



PROFIsafe: Frequently Asked Questions



FAQ: PROFIsafe V2.4 to V2.6 MU2

Purpose: This FAQ addresses PROFIsafe (PS) V2.4 validity as well as the V2.6 series of standards (V2.6.1, V2.6 Maintenance Update [MU] 1 and V2.6MU2.1). It is intended for product management, device vendors, system integrators, certification stakeholders, and customer discussions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the overall message?

Version	Status	Description
PROFIsafe V2.4	May only be implemented as additional compatibility fallback in conjunction with a V2.6 series version	Legacy version based on the now obsolete <i>Edition 1</i> and <i>Edition 2</i> of parent standard for safe communication IEC 61784-3 (from 2007 and 2010, respectively). It may only be used as an additional compatibility fallback version for device replacement in existing installations.
PROFIsafe V2.6.1	Current major baseline	Version compatible with the new requirements in IEC 61784-3 Editions 3, 4, 4.1 and the upcoming Edition 5.
PROFIsafe V2.6 MU1	Maintenance update 1	Extends version V2.6.1 with integration scenarios and adds optional F-Host/F-Device interaction features.
PROFIsafe V2.6 MU2.1	Maintenance update 2	Add further clarifications, the new optional addressing feature "BaseID" and updated Safety Manual guidance.
For new designs, it is highly recommended that the latest V2.6 Maintenance Update 2.1 version is considered, which also covers all previous V2.6 series versions.		

2. Why is PROFIsafe V2.4 obsolete?

PROFIsafe V2.4 implemented the requirements of the now *obsolete Edition 1* and *Edition 2* of parent standard IEC 61784-3. It does not cover the new requirements for *Edition 3* and *Editions 4/4.1* as well as the upcoming *Edition 5* of IEC 61784-3. Additionally, important new features such as channel-granular passivation, support for a secondary watchdog time (used, e.g., for "Parameterization in Run (PiR)").

- **Use of PROFIsafe (PS) V2.4 is only reasonable for legacy compatibility after device replacement** in an existing installation.
- **Do not choose PS V2.4 as the baseline** for new product development, new device profiles or new certification projects. V2.4 alone cannot be tested and certified as the only version in a new product.
- **Use the newest V2.6 version "Maintenance Update 2.1" (MU2.1)** for new designs since it represents the latest and most mature version of the PROFIsafe V2.6 series. V2.6MU2.1 also covers all previous V2.6 series versions.

In customer communication, the recommended wording is: **V2.4 alone is not suited for new developments and should be treated as a legacy compatibility version only.**

3. What changed with PROFIsafe V2.6?

The PROFIsafe V2.6 series implements the new requirements from *IEC 61784-3 Edition 3*, *Edition 4/4.1* and the upcoming *Edition 5*. It also introduced new features to solidify PROFIsafe's position as the leading safe communication protocol.

- **Implementation of requirements from IEC 61784-3 Editions 3, 4/4.1 and the upcoming Edition 5.**
- **Channel-granular passivation** to allow more granular reaction behavior.
- **F_WD_Time_2** as an additional watchdog time for use case such as Parameterization in Run.

4. Which version should be used?

For new developments and certification activities, use the most recent applicable PROFIsafe V2.6 maintenance Update. V2.4 should be limited to backward compatibility with existing installations. Mixed installations may be possible if the F-Host supports the corresponding versions and the system configuration fulfills the relevant requirements.

5. How did the versions evolve?

Evolution path: V2.4 was the legacy IEC 61784-3 Edition 3 baseline. V2.6 moved PROFIsafe to the Edition 4-aligned baseline and added major functional enhancements. V2.6 MU1 then added optional host/device and integration functions. V2.6 MU2 added further clarifications, BaseID and updated Safety Manual guidance.

6. Consolidated feature overview

Feature	V2.4	V2.6	V2.6 MU1	V2.6 MU2.1
IEC 61784-3 Edition 4 compliance	No; Edition 3 legacy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Signal-specific passivation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Configuration-in-Run watchdog F_WD_Time_2	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Updated residual-error fault models	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Device_Fault reaction in F-Host	No	No	Optional feature	Included
Disable F-(Sub)Module extensions	No	No	Optional feature	Included
Multiple F-Host support	No	No	Specified	Included
Network separator clarifications / BaseID / Safety Manual updates	No	No	No	clarification added

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