## User Manual

# Gel-filled pH Probe: Model PHC10101, PHC10103, PHC10105, PHC10110, PHC10115 or PHC10130

## Safety information

## **Precautionary labels**

Read all labels and tags attached to the instrument. Personal injury or damage to the instrument could occur if not observed. A symbol on the instrument is referenced in the manual with a precautionary statement.



Electrical equipment marked with this symbol may not be disposed of in European public disposal systems after 12 August of 2005. In conformity with European local and national regulations (EU Directive 2002/96/EC), European electrical equipment users must now return old or end-of-life equipment to the Producer for disposal at no charge to the user.

**Note:** For return for recycling, please contact the equipment producer or supplier for instructions on how to return end-of-life equipment, producer-supplied electrical accessories, and all auxiliary items for proper disposal.

## **Specifications**

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice.

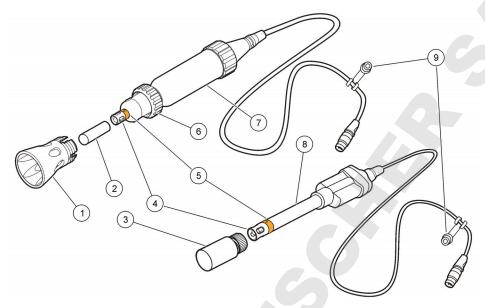
Specifications	Details	
Probe type	Digital combination non-refillable, gel-filled probe with double junction reference and built-in temperature sensor	
pH range	pH 2 to 14	
pH resolution	User-selectable stabilization time and resolution—Fast: 0.1, Fast: 0.01, Medium: 0.01, Slow: 0.01 or Slow: 0.001	
Slope	-59 mV/pH (90 to 110% at 25 °C (77 °F) per Nernstian theoretical value)	
Operating temperature range	0 to 50 °C (32 to 122 °F)	
Storage temperature range	5 to 40 °C (41 to 104 °F)	
Junction	Open	
Reference type	Ag/AgCl	
Sodium (alkalinity) error	-0.6 pH at pH 12.6 in 1 M NaOH	
Temperature accuracy	±0.3 °C (±0.54 °F)	
Minimum sample depth	20 mm (0.79 in.)	
Dimensions (standard)	Diameter: 12 mm (0.47 in.) Length: 175 mm (6.89 in.) Cable length: 1 or 3 m (3.28 or 9.84 ft)	
Dimensions (rugged)	Diameter: 46 mm (1.81 in.) Length: 223 mm (8.73 in.) Cable length: 5, 10, 15 or 30 m (16.40, 32.81, 49.21 or 98.42 ft)	
Cable connection	M12 digital output and connector compatible with HQd meters	

## **Product overview**

The PHC101 series probe is a non-refillable, gel-filled combination pH probe with a built-in temperature sensor (Figure 1). The standard PHC10101 or PHC10103 probe comes with a 1 or 3 m (3.28 or 9.84 ft) cable and is intended for laboratory use. The rugged PHC10105, PHC10110, PHC10115 or PHC10130 comes with a 5, 10, 15 or 30 m (16.40,

32.81, 49.21 or 98.42 ft) cable and is intended for field use. The probe provides pH measurement in wastewater, drinking water and general aqueous applications. The probe is not suitable for use with organic solvents or samples with pH less than 2.

Figure 1 Probe overview



1 Shroud (rugged model)	6 Locking ring (rugged model)
2 Probe storage cap	7 Rugged probe (5, 10, 15 or 30 meter cable)
3 Probe soaker bottle	8 Standard probe (1 or 3 meter cable)
4 Glass bulb and temperature sensor	9 Probe storage cap or soaker bottle holder
5 Reference junctions and protective tape	

## Preparation for use

To prepare the probe for initial use:

- 1. If a rugged probe, remove the shroud and probe storage cap (refer to Remove the shroud on page 10).
- **2.** If a standard probe, turn the probe soaker bottle cap counter-clockwise to loosen the cap. Remove the soaker bottle from the probe.
- 3. Remove the protective tape from the reference junctions (refer to Figure 1 on page 2). Dispose of the protective tape.
- 4. If the probe will be used immediately, prepare the probe for calibration or sample measurement.
- 5. If the probe will not be used immediately, store the probe (refer to Storage on page 10).

To prepare the probe for calibration or sample measurement:

- 1. If a rugged probe, remove the probe storage cap.
- **2.** If a standard probe, turn the probe soaker bottle cap counter-clockwise to loosen the cap. Remove the soaker bottle from the probe.
- 3. Rinse the reference junctions and glass bulb thoroughly with deionized water to remove the 3 M KCl solution completely. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.
- **4.** For the best stabilization time, condition the probe for several minutes in the sample before use.
- **5.** If a rugged probe, make sure that the shroud is installed before field use (refer to Install the shroud on page 10).

**Note:** Damage to the sensing elements can occur if the shroud is not installed during field use. Damage under these conditions is not covered by the product warranty.

## Calibration

#### Before calibration:

The probe must have the correct service-life time stamp. Set the date and time in the meter before the probe is attached.

It is not necessary to recalibrate when moving a calibrated probe from one HQd meter to another if the additional meter is configured to use the same calibration options.

To view the current calibration, push 🗁 , select View Probe Data, then select View Current Calibration.

If any two probes are connected, push the **UP** or **DOWN** arrow to change to the single display mode in order to show the Calibrate option.

Prepare the probe for use (refer to Preparation for use on page 2).

If a rugged probe, remove the shroud from the probe (refer to Remove the shroud on page 10).

#### **Calibration notes:**

- pH buffers can be used in any order. Use buffers that are two pH units apart.
- Additional standard sets along with the minimum number of calibration points can be selected in the Calibration Options. For a two point calibration, it is recommended that two buffers be selected: one with a pH above and one with a pH below the expected sample pH. For a one point calibration, select the buffer nearest to the expected sample pH.
- The calibration is recorded in the probe and the data log. The calibration is also sent to a PC, printer or flash memory stick if connected.
- Air bubbles under the sensor tip when submerged can cause slow response or error in measurement. If bubbles are present, gently shake the probe until bubbles are removed.
- If a calibration error occurs, refer to Troubleshooting on page 10.

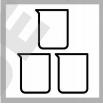
#### Calibration procedure:



1. Connect the probe to the meter. Make sure that the cable locking nut is securely connected to the meter. Turn on the meter.



2. Push
Calibrate. The
display shows the
buffers that are
necessary for
calibration.



**3.** Prepare the fresh buffers in separate beakers or appropriate containers.



4. Rinse the probe with deionized water. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.



5. Put the probe in the pH buffer solution and stir gently. Make sure that the reference junctions are completely submerged. Shake the probe from side to side in the standard solution to refresh the reference junction.



6. Push Read. Stir gently. The display will show "Stabilizing" and a progress bar as the probe stabilizes in the standard. The display shows the buffer that has just been read and shows the temperature corrected pH value when the reading is stable.



7. Repeat steps 4 - 6 until the minimum number of calibration points specified in the current method have been collected.



8. Push Done to view the calibration summary. The display will not show Done until the minimum number of calibration points have been collected.



9. Push Store to accept the calibration and go back to measurement mode. If a rugged probe, install the shroud on the probe (refer to Install the shroud on page 10).

## Sample measurement

#### Before measurement:

The probe must have the correct service-life time stamp. Set the date and time in the meter before the probe is attached.

If complete traceability is necessary, enter a sample ID and operator ID before measurement. Refer to the HQd meter manual for more information.

Regular calibration is required for the best measurement accuracy (refer to Calibration on page 3).

Prepare the probe for use (refer to Preparation for use on page 2).

To deploy a rugged probe at a distance, toss the probe body with a gentle underhand throw. Do not swing the probe by the cable as this may cause injury to the user, will cause severe strain on the cable and will shorten the service life of the probe.

#### Measurement notes:

- Data is automatically stored in the data log when Press to Read or Interval is selected in the Measurement Mode. When Continuous is selected, data will only be stored when Store is selected.
- Air bubbles under the sensor tip when submerged can cause slow response or error in measurement. If bubbles are present, gently shake the probe until bubbles are removed.
- If a measurement error occurs, refer to Troubleshooting on page 10.

#### Measurement procedure:

Note: Procedure also applies for rugged model probes.



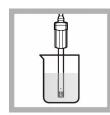
1. Connect the probe to the meter. Make sure that the cable locking nut is securely connected to the meter. Turn the meter on.



2. For the best stabilization time, condition the probe for several minutes in the sample or in a solution comparable to the sample in terms of pH and ionic strength before the initial sample measurement.



3. Rinse the probe with deionized water, then with the sample. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.



4. Put the probe in the sample and stir gently. Make sure that the reference junctions are completely submerged. Do not put the probe on the bottom or sides of the container. Shake the probe from side to side in the sample to refresh the reference junction.



5. Push Read.
The display will show "Stabilizing" and a progress bar as the probe stabilizes in the sample. The display will show the lock icon when the reading stabilizes.



**6.** Repeat steps 3-5 for additional measurements.



7. When measurements are done, store the probe (refer to Storage on page 10).

## Run a check standard

The run check standard feature validates instrument performance between sample measurements. Use the run check standard feature for periodic or user-defined interval measurements of a traceable standard solution. Set the criteria for check standards from the PHC101 Settings menu.

**Note:** Access control must be off or a valid password must be entered before any of the check standard method options can be changed.

- Push ♥ . The Full Access Options menu is shown.
- 2. Select Run Check Standard.

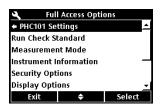
**Note:** Select the correct probe if two probes are connected to the meter.

- 3. Get the standard solution shown on the display.
- 4. Rinse the probe with deionized water. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.
- 5. Put the probe in the standard solution until the temperature sensor is completely submerged. Move the probe up or down or gently tap on the beaker to remove air bubbles from the probe.
- **6.** Push **Read.** The display will show "Stabilizing" and a progress bar as the reading stabilizes. The display shows the value of the check standard and either Check Standard Passed or Check Standard Failed.

- 7. If the display shows Check Standard Passed, the check standard measurement is within the accepted limits set by the administrative user. Select Done to continue with the sample measurement.
- 8. If the display shows Check Standard Failed, the measurement is outside of accepted limits set by the administrative user and a recalibration is recommended. If the acceptance criteria is set to Cal Expires on Failure: Yes, the display shows the calibration icon and a question mark until the probe is recalibrated. To correct the probe calibration and status indicator, calibrate the probe (refer to Calibration on page 3).

## **Advanced operation**

Parameter-specific settings can be changed through the Full Access Options menu. Details about menu navigation, available options and how to change them are given in the screens, tables and procedures throughout this section.







The settings that can be changed are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Parameter-specific settings

Setting	Options		
Measurement Options	<ul> <li>Resolution</li> <li>Upper and lower range limits</li> </ul>		
Calibration Options	<ul> <li>Buffer set</li> <li>Buffer set values (if Custom Buffer Set selected)</li> <li>Reminder</li> <li>Minimum Cal points</li> <li>Slope limit</li> </ul>		
Check Standard Options	<ul> <li>Standard (temperature compensated buffer or custom at 25 °C)</li> <li>Reminder</li> <li>Acceptance criteria</li> <li>Standard value at 25 °C (if custom standard selected)</li> </ul>		
Units	• pH • mV		

#### Change measurement options

Methods are groups of default or user-defined settings relevant to specific applications. If the meter is set to the default method and the Modify Current Settings option is chosen, a prompt for a new name is shown after the changes are entered. The settings are saved with this name to distinguish them from the default method settings, which cannot be changed. A saved method can be used instead of multiple adjustments to the individual settings. Changes made to a user-defined method are automatically saved with the existing name. Multiple methods can be saved for the same probe on each meter.

- 1. Make sure a probe is connected to the meter.
- 2. Push \(\gamma\) and select PHC101 Settings.

- 3. Select Modify Current Settings.
- 4. Select Units. Select pH (default) or mV.

**Note:** The mV option can be used to find the probe offset in a pH 7 buffer or to measure the slope. Both units are shown when the detail display mode is selected.

5. Select Measurement Options and update the settings:

Option	Description
Resolution	Sets the resolution:
	<ul> <li>0.1pH—Fast</li> <li>0.01pH—Fast (default)</li> <li>0.01pH—Medium</li> <li>0.01pH—Slow, or</li> <li>0.001pH—Slow</li> </ul>
	The resolution affects the number of decimal places and the stabilization time. Higher resolution measurements take more time to stabilize. Slower stabilization times provide higher accuracy measurements.
Measurement Limits	Set the measurement limits—Lower limit (default: 2.00 pH) or Upper limit (default: 14.00 pH).
	The measurement limits can be set to match the acceptable values for the sample. When the measurement is above the upper limit setting or below the lower limit setting, the meter shows an "Out of limits" message. This message is an alert to a potential problem with the process conditions.

- **6.** If prompted, enter a name for the new method settings. Additional changes made to the settings of an existing method are automatically saved with the same method name
- 7. Push **EXIT** until the meter returns to the measurement mode.

## Change calibration options

- 1. Make sure a probe is connected to the meter.
- 2. Push < and select PHC101 Settings.
- 3. Select Modify Current Settings.
- 4. Select Calibration Options and update the settings:

Option	Description  Sets the temperature compensated buffer set used for calibration—		
Buffer Set			
	<ul> <li>Color Coded—4.01, 7.00, 10.01 (default)</li> <li>IUPAC—4.01, 7.00, 10.01, 12.45</li> <li>DIN—4.65, 9.23</li> <li>IUPAC—4.01, 6.86, 10.01, 12.45</li> <li>IUPAC—4.01, 6.86, 9.18, 12.45</li> <li>IUPAC—4.01, 7.00, 9.18, 12.45</li> <li>Custom Buffer Set (refer to Table 2)</li> <li>Custom buffer sets are characterized at 25 °C (77 °F).</li> <li>Buffer set values are shown on the Calibration Options screen.</li> <li>Note: Only the minimum calibration points must be measured for DONE to be shown on the calibration screen.</li> </ul>		
Buffer Set Values	If the Buffer Set is set to Customer Buffer Set, sets the custom buffer set (refer to Table 2).		
Minimum Cal Points	Sets the minimum number of calibration points necessary before a calibration can be completed—1 (default), 2 or 3.		
Slope Limit	Sets the slope limit—1% to 10% (acceptable slope criteria, default = 5%). The slope must fall within set limits for successful calibration.		

**5.** Select Calibration Reminder and update the settings:

Option	Description	
Reminder Repeat	Meter will make an audible sound when a calibration is due and repeat the sound at the selected interval—Off (default), 2 h, 4 h, 8 h, 2 d, 5 d or 7 d.	
Expires	Calibration expires after the selected time—Immediately, Reminder + 30 min, Reminder + 1 h, Reminder + 2 h or Continue Reading.	
	<b>Note:</b> The meter cannot be used to read samples after calibration has expired unless Continue Reading is selected.	

- **6.** If prompted, enter a name for the new method settings. Additional changes made to the settings of an existing method are automatically saved with the same method name.
- 7. Push **EXIT** until the meter returns to the measurement mode.

Table 2 Custom buffer sets

Buffer set values	Option	Description	
Std1	4.01pH—25 °C	Pre-set temperature compensated buffer values.	
Std2	4.65pH—25 °C	<b>Note:</b> Selected standards must differ by a minimum of 2 pH units. For example, if 1.09pH is chosen for the first standard, the second standard must differ by at least 2 pH. Standards that do	
Std3 Std4	6.86pH—25 °C	not meet this minimum will appear gray on the screen and will not be selectable.	
Std5	7.00pH—25 °C		
	9.18pH—25 °C		
	9.23pH—25 °C		
	10.01pH— 25 °C		
12.45pH— 25 °C			
	Custom Buffer	Custom buffer value.	
		Range = 2.000 pH to 14.000 pH.	
		Custom buffer values are not temperature compensated. Custom buffers should be read at 25 °C.	
	No Buffer	Standard is undefined when this option is selected.	

## **Change check standard options**

- 1. Make sure a probe is connected to the meter.
- 2. Push ? and select PHC101 Settings.
- 3. Select Modify Current Settings.

4. Select Check Standards Options and update the settings:

Option	Description	
Standard	Sets the temperature compensated buffer value for check standard—  • 4.01pH—25 °C  • 4.65pH—25 °C  • 6.86pH—25 °C  • 7.00pH—25 °C  • 9.18pH—25 °C  • 9.23pH—25 °C  • 10.01pH—25 °C	
	<ul> <li>12.45pH—25 °C</li> <li>Custom</li> <li>The standard value is shown on the Check Standard Options screen.</li> <li>No temperature compensation for custom buffers.</li> </ul>	
Standard Value	When Standard is set to Custom, enter the standard value using the up/down arrow keys.	

5. Select Check Standard Reminder and update the settings:

Option	Description		
Reminder Repeat	Sets the time interval for the check standard reminder—Off, 30 minutes, 2 h, 4 h, 8 h, 12 h or 24 h.		
Allow Defer	Allows the postponement of check standard reminders—Yes or No.		

6. Select Acceptance Criteria and update the settings:

Option	Description
Acceptance Limits	Sets the tolerance limits for check standard—0.005pH (default) to 1.000pH.

Cal Expires on Failure Recalibration required if check standard fails—Yes or No.

- 7. If prompted, enter a name for the new method settings. Additional changes made to the settings of an existing method are automatically saved with the same method name.
- 8. Push EXIT until the meter returns to the measurement mode.

## **Maintenance**

#### Clean the probe

#### Clean the probe when:

- Drifting/inaccurate readings occur as a result of contamination on the glass sensor or the probe being left dry for extended periods of time.
- Slow stabilization time occurs as a result of contamination on the glass sensor.
- A calibration error occurs as a result of contamination on the glass sensor.

Before a rugged probe can be cleaned, the shroud must be removed (refer to Remove the shroud on page 10). Install the shroud after the probe is clean (refer to Install the shroud on page 10).

#### For general contaminants:

- 1. Rinse the probe with deionized water and blot dry with a lint-free cloth.
- 2. Soak the glass bulb for 12 to 16 hours in Hach Electrode Cleaning Solution.
- 3. Rinse or soak the probe for 1 minute in deionized water.
- 4. Soak the probe in pH 4 buffer for up to 20 minutes, then rinse with deionized water.
- 5. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.

## For fats, grease and oils:

- 1. Soak the glass bulb in a warm detergent solution for up to 2 hours.
- 2. Rinse or soak the probe for 1 minute in deionized water.
- 3. Soak the probe in pH 4 buffer for up to 20 minutes, then rinse with deionized water.
- 4. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.

#### Remove the shroud

- 1. Loosen and remove the locking ring.
- 2. Slide the shroud and locking ring off the probe.

#### Install the shroud

- 1. Put the locking ring on the probe with the threads toward the probe.
- 2. Slide the shroud on the probe until it is against the locking groove.
- 3. Hand-tighten the locking ring on the shroud.

## **Storage**

#### Short-term and long-term storage

For the best probe performance, do not let the reference junction dry out.

- 1. Rinse the probe with deionized water. Dry the probe with a lint-free cloth.
- 2. Fill the probe storage cap or soaker bottle half full with Hach Electrode Storage Solution or 3 M potassium chloride (KCI) solution.
- 3. If a rugged probe, put the probe storage cap on the probe.
- **4.** If a standard probe, put the soaker bottle on the probe and tighten the soaker bottle cap.
- **5.** Make sure that the solution in the storage cap or soaker bottle completely covers the glass bulb and reference junction.

**Note:** The probe can also be stored in a sample for up to 2 hours if the sample pH is not high.

If the glass bulb becomes dry:

- 1. Soak the probe tip in the 4.01, 7.00 and 10.01 buffers each for 5 minutes.
- 2. Rinse the probe with deionized water. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.
- 3. Calibrate the probe.

## **Troubleshooting**

Message or symptom	Possible cause	Action
Probe not supported	Software not updated	To download the most current version of the software, refer to the applicable product page on the manufacturer's website.
		Refer to the HQd Series meter manual for specific instructions for the meter model.
	HQd meter does not support IntelliCAL® probe	Contact a Technical Support Representative.

Message or symptom	Possible cause	Action
Connect a probe or probe requires service	Probe not connected properly	Disconnect, then connect the probe. Tighten the locking nut.
	Software not updated	To download the most current version of the software, refer to the applicable product page on the manufacturer's website.  Refer to the HQd Series meter manual.
	Large number of methods stored	Continue to let probe connect. Do not disconnect the probe.
	Damaged probe	Make sure there is connectivity with another probe or meter to confirm isolated issue with probe. Contact a Technical Support Representative.
Standard not recognized error	Tape not removed from the reference junctions	Remove the tape.
Standard not recognized error	Probe storage cap or soaker bottle not removed.	Remove the probe storage cap or soaker bottle.
	Incorrect or contaminated buffer solution	Use fresh buffer solution as specified in the method.
pH reading and/or mV reading is same for all solutions	Tape not removed from the reference junctions	Remove the tape.
pH reading and/or mV reading is same for all	Storage cap or soaker bottle not removed	Remove the storage cap or soaker bottle.
solutions	Electrical issue	Contact a Technical Support Representative.
Slow stabilization time	Tape not removed from the reference junctions	Remove the tape.
Slow stabilization time	Contaminated glass sensor	Clean the probe (refer to Clean the probe on page 9).
	Poor contact between reference junction and solution	Shake the probe in the solution from side to side to refresh the reference junction.
	Probe not prepared for sample	For the best stabilization time, soak the probe in the sample for 10 to 15 minutes before doing a sample measurement.
	Low sample temperature or temperature difference between samples	Check the sample temperature. The lower the temperature or the greater the difference of temperatures between samples, the longer the stabilization time will be.
	Air bubbles around inner reference electrode	Gently tap the probe with hand or shake the probe downward to remove any air bubbles.
Calibration errors	Calibration not done correctly	Recalibrate using freshly prepared pH buffers.
	Contaminated glass sensor	Clean the probe (refer to Clean the probe on page 9).
	Slope exceeds the criteria for % of theoretical (as defined in the method slope limit)	<ol> <li>Widen the slope limits by changing the PHC101 calibration settings and method.</li> <li>Recalibrate the probe.</li> <li>Run a check standard to check the performance of the probe.</li> </ol>

Message or symptom	Possible cause	Action
Drifting/Inaccurate readings	Contaminated glass sensor	Clean the probe (refer to Clean the probe on page 9).
	CO <sub>2</sub> absorption (for low ionic strength or high purity sample)	Use the LIS chamber for LIS/high purity samples to keep sample contamination from occuring.
	Air bubbles around inner reference electrode	Rinse the reference junction holes with deionized water and then gently tap the probe with hand or shake the probe to remove any air bubbles.
	Incorrect storage conditions (discolored, contaminated or dried gel)	Clean or condition the probe and do recalibration. The probe may not operate correctly if the probe has been left dry for a long time. Condition the glass sensor and reference junctions again:
		<ol> <li>Soak the probe tip in the 4.01, 7.00 and 10.01 buffers each for 5 minutes.</li> <li>Rinse with deionized water. Blot dry with a lint-free cloth.</li> <li>Calibrate the probe.</li> </ol>
	Electromagnetic Forces (EMF) such as voltaic cells, thermoelectric devices, eletrical generators, resistors and transformers.	Do not test in areas where EMF is present. For testing in process units (i.e. spot checking), make sure the equipment is grounded.
Out of range	Measurement value is outside of range	Make sure that the sample is within the range of the probe.
Temperature out of range	Temperature value is outside of range	Make sure that the sample temperature is within the range of the probe.
		Make sure that the temperature sensor is working correctly.
	Measured pH buffer temperature is outside range of the probe	Make sure that the standard temperature is within the range of the probe.
		Make sure that the temperature sensor is working correctly.
	Check standard temperature value is outside of range	Make sure that the Check Standard temperature is within the range of the probe.
Out of limits	Measurement value is outside of measurement limits set in the current method	Make sure that the sample is within the limits of the current method.
		Create a new method with expanded limits.
	Check standard value is outside of limits set in the current method	Make sure that the check standard is within the limits of the current method.
		Create another method that expands the acceptable limits.

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