



The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — Mode Selection · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/mode-selection>

Mode Selection

Automatic/manual mode selection is a certified J1600 safety function rated **Performance Level c (PL c)** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/performance-levels/>). It guarantees that the vehicle is always in a deliberately chosen state: powered off, manual, or automatic.

The key switch

A three-position key switch selects:

Position	State
Power off	Vehicle powered down
Manual	Manual tiller operation only
Automatic	Autonomous task execution permitted

Entering automatic mode

Turning the key to automatic is not enough on its own. The sequence requires **deliberate operator action at every step** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/operator-responsibilities/>):

1. The operator creates or selects a task on the touchscreen.
2. The robot asks for confirmation to enter automatic mode.
3. The operator confirms with the physical LED start/resume button.
4. The interface instructs the operator to step away.
5. The vehicle **begins autonomous operation** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/autonomous-operation/>).

The operator only confirms when the environment is ready — **this judgment stays human** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/human-responsibilities/>). See **Manual and autonomous mode safety** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/manual-and-autonomous-mode-safety/>).

Leaving automatic mode

Automatic mode ends immediately when:

- the operator grabs or moves the tiller ([tiller detection](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/tiller-detection/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/tiller-detection/), PL c);
- an emergency-stop control is used;
- the key switch is turned to manual or power off.

See [Emergency stops and manual takeover](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/).

Mode visibility

White light indicates manual mode; blue floor light strips display the protected area during automatic operation, and floor-indicator lights signal automatic mode to people nearby.

PRELIMINARY SPECIFICATION

Performance Levels come from the preliminary January 2026 product documentation and are subject to change.