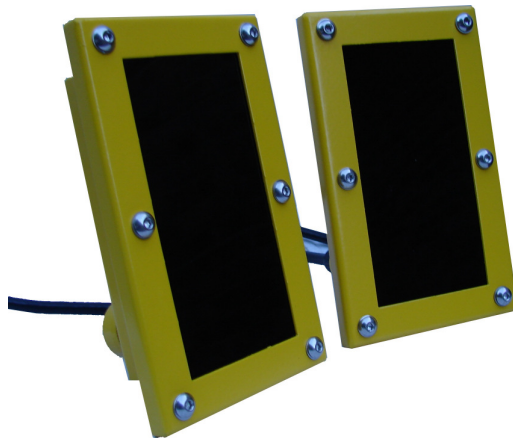


## USER MANUAL



### VTR1 Strobe Light

Revision 4

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# 1 Disclaimer

Except as prohibited by law:

- All hardware, software and documentation is provided on an “as is” basis. This information is for guidance only. Installers must perform their own risk assessment specific to each installation.
- It is essential that the user ensures that the operation of the product is suitable for their application.
- The user must ensure that incorrect functioning of this equipment cannot cause any dangerous situation or significant financial loss to occur.
- Deliberate acts of endangerment and vandalism are not covered by this document and must be considered by the installer.
- While care has been taken in the preparation of this document Gardasoft Vision Ltd and Gardasoft Products Ltd will not accept any liability for consequential loss of any kind except those required by law.

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## 2 Getting Started

Read the sections on Safety (Sections 3 and 4) and Specifications (Appendix A) and check the VTR1 fulfils your requirements. See the back cover for other Gardasoft Vision strobe lights.

Mount the VTR1 as described in Section 4. Connect the VTR1 up to a supply as described in Connections (Section 5). Set up the VTR1 for the desired operation as described in Configuration Commands (Section 9).

Visit [www.gardasoft.com](http://www.gardasoft.com) for application notes on this product. There is also a Support page which has information on troubleshooting problems.

### 2.1 Summary of Features

Throughout this manual, references to the VTR1 refer to all variants in the VTR1 range unless otherwise stated. The convention for the part number is:




VTR1-mm-www-aa-ccc

where:

mm	M for master only, MS for master/slave pair
www	Wavelength of light in nanometres: 740, 850, 940, W (white)
aa	Beam angle in degrees: 12 or 30
ccc	Communications: ETH, RS232


## 3 Safety

Read this before using the VTR1. Always observe the following safety precautions. If in doubt, contact your distributor or Gardasoft Vision. The following symbols mean:

-  Warning: read instructions to understand possible hazard
-  Warning: Possible hazardous voltage
-  Warning: Surface may get hot


Where these symbols appear in the manual, refer to the text for precautions to be taken.

### 3.1 Heat

-  The VTR1 can dissipate up to 5W. It should be positioned away from flammable materials.


Read the section on “Mounting the VTR1 (Section 5). Do not exceed the power ratings given in the manual.

### 3.2 Electrical

-  **The internal circuit exceeds 46.7V but should not exceed 60V. Pulse peak voltages above 46.7V are considered hazardous. Do not have the cover removed with the power on. Do not open the cover within 1 minute of turning the power off.**

The VTR1 does not have complete tracking isolation of inputs and outputs.

### 3.3 General

-  The VTR1 must not be used in an application where its failure could cause a danger to personal health or damage to other equipment.

If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

## 4 VTR1 Eye Safety

4.1 The VTR1 has been classified for eye safety according to IEC62471, as follows:

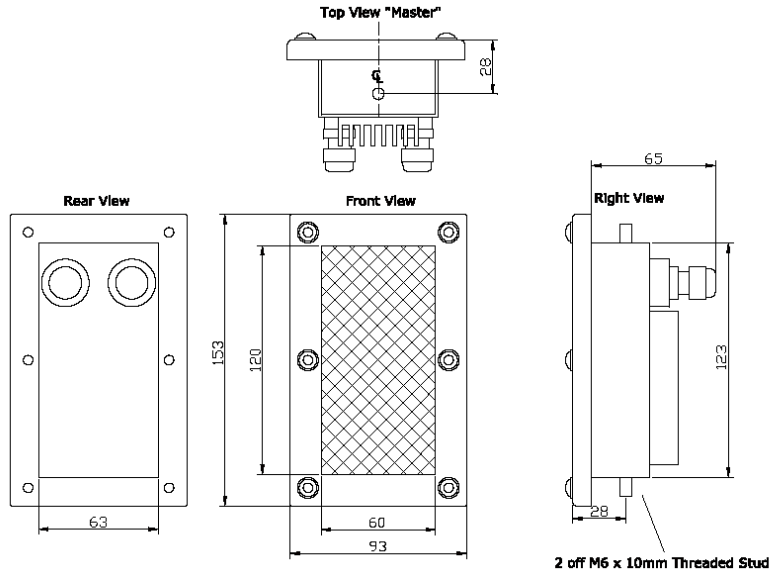
VTR1 740nm versions	Risk Group Exempt
VTR1 850nm versions	Risk Group 1
VTR1 940nm versions	Risk Group 1
VTR1 white versions	Risk Group 2

### 4.2 Disclaimer

This information is for guidance only. Installers must perform their own risk assessment specific to each installation. While Gardasoft Vision has taken every care in the provision of this information, Gardasoft Vision and Gardasoft Products accept no liability for damages of any kind, except those required by law.

Deliberate acts of endangerment and vandalism are not covered by this document and must be considered by the installer.

## 5 Mounting the VTR1



### 5.1 Heatsinking

The approximate heat dissipation of the VTR1 can be calculated as follows:

$$HD = 0.25 * BR * PW * TF + 2$$

Where:

HD	Heat dissipation (W)
PW	Strobe pulse width (seconds)
TF	Maximum trigger frequency (Hz)
BR	Brightness of the light output (%)

Given the range of ambient temperatures and radiated sunlight, the installation must provide enough heatsinking on the rear surface to keep the internal temperature of the VTR1 below 70°C.

## 6 Connections

See the Specification (Appendix A) for information on connection ratings.

Assembled cables are available from Gardasoft Vision to the customer's specification.

All connections are provided on a 10 core cable. The wire allocation depends on the options provided.

Wire Colour	Ethernet version	RS232 version
Black	Power Supply -	Power Supply -
Red	Power Supply +	Power Supply +
White	TRGI -	TRGI -
Brown	TRGI +	TRGI +
Grey	Ethernet TX+	No connect
Pink	Ethernet TX-	RS232 TX (output from VTR1)
Yellow	Ethernet RX+	RS232 RX (input to VTR1)
Green	Ethernet RX-	RS232 GND
Orange	TRGO-	TRGO-
Purple	TRGO+	TRGO+

### 6.1 Power Supply

Choose a PSU that limits its output current by design, by setting the current limit on the supply (if this feature exists) or use fuses. Remember to derate the fuse, if mounted in an enclosure, as the temperature will be higher than ambient. The external power supply will need to be able to supply at least 1A.

The use of a regulated power supply with 100% short circuit protection is recommended. If however a non-regulated power supply is used, then the maximum ripple voltage of this power supply must not exceed 10% of the actual DC value.

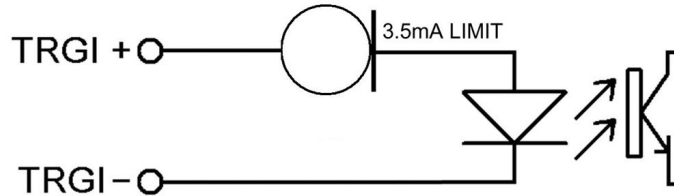
Low voltage and mains wiring should be routed separately. If they must be loomed together ensure that low voltage insulation rating is sufficient or that supplementary insulation is used. Power supply cable length is recommended not to exceed 3m. If longer cables are fitted, or if surge or transient interference greater than +/-60V may occur on the power supply lines, additional surge protection should be provided.

## 6.2 Trigger Input Option

There is an optional opto-isolated trigger input. The opto-isolator isolates voltages up to 50V.

Signal	Function
TRGI -ve	Trigger input -ve.
TRGI +ve	Trigger input +ve.

The trigger input circuit is as follows:



The trigger input circuit operates as follows:

When a voltage of 5V to 24V is applied across TRGI -ve and TRGI +ve, the trigger input is logic 1 (on). When a voltage of 0V to 2V is applied across TRGI -ve and TRGI +ve, the trigger input is logic 0 (off).

The trigger input takes about 3mA at all voltages from 5V to 24V.

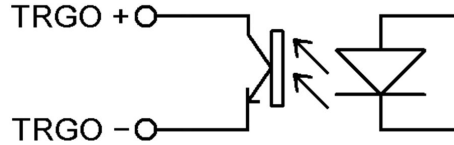


### 6.3 Trigger Output Option

There is an optional trigger output which is opto-isolated. The opto-isolator only isolates voltages up to 50V.

Signal	Function
TRGO -ve	Trigger input -ve.
TRGO +ve	Trigger input +ve.

The trigger output circuit is as follows:



The trigger output can be used to switch a signal of up to 24V, switching up to 20mA when on.

When the output is logic 1 (on) a current of up to 20mA can flow. The maximum current must be limited to 50mA by the external circuit. The forward voltage is less than 2V.

When the output is logic 0 (off) a voltage of up to 24V can be blocked.

#### 6.3.1 Ethernet Option

The Ethernet connection is 10BaseT operating at 10Mbits per second.

#### 6.3.2 Serial Option

The RS232 connections are as follows. The communications port should be set to 115Kbaud, no parity, 8 data bits and 1 stop bit.

Connecting to the specified pin on a 9-way female D-type will allow straight through connection to a PC COM port.

Signal	Function	Connection pin on a standard PC 9-way Female D-Type
GND	Connected to power input -ve	5
RX	Receive input to VTR1	3
TX	Transmit output from VTR1	2

## 7 General Description

The VTR1 current controller provides repeatable intensity and timing control for strobe lighting.

Two modes of operation are provided for the light output:

- **Pulse (Strobe):**

In pulse mode output is pulsed once per trigger. One trigger input is used as a trigger. The delay from trigger to pulse, the pulse duration and the brightness can be set.

- **Switched:**

In switched mode a trigger input can be used to switch the output current on and off. The sense of the trigger signal can be active high or active low.

The set up is non-volatile, so the VTR1 will resume the same operation after a power cycle.

### 7.1.1 Pulse and Duty Cycle Limits

In both pulsed and switched modes, the pulse width and duty cycle are internally limited to prevent damage to the light.

The brightness can be set up to 100%, but only for short periods and at low duty cycles, so that the lighting does not overheat and get damaged. In pulse mode, the duty cycle is limited by ignoring triggers which are too soon after the previous trigger.

Output Brightness	Allowed Pulse Width for 850nm and 940nm lights	Allowed Duty Cycle for 850nm and 940nm lights	Allowed Pulse Width for white and 740nm lights	Allowed Duty Cycle for white and 740nm lights
0 to 20%	3ms	6%	3ms	3%
21 to 30%	3ms	6%	2ms	3%
31% to 50%	3ms	3%	2ms	2%
51% to 100%	1ms	2%	1ms	1%

So for example, if the brightness is set to 40%, then a VTR1-850 will not allow pulses greater than 3ms long. With 1ms pulses, if a trigger occurs within 33ms of a previous trigger (so that the duty cycle would be greater than 3%) the trigger is ignored.

If necessary the VTR1 will limit the duty cycle by increasing the retrigger delay.

When the VTR1 internal temperature gets too high, the allowed duty cycle is reduced and event 149 is generated. This typically happens at 60°C.

### 7.1.2 Pulsed Output

The output is off by default. When the VTR1 is triggered it will wait for a delay and then pulse the output.

Retrigger delay is the minimum allowed time from one trigger to the next. Any triggers that happen too soon after the previous trigger are ignored. The retrigger delay is set in multiples of 100us.

The delay, pulse width, retrigger delay and pulse intensity are all configurable.

## 7.2 Switched Output

Switched mode uses the trigger input to switch the output on or off using the timing of the trigger signal. The output brightness can be varied from 0% to 100%.

The VTR1 applies the same duty cycle and pulse width limits as for pulse mode, to prevent the light being damaged.

## 7.3 Internal Trigger Timer

An internal timer is available for continuous triggering in pulse mode. The period of this timer is configurable.

Note that the internal timer is mostly used when synchronising a camera using the trigger output. It is generally not possible to run the light strobe from this timer while free running the camera. They will not stay synchronised and the images will have very variable intensity.

When this timer is turned on, the light strobe pulse and the trigger output are both triggered by this timer. External triggers still work.

When troubleshooting during development, it is sometimes useful to set this timer to give regular light pulses.

## 7.4 Trigger Input Option

An optional trigger input signal is available.

The trigger input is used as follows:

Mode	Trigger Input	Output
Switched	Trigger input = off	Output is off if P flag = 1 Output is on if P flag = 0
	Trigger input = on	Output is on if P flag = 1 Output is off if P flag = 0

Mode	Trigger Input	Output
Pulsed	Trigger rising edge	Pulse is triggered if P flag = 1
	Trigger falling edge	Pulse is triggered if P flag = 0

Note that the P flag inverts the sense of the trigger input.

## 7.5 Trigger Output Option

This optional factory fitted option, when fitted can be used to trigger a camera. It can be used for pulse width exposure control of the camera. The trigger timing for the light and camera can be adjusted relative to each other.

This output is triggered at the same time as the light strobe output. The delay and pulse width for this signal can be controlled independently of the light pulse.

## 7.6 Factory Settings

The default VTR1 configuration for the light output and trigger output are:

- Pulse operation
- 1ms pulse width
- 0.01ms delay
- 50% intensity
- 30ms retrigger delay

The CL command can be used to restore the VTR1 to its default configuration.

## 8 Ethernet Address (Ethernet Version Only)

You may need to ask your network administrator for advice about setting up the Ethernet connection.

Ethernet set up is not affected by cold booting the VTR1.

### 8.1 Connection

The Ethernet link uses a 10 base-T connection on an RJ45 connector. Typically the VTR1 will be connected to a network switch (or hub or router) although it is possible to connect it directly into the network port on a PC by using a suitable crossover cable.

### 8.2 IP Address

The VTR1 needs an IP address to communicate over Ethernet. There are two methods to get an IP address; either programmed into the unit or using DHCP.

Most networks use a DHCP server. If there is a PC on the network, you may be able to find out whether a PC on the same network uses DHCP as follows:

- Go to Control Panel
- Select Network Connections
- Right click on Local Area Connection. Select Properties
- From the list, select Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), press Properties

If “Obtain an IP address automatically” is set, then DHCP is probably used. However, there may be an alternative fixed IP address on the “Alternative Configuration” tab.

You can find out what IP address is being used by a PC at any time by:

- Go to Control Panel
- Select Network Connections
- Right click on Local Area Connection. Select Status
- Select the Support tab. The IP address is displayed

When using fixed IP addresses, it is necessary to ensure that you use an IP address that is not being used by any other device on the network. It is usual to keep the first three numbers of the IP address the same as other devices and to change only the last number. For example, if you have a network consisting of a PC (IP address 192.168.1.35) and two VTR1s, you might give them addresses 192.168.1.201 and 192.168.1.202.

#### 8.2.1 Programmed IP Address and DHCP

For DHCP mode, the VTR1 acquires its IP address, subnet mask and gateway address from a DHCP server. Otherwise the VTR1 has a fixed IP address, subnet mask and gateway address.

DHCP mode or the IP address can be set and read the VTR1 Configuration Program available for download at [www.gardasoft.com](http://www.gardasoft.com).

### 8.2.2 Automatic Sensing

All the features below are implemented in a Configuration Program with C++ source code available from [www.gardasoft.com](http://www.gardasoft.com).

The VTR1 will send out a message on three events:

- On power up
- When an IP address is received or renewed by DHCP
- When an enquiry message is received

On the first two events, the message is broadcast. On the third it is a reply to a single IP address.

An enquiry message is a UDP packet from source port 30310, destination port 30311 with the message body "Gardasoft Search" (8-bit ASCII, 13 characters).

The message output by the VTR1 is a UDP packet from source port 30311, destination port 30310. It is formatted as:

```
Gardasoft,VTR1,000000,111111111111,22222222
```

(8-bit ASCII, 44 characters), where

000000	the serial number of the unit
111111111111	the MAC address in 6 HEX bytes
22222222	the IP address in 4 HEX bytes

For example for VTR1 serial number 12345, IP address 192.168.1.103, MAC address 00.0B.75.01.80.99 the packet contains:

```
Gardasoft,VTR1,012345,000B75018099,C0A80167
```

## 9 Webpage Configuration

This applies to the Ethernet version only. The VTR1 has a webserver inside, so that it can be configured from a standard web browser, such as Internet Explorer.

The IP address of the VTR1 must be known (see section 7 on Ethernet Address. Open a web browser window and type the IP address (for example 192.168.1.71) of the VTR1 into the URL box at the top. The main page of the VTR1 webserver should be shown.

### 9.1 Main Page

The main page shows general information about the VTR1. Links are provided to the configuration pages.

### 9.2 General Setup Page

The General Configuration page allows the webpage protection password to be set or cleared and the internal trigger to be set up. Also any Ethernet command from section 10 can be entered.

“Test Mode” referred to on this page is the internal trigger timer.

### 9.3 Light Configuration Page

This page allows the parameters for the light output to be set up. Press the Submit button to update the VTR1 and save the changes to non-volatile memory.

Some measured values are displayed on this page.

### 9.4 Trigger Output Configuration Page

This page allows the parameters for the trigger output to be set up. Press the Submit button to update the VTR1 and save the changes to non-volatile memory.

## 10 Configuration Commands

The VTR1 can be configured via the Ethernet connection using UDP or TCP/IP. A configuration program, with source code, is available for download from [www.gardasoft.com](http://www.gardasoft.com).

### 10.1 Ethernet Communication

For TCP/IP, commands from a host are sent to destination port 30313 with replies received from port 30312. For UDP, commands from a host should be sent from source port 30312 to destination port 30313. Replies are sent from source port 30313 to destination port 30312.

### 10.2 RS232 Communication

When using RS232 the COM port should be set to 115200baud, 8 data bits, no parity and 1 stop bit with no hardware or software handshaking.

### 10.3 Command Structure

Communication consists of commands sent by the host (controlling PC). All output generated by the command is returned in reply UDP or TCP/IP packets. The last character sent is ">" ("greater than" symbol). Once this is received, the host knows that the command has been completed.

It is recommended that the host waits for the ">" symbol before sending the next command. UDP communications are not guaranteed to arrive, so the host software should cope with lost messages.

Using the GT command, a host can request that a message is sent to it whenever an error occurs.

Several commands can be put into one command line by separating them by a semi-colon (;). A carriage return character should be sent to terminate the command line. The VTR1 will send any replies to the commands and then send a '>' character to indicate that the command line has been completed.

Commands comprise a code of two letters followed by the parameters (if any) needed for the command. Spaces in the commands are ignored.

Numeric parameters are separated by a comma (","). For a parameter which is a time period the default units are milliseconds. "s", "ms" or "us" can be added to the end of the number to indicate seconds, milliseconds or microseconds. For example:

Parameter	Meaning
0.1	0.1 milliseconds
200us	200 microseconds
0.1s	0.1 seconds

Note that parameters are in "USA/UK" format so that a half is written "0.5" not "0,5"



The command codes and their meaning are described below. The upper case commands are shown, followed by lower case letters denoting the numeric argument.

Error number	Reason
Err 1	A parameter value is invalid
Err 2	Command not recognised
Err 3	Numeric value is wrong format
Err 4	Wrong number of parameters
Err 5	(This is only a warning) A timing parameter was out of range and has been adjusted to a valid value.

Any changes made using Ethernet commands are not saved permanently until the AW command has been issued.

### 10.3.1 General Commands

#### Reports the version of firmware running in the VTR1

##### VR

This command returns the firmware version. For example:  
VTR1 (HW001) V001

#### Set switched mode

The output is set to switched mode at a percentage of full brightness.

##### RW1,s

Where:

s = setting in percent (s = 0 to 100)

#### Set pulse mode

The output can be set up to pulse on a trigger input. The delay from trigger to the start of the pulse, the length of the pulse and the brightness are configurable.

An error is generated if the brightness setting requires a current greater than 20A or if the combination of pulse width and setting is not allowed.

##### RT1,p,d,s

##### RT1,p,d,s,r

Where:

p = pulse width in milliseconds (0.01 to 3)

d = delay from trigger to pulse in milliseconds (0.01 to 999)

s = setting in percent (s = 0 to 100)

r = retrigger delay in milliseconds. This parameter is optional

### Set the Option Flags

#### RE1,p

Where:

p = 0 P flag set (positive triggers)  
 p = 4 P flag cleared (negative triggers)

### Set Internal Trigger

Enables or disables the internal trigger. When enabled, all outputs are triggered simultaneously using an internal trigger signal. This setting can be saved to non-volatile memory using the AW command.

**TT0** Disable internal trigger  
**TT1** Enable internal trigger (uses previously set period)  
**TT1,p** Enable internal trigger and set the period

Where:

p= period of the triggers in milliseconds

For example:

TT1,200 Set the internal trigger to 200ms (5Hz)  
 TT1,1S Set the internal trigger to 1 second (1Hz)

### Save the settings to memory

#### AW

The results of the RW, RT, RE, TT commands are all saved. Once the settings are saved to memory they are then retained when the unit is switched off. If this is not done, changes to the settings are volatile, and if the unit is switched off they revert to those in force when the last AW command was issued.

### Clear Configuration

#### CL

Clears the configuration. The results of the RW, RT, RE, TT commands are all cleared.

### Report the configuration

#### ST

Reports all the channel settings. Typical output is:

CH 1, MD 1, S 100.0 DL 10us, PU 1.000ms, RT 1.020ms, IP1,FL0, CS0.000A, RA24V

Where the numeric values are:

MD Mode: 1 = pulse, 2 = switched

S Brightness percentage setting

DL Pulse delay

PU Pulse width

RT Retrigger delay

IP, FL, CS, RA Unused

**ST0**

Reports the general settings. Typical output is:

TM 1, TP 20.00ms

Where:

TM Internal trigger: 0 = off, 1 = on

TP Internal trigger period

**Simulate an Input Trigger**

**TR1**

Simulates a trigger pulse. If the channel is in pulse mode it will pulse.

**Enable Ethernet Messages**

**GTm**

m = 0 to disable Ethernet messages

= 1 to enable Ethernet messages

When Ethernet messages are enabled, any error reports are sent to the most recent UDP or TCP address from which a command has been received.

Messages are of the form:

**Evt1,e**

Where v event value:

32 to 47 Lighting error code

**Clear any Errors**

**GR**

If Ethernet messages are not enabled, the last event or error number can be read by this command. If there was a lighting error, the VTR1 will resume operation.

The reply will be in the same form as the GT command above. If there are no outstanding events or errors, then only the prompt ">" is returned.

**Set/Clear the Webpage Password**

**EY**

**EY asc1, asc2, asc3, asc4, asc5, asc6**

This command sets the password required to access the webpages. If EY is entered on its own then the password is cleared. There are six optional parameters, which are decimal ASCII values for a password from one to six letters. A value of 65 is 'A', 66 is 'B', etc to 90 is 'Z'.

### 10.3.2 Command Summary

Command	Example	Effect
AW	AW	Save changes
CL	CL	Clear configuration
ST	ST	Show configuration
GT	GT1	Enable Ethernet messages
GR	GR	Clear any error condition.
EY	EY65,66	Set webpage password to "AB"
VR	VR	Read the firmware version
RW	RW1,50	Set optical intensity to 50%, switch mode
RT	RT1,3,100us,50	Set light to strobe with 3ms pulses, delayed by 100us, at 50% brightness
RE	RE1,4	Trigger on falling edge of trigger input
TT	TT1,100ms	Set internal triggers every 100ms
TR	TR1	Trigger an output pulse

## A. Ratings

The electrical ratings of the connections are:

Signal	Rating
Power Input	24VDC +/- 10%. Maximum ripple 10%. Other power supply options available.
Trigger Input	Opto-coupler input: 0V to 2V is a logic 0. 5 to 24V is a logic 1, drawing between 3.5 and 22.5mA.
Trigger Output	Opto coupler transistor output: Maximum switched voltage $V_{ceo} = 24V$ Load current should be externally limited to 50mA max.

## **B. Restrictions**

The minimum pulse delay for the light pulse output is about 2 $\mu$ s. When using the retrigger delay, the minimum delay is around 5 $\mu$ s.

For pulse widths less than approximately 100 $\mu$ s fault detection does not operate.

## C. Error Codes

Error number	Reason
Err 1	A parameter value is invalid
Err 2	Command not recognised
Err 3	Numeric value is wrong format
Err 4	Wrong number of parameters
Err 5	This is a warning, not an error. One of the parameters is out of range. The value of the parameter has been adjusted. For example, sending an RT command with a delay of 0 will get a reply of "Err 5". The command will be accepted and the delay set to the minimum allowed.
Err 8, 12	EEPROM corrupt. The configuration has been cleared.
Err 9, 20	Couldn't save settings to EEPROM.
Err 27	Can't read Ethernet settings from EEPROM, so these may be incorrect.
Err 33	The VTR1 is too hot. The VTR1 has a thermal cut-out that operates at about 65°C to 70°C, depending on conditions.

Any other errors are internal errors.

## D. Event Codes

Event messages are sent when an error occurs. The format of these is:

Evt<channel>,<event code>;

These event messages are only sent after the GT1 command has been sent.

Event number	Reason
1 to 127	An error has occurred. The error code is given by the event number.
130	The temperature of the light is too high and operation has been stopped.
148	The allowed duty cycle is now normal (after event 149).
149	The allowed duty cycle has been reduced due to high internal temperature.

## Gardasoft Traffic Strobe Lights

The products available at the time of writing include the following. Other products are also available. See [www.gardasoft.com](http://www.gardasoft.com) for details of the current range.

### VTR1 Range

- Up to 300W per steradian output power
- Infra red 740nm, 850nm, 940nm and white options
- RS232 and Ethernet options
- Trigger input and trigger output options
- 12 degree and 30 degree beam angle options

### VTR2 Range

- Up to 3000W per steradian output power
- Infra red 740nm, 850nm, 940nm and white options
- Ethernet and RS232 options
- Trigger input and trigger output options
- 12 degree and 30 degree beam angle options