



Release Notes for QX700 Droplet Digital PCR System Control Software

Standard and Premium Editions, Version 1.5

April 2026

For research use only. Not for use in diagnostic procedures.

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Intended Use

Important: The QX700™ Droplet Digital™ PCR (ddPCR™) System and its software applications (QX700 ddPCR System Control Software and QX700 ddPCR System Analysis Software) are intended **for research use only** by laboratory personnel who have completed the appropriate training provided by Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. **Do not use the instrument or software for diagnostic procedures.**

Note: These release notes apply to both QX700 ddPCR System Control Software, Standard Edition and QX700 ddPCR System Control Software, Premium Edition.

Overview

This document describes the new features and enhancements added to Version 1.5 of QX700 ddPCR System Control Software, which functions as the user interface to set up all amplification and image acquisition parameters for the ddPCR workflow. The software is available in Standard and Premium Editions and can be installed on all instrument models (QX700 E, QX700 S, and QX700 HT).

Premium Edition can enable QX700 customers to meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations on good laboratory practices (GLP) and good manufacturing practices (GMP) for the pharma and biotech industries. When the QX700 Data Service is also installed to serve as the user account manager, the system can be configured to operate in compliance with Title 21 in the Code of Federal Regulations Part 11 (21 CFR Part 11) within a closed system¹.

Important: To be compliant with 21 CFR Part 11, the security controls built into the software must be properly configured and administered by the system admins in your organization. Bio-Rad makes no claim

¹ A closed system is defined as “an environment in which system access is controlled by the persons who are responsible for the content of electronic records that are on the system.

that QX700 ddPCR System Control Software is 21 CFR Part 11-compliant in and of itself, nor does the company guarantee compliance for the user. The customer organization must establish policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) that work in conjunction with the tools provided by Bio-Rad to ensure compliance with 21 CFR Part 11.

Installing or Upgrading the Software

The QX700 ddPCR System Control Software is preinstalled on the QX700 ddPCR System. The Bio-Rad website product page provides access to an installation executable file to install or upgrade the software on a PC for additional plate setup capabilities.

This section explains how to download and install both editions of the software. If you purchased Premium Edition, a Bio-Rad field service engineer (FSE) will install and configure the QX700 Data Service.

To install or upgrade the software to this version

1. Open bio-rad.com and log in with your Bio-Rad user name and password.
2. Enter QX700 into the Search field and then click the search icon.
3. Click Downloads and then locate and click the Download Software link for your edition of the QX700 ddPCR System Control Software.
4. In the Software Download window, select the *I agree with the compliance requirements* checkbox, and then click Download.
5. A zip file is downloaded and appears in your Downloads folder. The download process can take a few minutes.
6. Open the Downloads folder and select the zip file, and then right-click and select Extract All.
7. Keep the default location or click Browse and navigate to a different folder, and then click Extract.
8. Open the folder containing the extracted files and locate the .exe file.
9. Double-click the .exe file to begin the installation.
10. Follow the prompts to install the software.

Updating .nioprotocol Files

If you load a .nioprotocol file created in a version of the System Control software prior to Version 1.5, the system prompts you to update the protocol. Bio-Rad strongly advises updating the file to use the enhanced droplet detection algorithm. If you do not update the file, the software will use an earlier droplet detection algorithm.

To update a .nioprotocol file

1. In the Protocols area of the left navigation menu, click Open.
2. Select the .nioprotocol file.
3. Click Open protocol.
4. In the update prompt, click Update.

Note: If you are creating a new experiment with an older protocol, the system will also prompt you to update the protocol. In this instance, open the protocol from the Protocols page, update the protocol, and add the updated protocol to the experiment.

New Features and Enhancements

Installer Now Split Into Premium and Standard Editions

The QX700 System Control **Software** is now available with two separate installers: **Standard Edition** and **Premium Edition**. Download the installer that matches your installation and compliance requirements.

The installers also feature an improved software installer user interface (UI) and user experience (UX).

Assays Screen: Fluorophore Fields Removed

The software now uses predefined fluorophore names (FAM, HEX, ROX, ATTO-590, Cy5, Cy5.5, and ATTO-550) to name channels consistently on both the Assay and Protocol screens, removing the need for manual entry and ensuring standardization across the application.

Customizable Output Path for .niodata File Download and Retrieval

You can now customize the output path used to download and retrieve .niodata files. From the Home screen taskbar, click **Settings**, then click the ellipsis next to **Customize output path** to change the location. You can configure this setting from the instrument interface or from the QX700 System Control Software when running it remotely on another computer connected to the instrument.

Chip Label Field Removed

The Chip label field is removed from the Experiments screen.

Enhanced Droplet Detection

The QX700 System Software now includes:

- A new droplet detection workflow that provides additional droplet size information in the QX700 Analysis application.
- An enhanced droplet detection algorithm that estimates individual droplet size and adjusts concentration calculations accordingly.

Note: If you load a .nioprotocol file created in a version of the System Control software prior to Version 1.5, the system prompts you to update the protocol. Bio-Rad strongly advises updating the file to use the enhanced droplet detection algorithm. If you do not update the file, the software will use an earlier droplet detection algorithm.

Enhanced File Consistency Checks

When you import or embed spillover, analysis, or plot files, the software now automatically checks that file channels match the channels enabled for the experiment, helping ensure consistent and accurate analysis.

Documentation

- QX700 Droplet Digital PCR System Instrument Guide, Standard Edition, Version 1.5
- QX700 Droplet Digital PCR System Instrument Guide, Premium Edition, Version 1.5
- QX700 ddPCR System Analysis Software User Guide, Standard Edition, Version 1.5
- QX700 ddPCR System Analysis Software User Guide, Premium Edition, Version 1.5
- Release Notes for QX700 ddPCR System Control Software, Version 1.5
- Release Notes for QX700 ddPCR System Analysis Software, Version 1.5

Contacting Technical Support

The Bio-Rad Technical Support department in the U.S. is open Monday through Friday, 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Pacific time.

Phone: 1-800-424-6723, option 2

E-mail: Support@bio-rad.com (U.S./Canada Only)

For technical assistance outside the U.S. and Canada, contact your local technical support office or click the Contact us link at www.bio-rad.com.

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