

# apogee<sup>®</sup>

## INSTRUMENTS

OWNER'S MANUAL

### RED - FAR-RED SENSORS

Models S2-131

Rev: 17-July-2025



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# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

## EU Declaration of Conformity

This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer:

Apogee Instruments, Inc.  
721 W 1800 N  
Logan, Utah 84321  
USA

for the following product(s):

Models: S2-131  
Type: Red - Far-Red Sensors

The object of the declaration described above is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonization legislation:

2014/30/EU	Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive
2011/65/EU	Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS 2) Directive
2015/863/EU	Amending Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS 3)

Standards referenced during compliance assessment:

EN 61326-1:2013	Electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – EMC requirements
EN 63000:2018	Technical documentation for the assessment of electrical and electronic products with respect to the restriction of hazardous substances

Please be advised that based on the information available to us from our raw material suppliers, the products manufactured by us do not contain, as intentional additives, any of the restricted materials including lead (see note below), mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), polybrominated diphenyls (PBDE), bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP). However, please note that articles containing greater than 0.1 % lead concentration are RoHS 3 compliant using exemption 6c.

Further note that Apogee Instruments does not specifically run any analysis on our raw materials or end products for the presence of these substances, but we rely on the information provided to us by our material suppliers.

Signed for and on behalf of:  
Apogee Instruments, August 2022

Bruce Bugbee  
President  
Apogee Instruments, Inc.



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

## UK Declaration of Conformity

This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer:

Apogee Instruments, Inc.  
721 W 1800 N  
Logan, Utah 84321  
USA

for the following product(s):

Models: S2-131  
Type: Red - Far-Red Sensors

The object of the declaration described above is in conformity with the relevant UK Statutory Instruments and their amendments:

2016 No. 1091	The Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016
2012 No. 3032	The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012

Standards referenced during compliance assessment:

BS EN 61326-1:2013	Electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – EMC requirements
BS EN 63000:2018	Technical documentation for the assessment of electrical and electronic products with respect to the restriction of hazardous substances

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Apogee Instruments, August 2022



Bruce Bugbee  
President  
Apogee Instruments, Inc.



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## INTRODUCTION

Specific wavelengths of radiation trigger distinct responses in plants. Red and far-red wavelengths are of particular interest because they influence photosynthetic and morphogenic activity. Phytochrome pigments in plants are sensitive to varying ratios of red and far-red radiation, providing information to the plant about the light environment, and therefore, optimal growth patterns. Increasing the fraction of red radiation indicates less shading and generally results in more conservative vertical growth patterns, while increasing the far-red radiation fraction indicates more shading and results in more aggressive vertical growth patterns.

Red - far-red sensors are designed to have spectral sensitivities that approximate the phytochrome absorption spectrum. Red - far-red sensors quantify properties of radiation sources, not plant responses. However, inferences of plant responses can be made from measurements of the lighting/shading environment, so it is important that red - far-red sensors have high sensitivity in the wavelength ranges where plants are most sensitive (i.e., the wavelength ranges that drive the strongest responses in plants), hence red - far-red sensor spectral responses should approximate the phytochrome absorption spectrum.

The primary application of red - far-red sensors is monitoring plant light environments, including calculation of the red to far-red ratio (red photon flux density / far-red photon flux density) and far-red fraction (far-red photon flux density / sum of red and far-red photon flux densities), in photobiology studies (e.g., researching plant morphogenic activities).

Apogee Instruments model S2-131 red - far-red sensors consist of a cast acrylic diffuser, pair of photodiodes that measure specific wavelength ranges (red peak near the red peak of phytochrome absorption and far-red peak near the far-red peak of phytochrome absorption), and signal processing circuitry mounted in an anodized aluminum housing, and a cable to connect the radiometer to a measurement device. Sensors are designed for continuous measurement in indoor and outdoor environments. Model S2-131 sensors output two voltages, one from each photodetector, that are directly proportional to the radiation incident on a planar surface (does not have to be horizontal), where the radiation emanates from all angles of a hemisphere.

## SENSOR MODELS

This manual covers the analog output red - far-red sensor, model S2-131 (listed in bold below). Additional models are covered in their respective manuals.

Model	Signal
<b>S2-131</b>	<b>0-40 mV</b>
S2-431	SDI-12
S2-432	Modbus



A sensor's model number and serial number are located on the bottom of the sensor. If the manufacturing date of a specific sensor is required, please contact Apogee Instruments with the serial number of the sensor.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### S2-131

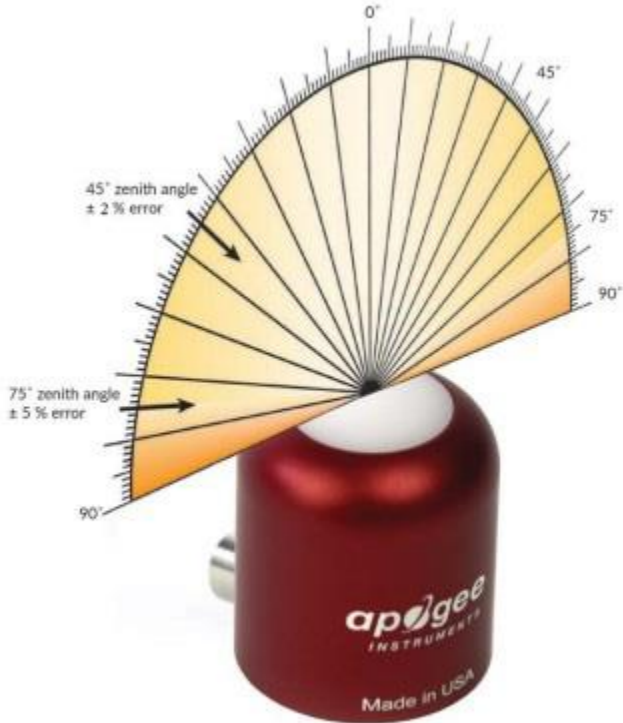
Power Supply	Self-powered
*Output (sensitivity)	0.08 mV per $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (typical value, variable from sensor to sensor)
*Calibration Factor (reciprocal of sensitivity)	12 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ per mV (typical value, variable from sensor to sensor)
Calibration Uncertainty	$\pm 5\%$
*Output Range	0 to 33 mV
Measurement Repeatability	Less than 1 %
Long-term Drift	Less than 2 % per year
Non-linearity	Less than 1 % (up to 400 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ )
Response Time	Less than 1 ms
Field of View	180°
Wavelength Ranges	645 to 665 nm $\pm 5$ nm (Red) 720 to 740 nm $\pm 5$ nm (Far-red)
Directional (Cosine) Response	$\pm 2\%$ at 45°; $\pm 5\%$ at 75° zenith angle
Temperature Response	Less than 0.1 % per C
Housing	Anodized aluminum body with acrylic diffuser
IP Rating	IP68
Operating Environment	-40 to 70 C; 0 to 100 % relative humidity
Dimensions	30.5 mm diameter, 37 mm height
Mass (with 5 m of cable)	140 g
Cable	5 m of shielded, twisted-pair wire; TPR jacket (high water resistance, high UV stability, flexibility in cold conditions); pigtail lead wires; stainless steel (316), M8 connector

\*The Output, Calibration Factor, and Output Range are variable from sensor to sensor, and the specifications listed are typical values.

### Calibration Traceability

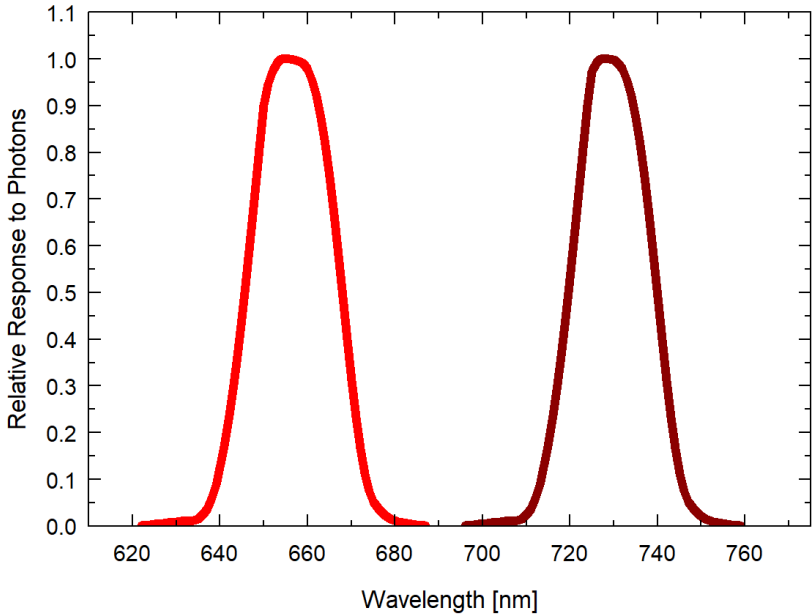
Apogee S2 series Red - Far-Red sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of three transfer standard sensors under a quartz halogen lamp. The transfer standard sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to red and far-red photon flux density calculated from solar spectra collected in Logan, Utah, using an Apogee model PS-300 spectroradiometer. The PS-300 spectroradiometer is calibrated with a quartz halogen lamp traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

**Directional (Cosine) Response**



Directional (cosine) response is defined as the measurement error at a specific angle of radiation incidence. Error for Apogee S2 series red / far sensors is approximately ± 2 % and ± 5 % at solar zenith angles of 45° and 75°, respectively.

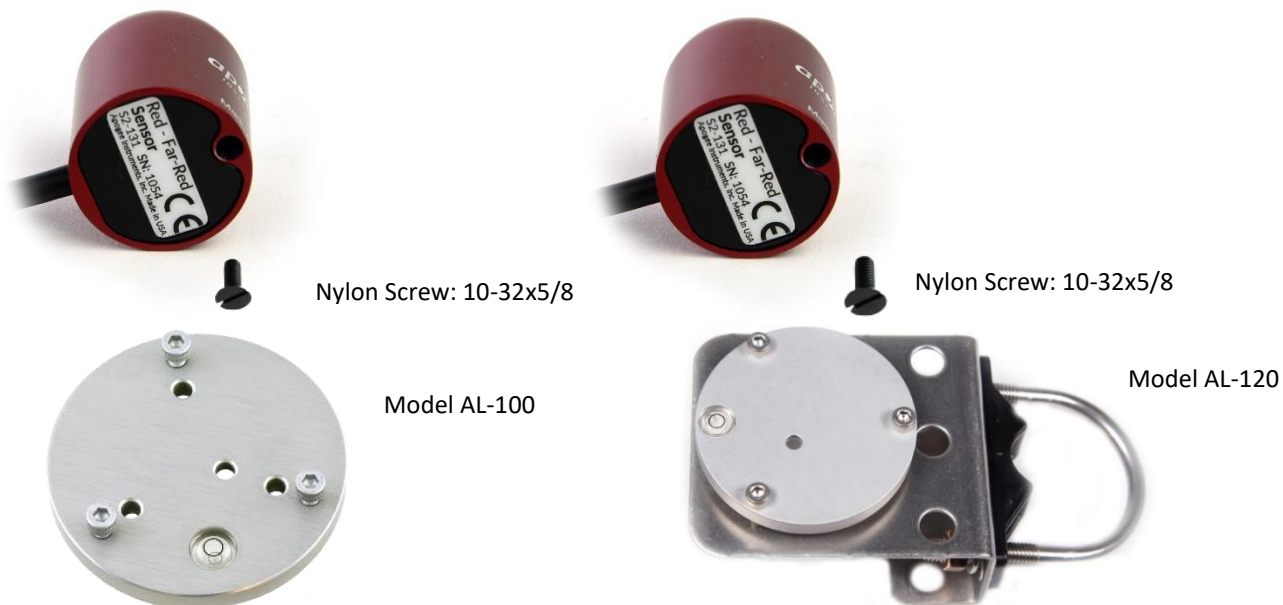
**Spectral Response**



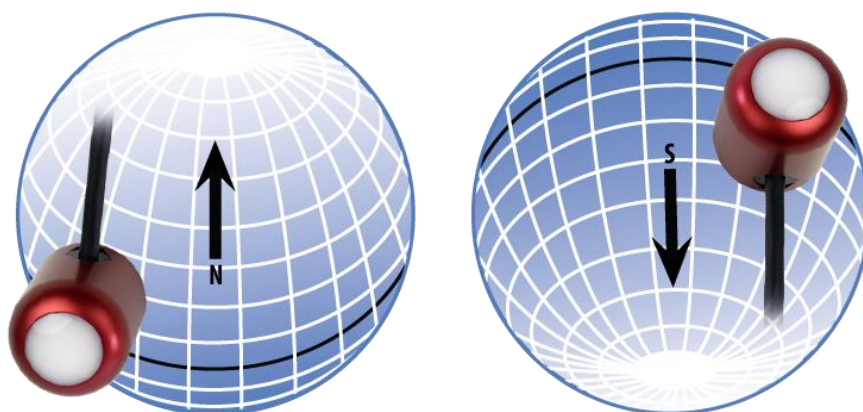
Mean spectral response measurements of six replicate red - far-red sensors (red sensor is centered near 655 nm, far-red sensor is centered near 730 nm). Spectral response measurements were made at 2 nm increments across a wavelength range of 600 to 800 nm in a monochromator with an attached electric light source. Measured spectral data from each sensor were normalized by the measured spectral response of the monochromator/electric light combination, which was measured with a spectroradiometer.

## DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

Mount the sensor to a solid surface with the nylon mounting screw provided to prevent galvanic corrosion. To accurately measure red and far-red photon flux density incident on a horizontal surface, the sensor must be level. An Apogee Instruments model AL-100 Leveling Plate is recommended to level the sensor when used on a flat surface or being mounted to surfaces such as wood. To facilitate mounting on a mast or pipe, the Apogee Instruments model AL-120 Solar Mounting Bracket with Leveling Plate is recommended.



To minimize azimuth error, the sensor should be mounted with the cable pointing toward true north in the northern hemisphere or true south in the southern hemisphere. Azimuth error is typically less than 1 %, but it is easy to minimize by proper cable orientation.



In addition to orienting the cable to point toward the nearest pole, the sensor should also be mounted such that obstructions (e.g., weather station tripod/tower or other instrumentation) do not shade the sensor. **Once mounted, the green cap should be removed from the sensor.** The green cap can be used as a protective covering for the sensor when it is not in use.

## CABLE CONNECTORS

Apogee sensors offer cable connectors to simplify the process of removing sensors from weather stations for calibration (the entire cable does **not** have to be removed from the station and shipped with the sensor).

The ruggedized M8 connectors are rated IP68, made of corrosion-resistant marine-grade stainless-steel, and designed for extended use in harsh environmental conditions.



Inline cable connectors are installed 30 cm from the sensor head (pyranometer pictured).

### Instructions

**Pins and Wiring Colors:** All Apogee connectors have six pins, but not all pins are used for every sensor. There may also be unused wire colors inside the cable. To simplify connection to a measurement device, the unused pigtail lead wire colors are removed.

If a replacement cable is required, please contact Apogee directly to ensure ordering the proper pigtail configuration.

**Alignment:** When reconnecting a sensor, arrows on the connector jacket and an aligning notch ensure proper orientation.

**Disconnection for extended periods:** When disconnecting the sensor for an extended period of time from an installation, protect the remaining half of the connector still on the station from water and dirt with electrical tape or other method.

**Tightening:** Connectors are designed to be firmly finger-tightened only. There is an O-ring inside the connector that can be overly compressed if a wrench is used. Pay attention to thread alignment to avoid cross-threading. When fully tightened, one to two threads may still be visible.

**WARNING:** Do **not** tighten the connector by twisting the black cable, only twist the metal connector.



A reference notch inside the connector ensures proper alignment before tightening.



When sending sensors back for recalibration, only send the section of cable that is hard-wired to the sensor. The section of cable with the pigtail is not required.

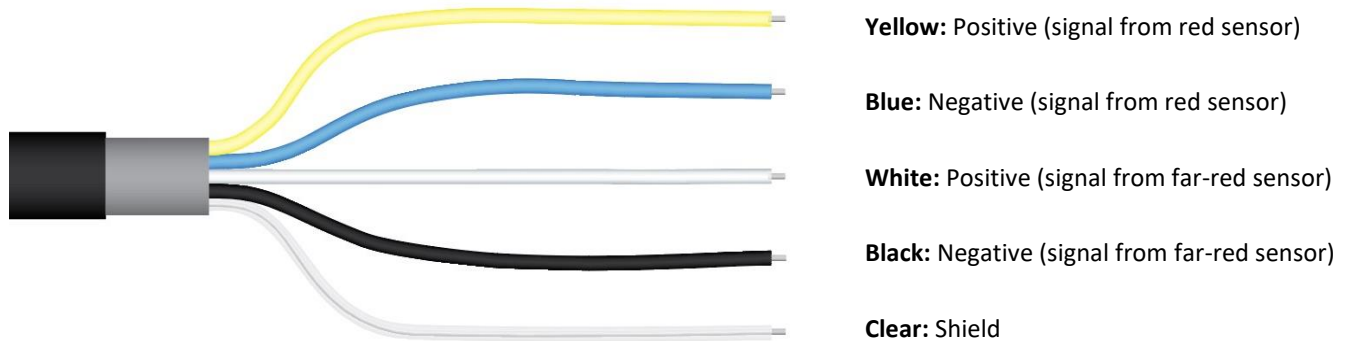


Finger-tighten firmly.

## OPERATION AND MEASUREMENT

Connect the sensor to a measurement device (meter, datalogger, controller) capable of measuring and displaying or recording a millivolt signal (an input measurement range of approximately 0 to 12.5 mV is required to cover the entire range of red and far-red photon flux density from the sun). In order to maximize measurement resolution and signal-to-noise ratio, the input range of the measurement device should closely match the output range of the quantum sensor. **DO NOT connect the sensor to a power source. The sensor is self-powered and applying voltage will damage the sensor.**

### Wiring for S2-131



## Sensor Calibration

The Apogee unamplified red - far-red sensor model S2-131 has approximate calibration factors of for the red and far-red sensors:

$$12 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ per mV}$$

Multiply the calibration factors by the measured voltages to convert sensor outputs to red and far-red photon flux densities (PFD) in units of  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ :

$$\text{Calibration Factor (12 } \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ per mV) * Sensor Output Signal (mV) = Red PFD (} \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$12 \quad * \quad 12.5 \quad = \quad 150$$

$$\text{Calibration Factor (12 } \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ per mV) * Sensor Output Signal (mV) = Far-Red PFD (} \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$12 \quad * \quad 11.3 \quad = \quad 136$$



**Sensor Output**  
**12.5 mV**

Example of red photon flux density (PFD) measurement with an Apogee red - far-red sensor. Full sunlight yields a red PFD on a horizontal plane at the Earth's surface of approximately  $150 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This yields an output signal of 12.5 mV. The signal is converted to red PFD by multiplying by the calibration factor of  $12 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  per mV.

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## MAINTENANCE AND RECALIBRATION

Blocking of the optical path between the target and detector can cause low readings. Occasionally, accumulated materials on the diffuser of the sensor can block the optical path in three common ways:

1. Moisture or debris on the diffuser.
2. Dust during periods of low rainfall.
3. Salt deposit accumulation from evaporation of sea spray or sprinkler irrigation water.

Apogee Instruments Red - Far-Red sensors have a domed diffuser and housing for improved self-cleaning from rainfall, but active cleaning may be necessary. Dust or organic deposits are best removed using water, or window cleaner, and a soft cloth or cotton swab. Salt deposits should be dissolved with vinegar and removed with a cloth or cotton swab. **Salt deposits cannot be removed with solvents such as alcohol or acetone.** Use only gentle pressure when cleaning the diffuser with a cotton swab or soft cloth, to avoid scratching the outer surface. The solvent should be allowed to do the cleaning, not mechanical force. **Never use an abrasive material or abrasive cleaner on the diffuser.**

Although Apogee sensors are very stable, nominal calibration drift is normal for all research-grade sensors. To ensure maximum accuracy, recalibration every two years is recommended. Longer time periods between recalibration may be warranted depending on tolerances. See the Apogee webpage for details regarding return of sensors for recalibration (<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/>).

As a general reference, red photon flux density is approximately  $145\text{-}160 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  and far-red photon flux density is approximately  $130\text{-}145 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  on a clear summer day near solar noon, yielding a red / far-red ratio near 1.1.

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## TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

### Independent Verification of Functionality

Apogee model S2-131 red - far-red sensors are self-powered devices and output two voltages, proportional to red and far-red photon flux density (PFD), respectively. A quick and easy check of sensor functionality can be determined using a voltmeter with millivolt resolution. To verify the red sensor, connect the positive lead wire from the voltmeter to the yellow wire from the sensor and the negative (or common) lead wire from the voltmeter to the blue wire from the sensor. Direct the sensor head toward a light source and verify the sensor provides a signal. Increase and decrease the distance from the sensor head to the light source to verify that the signal changes proportionally (decreasing signal with increasing distance and increasing signal with decreasing distance). Blocking all radiation from the sensor should force the sensor signal to zero. To verify the far-red sensor, follow the same procedure, but connect the positive lead wire from the voltmeter to the white wire from the sensor and the negative lead wire from the voltmeter to the black wire from the sensor.

### Compatible Measurement Devices (Dataloggers/Controllers/Meters)

S2-131 series red - far-red sensors are calibrated with a calibration factor of approximately  $12 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  per mV (typical value, variable from sensor to sensor), yielding sensitivities of 0.083 mV per  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  for the red and far-red sensors. Thus, a compatible measurement device (e.g., datalogger or controller) should have resolution of at least 0.08 mV in order to provide red and far-red photon flux density resolution of  $1 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  and 0.008 mV in order to provide red and far-red photon flux density resolution of  $0.1 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ .

An example datalogger program for Campbell Scientific dataloggers can be found on the Apogee webpage (<https://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/Red-Far-Red-Sensor.CR1>).

### Cable Length

When the sensor is connected to a measurement device with high input impedance, sensor output signals are not changed by shortening the cable or splicing on additional cable in the field. Tests have shown that if the input impedance of the measurements device is greater than 1 mega-ohm there is negligible effect on the calibration, even after adding up to 100 m of cable. All Apogee sensors use shielded, twisted pair cable to minimize electromagnetic interference. For best measurements, the shield wire must be connected to an earth ground. This is particularly important when using the sensor with long lead lengths in electromagnetically noisy environments.

### Modifying Cable Length

See Apogee webpage for details on how to extend sensor cable length (<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/how-to-make-a-weatherproof-cable-splice/>).

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## RETURN AND WARRANTY POLICY

### RETURN POLICY

Apogee Instruments will accept returns within 30 days of purchase as long as the product is in new condition (to be determined by Apogee). Returns are subject to a 10 % restocking fee.

### WARRANTY POLICY

#### **What is Covered**

All products manufactured by Apogee Instruments are warranted to be free from defects in materials and craftsmanship for a period of four (4) years from the date of shipment from our factory. To be considered for warranty coverage an item must be evaluated by Apogee.

Products not manufactured by Apogee (spectroradiometers, chlorophyll content meters, EE08-SS probes) are covered for a period of one (1) year.

#### **What is Not Covered**

The customer is responsible for all costs associated with the removal, reinstallation, and shipping of suspected warranty items to our factory.

The warranty does not cover equipment that has been damaged due to the following conditions:

1. Improper installation, use, or abuse.
2. Operation of the instrument outside of its specified operating range.
3. Natural occurrences such as lightning, fire, etc.
4. Unauthorized modification.
5. Improper or unauthorized repair.

Please note that nominal accuracy drift is normal over time. Routine recalibration of sensors/meters is considered part of proper maintenance and is not covered under warranty.

#### **Who is Covered**

This warranty covers the original purchaser of the product or other party who may own it during the warranty period.

#### **What Apogee Will Do**

At no charge Apogee will:

1. Either repair or replace (at our discretion) the item under warranty.
2. Ship the item back to the customer by the carrier of our choice.

Different or expedited shipping methods will be at the customer's expense.

### How To Return An Item

1. Please do not send any products back to Apogee Instruments until you have received a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number from our technical support department by submitting an online RMA form at [www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/](http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/). We will use your RMA number for tracking of the service item. Call (435) 245-8012 or email [techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com](mailto:techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com) with questions.
2. For warranty evaluations, send all RMA sensors and meters back in the following condition: Clean the sensor's exterior and cord. Do not modify the sensors or wires, including splicing, cutting wire leads, etc. If a connector has been attached to the cable end, please include the mating connector – otherwise the sensor connector will be removed in order to complete the repair/recalibration. **Note:** *When sending back sensors for routine calibration that have Apogee's standard stainless-steel connectors, you only need to send the sensor with the 30 cm section of cable and one-half of the connector. We have mating connectors at our factory that can be used for calibrating the sensor.*
3. Please write the RMA number on the outside of the shipping container.
4. Return the item with freight pre-paid and fully insured to our factory address shown below. We are not responsible for any costs associated with the transportation of products across international borders.

**Apogee Instruments, Inc.**  
**721 West 1800 North Logan, UT**  
**84321, USA**

5. Upon receipt, Apogee Instruments will determine the cause of failure. If the product is found to be defective in terms of operation to the published specifications due to a failure of product materials or craftsmanship, Apogee Instruments will repair or replace the items free of charge. If it is determined that your product is not covered under warranty, you will be informed and given an estimated repair/replacement cost.

## PRODUCTS BEYOND THE WARRANTY PERIOD

For issues with sensors beyond the warranty period, please contact Apogee at [techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com](mailto:techsupport@apogeeinstruments.com) to discuss repair or replacement options.

## OTHER TERMS

The available remedy of defects under this warranty is for the repair or replacement of the original product, and Apogee Instruments is not responsible for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including but not limited to loss of income, loss of revenue, loss of profit, loss of data, loss of wages, loss of time, loss of sales, accrual of debts or expenses, injury to personal property, or injury to any person or any other type of damage or loss.

This limited warranty and any disputes arising out of or in connection with this limited warranty ("Disputes") shall be governed by the laws of the State of Utah, USA, excluding conflicts of law principles and excluding the Convention for the International Sale of Goods. The courts located in the State of Utah, USA, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any Disputes.

This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and which shall not be affected by this limited warranty. This warranty extends only to you and cannot be transferred or assigned. If any provision of this limited warranty is unlawful, void, or unenforceable, that provision shall be deemed severable and shall not affect any remaining provisions. In case of any inconsistency between the English and other versions of this limited warranty, the English version shall prevail.

This warranty cannot be changed, assumed, or amended by any other person or agreement

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