



(Don't Fear) The Expiration Date

By John Lindberg

As most users know we have been shipping out our new dongle with the release of HYPACK® 2009a. There has been a lot of confusion regarding the “expiration date” listed in the HYPACK® License Manager. This document is an attempt to dispel any fears regarding the “expiration” of HYPACK® keys.

First of all, every new key shipped was programmed as a “leased” key. When you run the License Manager, you will notice the checkbox next to the word “Leased” is checked.

FIGURE 1. *Leased Key Stops Working on the Exp. Date*

These are the only keys that expire! Once the date listed in the License Manager is reached, a leased key will cease running HYPACK®. As mentioned in the letter sent out with 2009a and the new key, simply send the old key back and you will be sent the license file to “unlock” the lease option. If you are not ready to move up to the new key, just hold on to it. There is no need to send it back. When you are ready to switch over, you can send the old key back and we will send the license file.

For the record, there is no conspiracy to take anything away from our customers. We are not forcing users to be on the Maintenance Plan. We have been using the same dongle protection scheme forever, and newer technologies, operating systems, etc., are forcing us to change with the changing times.

Once the license file is received and uploaded into the new key, the leased option will be turned off, and the expiration date simply becomes the MP Expiration date. You will see something like this in the License Manager:

FIGURE 2. *Permanent Key Runs All Programs with Release Date Preceding Exp. Date*

This type of key *will not expire!* It will run the software you are licensed to use. In other words, the key shown above will run any HYPACK® software released before the MP expiration date. It will not run any software released after that date.

For example, HYPACK® 2010 will be released early in the year. If your MP expires January 2011, and you decide not to renew your MP, you will always be able to run HYPACK® 2010 (or HYPACK® 2009a) with the new key, even after the MP date listed.

If your surveying buddy down the street gives you a copy of HYPACK® 2011, or 2012, you will not be able to run it if your MP is expired. You will have to stick with the version for which you are licensed.

Hopefully this clears up any confusion regarding that expiration date. In 2010 we will be changing these labels in the License Manager to help avoid confusion. For example, if a key is “Leased” the label will say Expiration Date. If a key is not leased the date will be labeled “MP Ending.”