product or assume the risk of loss or damage in transit, to prepay shipping charges to Sealevel, and to use the original shipping container or equivalent. Warranty is valid only for original purchaser and is not transferable.

This warranty applies to Sealevel manufactured Product. Product purchased through Sealevel but manufactured by a third party will retain the original manufacturer's warranty.

Non-Warranty Repair/Retest

Products returned due to damage or misuse and Products retested with no problem found are subject to repair/retest charges. A purchase order or credit card number and authorization must be provided in order to obtain an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number prior to returning Product.

How to obtain an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization)

If you need to return a product for warranty or non-warranty repair, you must first obtain an RMA number. Please contact Sealevel Systems, Inc. Technical Support for assistance:

Available	Monday – Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM EST
Phone	864-843-4343
Email	support@sealevel.com

Trademarks

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