

# apogee<sup>®</sup>

## INSTRUMENTS

OWNER'S MANUAL

# ULTRAVIOLET INDEX & ULTRAVIOLET B SENSOR

Models SU-300-SS

Rev: 30-April-2026



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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: SU-300-SS  
Type: Ultraviolet Index and Ultraviolet-B Sensor

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, January 2024



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: SU-300-SS  
Type: Ultraviolet Index and Ultraviolet-B Sensor

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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Bruce Bugbee  
President  
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## INTRODUCTION

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation constitutes a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum from 100 to 400 nm and is further subdivided into three wavelength ranges: UVA (315 to 400 nm), UVB (280 to 315 nm), and UVC (100 to 280 nm). Much of the UVB and all the UVC wavelengths from the sun are absorbed by Earth's atmosphere. There are also multiple artificial UV light sources available.

Most UV sensors designed for sunlight measurements are sensitive to UV radiation in the UVA or UVB ranges. Apogee Instruments SU-300 series UV Index sensors detect UV radiation from 270 to 315 nm and are calibrated to output UV Index measurements. UV Index (UVI) is a relative metric that scales with the intensity of UV radiation that causes sunburn in humans. Measured UVI can be converted to energy flux density units of watts per square meter ( $W\ m^{-2}$ , equal to Joules per second per square meter) or photon flux density units of micromoles per square meter per second ( $\mu\text{mol}\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$ ).

Typical applications of UV Index sensors include incoming UV radiation measurement in outdoor environments, aimed at informing people of potential for UV exposure and sunburn, or in laboratory use with artificial radiation sources (e.g., germicidal lamps).

Apogee Instruments SU-300 series Index sensors consist of a sintered quartz diffuser, photodiode, and signal processing circuitry mounted in an anodized aluminum housing and a cable to connect the sensor to a measurement device. SU-300 sensors are designed for continuous UVI/UVB radiation measurement in indoor or outdoor environments. The SU-300 series outputs an analog voltage that is directly proportional to UVI 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 unamplified model SU-300 UVI sensor (listed below in bold). Additional models are covered in their respective manuals.

Model	Signal
<b>SU-300</b>	<b>0-2 mV</b>
SU-321	SDI-12



The model number and serial number are located on the bottom of the sensor. If manufacturing date of a sensor is required, please contact Apogee Instruments with the serial number of the sensor. Note: Though an M8 connector is shown here, this sensor model is actually hardwired.

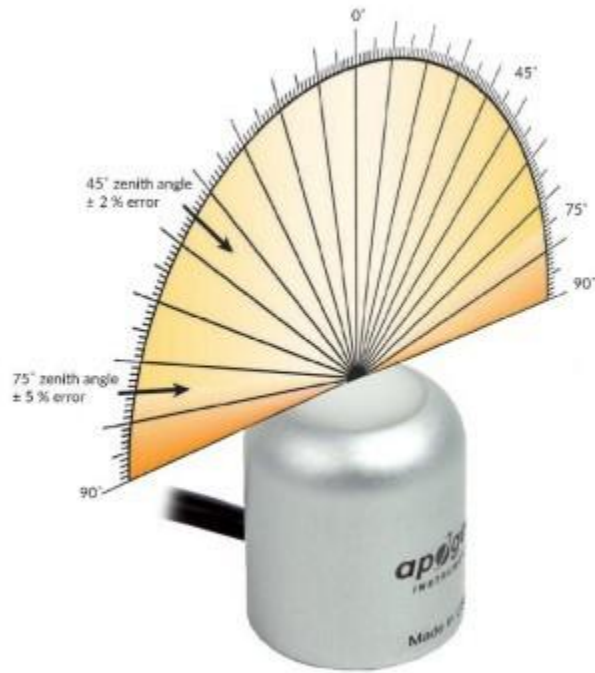
## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>SU-300-SS</b>	
Power Supply	Self-Powered
Output (sensitivity)	0.1 mV per UV Index unit
Calibration Factor (reciprocal of sensitivity)	10 UV Index units per mV
Calibration Uncertainty	± 10 %
Output Range	0 to 5 mV
Measurement Range	0 to 50 UV Index
Measurement Repeatability	Less than 0.5 %
Long-term Drift	Less than 5 % per year
Non-linearity	Less than 1 %
Response Time	Less than 1 ms
Field of View	180°
Spectral Range	270 to 315 nm (wavelengths where response is greater than 50 % of maximum; see Spectral Response graph on page 9)
Directional (Cosine) Response	± 10 % up to 75°
Temperature Response	Less than 0.1 % per C
Operating Environment	-40 to 80 C; 0 to 100 % relative humidity
Dimension	30.5 mm diameter, 37 mm height
Mass (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

### Calibration Traceability

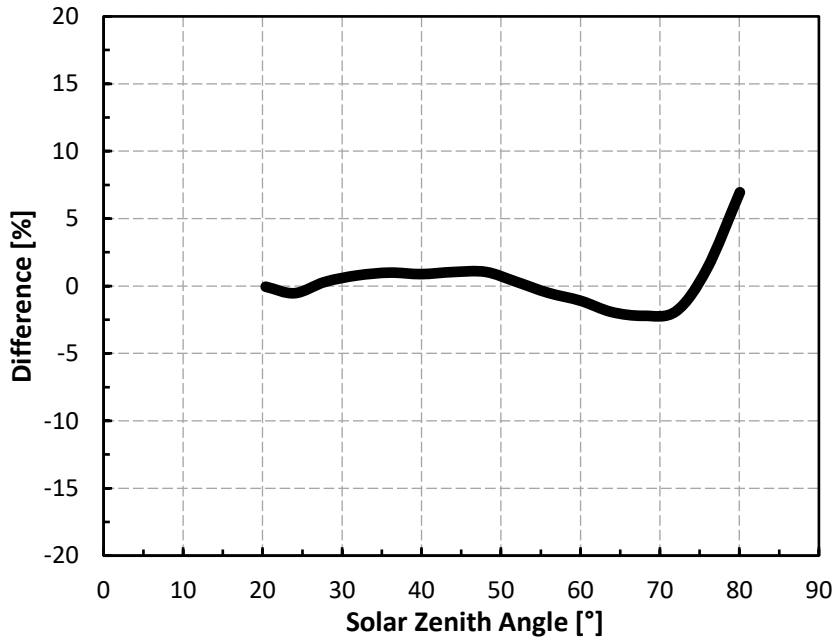
Apogee UV Index sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to the mean of four transfer standard UVI/UVB sensors under spectroradiometer under sunlight (clear sky conditions) in Logan, Utah. The transfer standard sensors are calibrated through side-by-side comparison to an Apogee model PS-300 spectroradiometer under sunlight (clear sky conditions) in Logan, Utah. The PS-300 is calibrated with a quartz halogen lamp traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

## Cosine Response



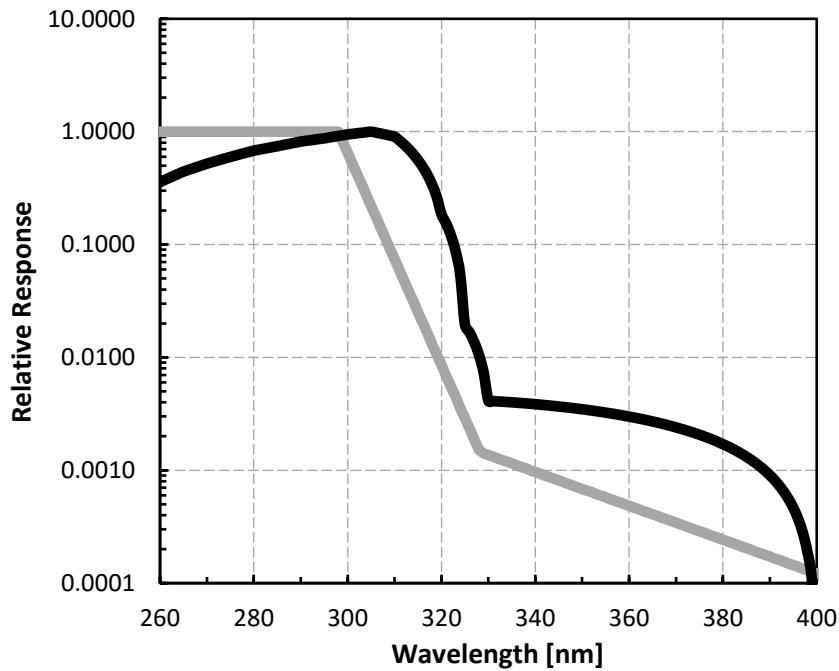
Directional, or cosine, response is defined as the measurement error at a specific angle of radiation incidence. Directional error for Apogee SU-300 series UV Index sensors is approximately  $\pm 2\%$  and  $\pm 5\%$  at solar zenith angles of  $45^\circ$  and  $75^\circ$ , respectively.

### Cosine Response Graph



Mean cosine response of four Apogee UV Index sensors. Cosine response was calculated as the relative difference of UVI sensors from a reference UVI sensor deployed outdoors. These data are the average of the AM and PM response.

### Spectral Response



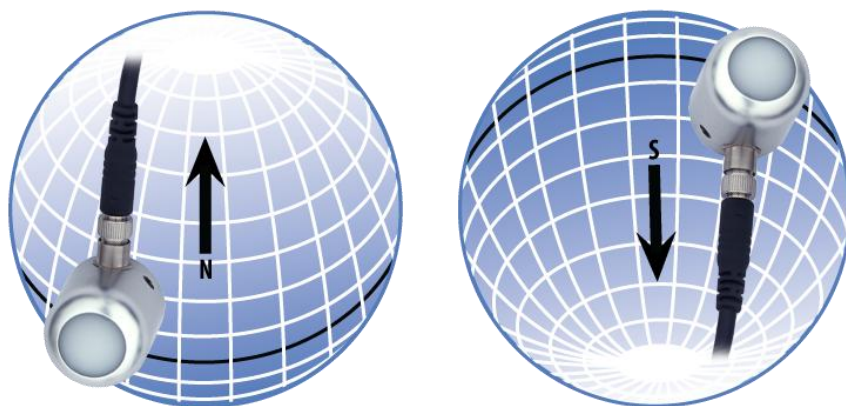
Spectral response estimate of Apogee SU-300 UV Index sensors. Spectral response was modeled from sensitivity of the photodetector and transmittance of the diffuser. Gray line is the Erythral Action Spectrum and provides a relative indication of skin damage caused by UV radiation.

## DEPLOYMENT AND INSTALLATION

Mount the sensor to a solid surface with the nylon mounting screw provided. To accurately measure UVI/UVB 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 black cap should be removed from the sensor.** The black 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.

### 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.



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



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.



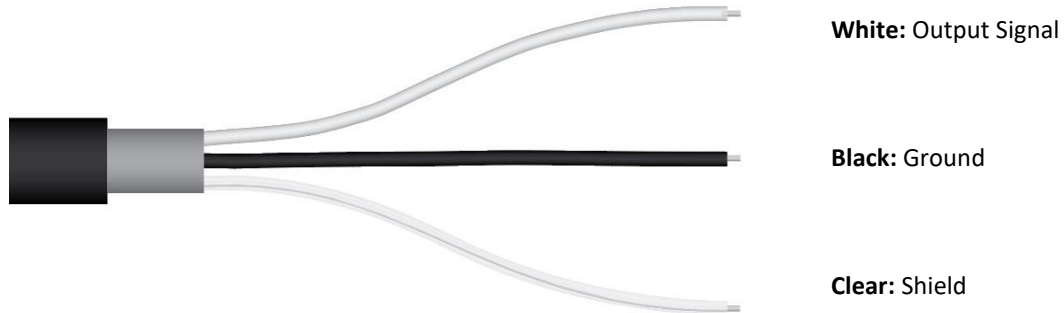
Finger-tighten firmly.

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## 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 0-2 mV is required to cover the entire range of the SU-300 UVI sensor. To maximize measurement resolution and signal-to-noise ratio, the input range of the measurement device should closely match the output range of the UV sensor. **DO NOT connect the sensor to a power source. The sensor is self-powered and applying voltage will damage the sensor.**

### Wiring for SU-300



## Sensor Calibration

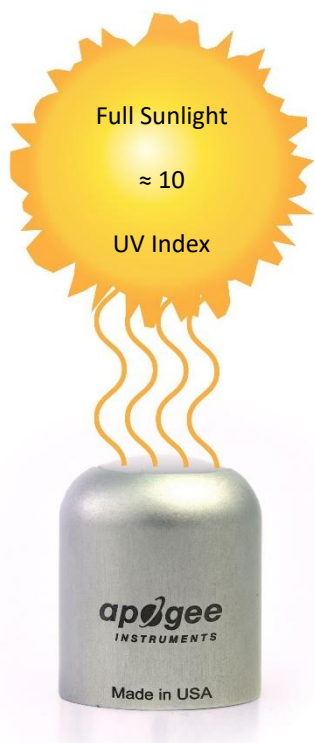
The SU-300 has a standard UV calibration factor of exactly:

**10.0 UV Index units per mV**

Multiply this calibration factor by the measured mV signal to convert sensor output to UV Index:

**Calibration Factor (10 UV Index units per mV) \* Sensor Output Signal (mV) = UV Index**

**10 UV Index units per mV \* 1 mV = 10**



Example of UV Index and UVB measurement with an Apogee UVI sensor. Full sunlight yields UV Index on a horizontal plane at the Earth's surface of approximately 10. This yields an output signal of 1 mV. The signal is converted to UV Index by multiplying by the calibration factor of 10 UV Index units per mV.

Sensor Output

1 mV

### UVI Measurements and Spectral Errors

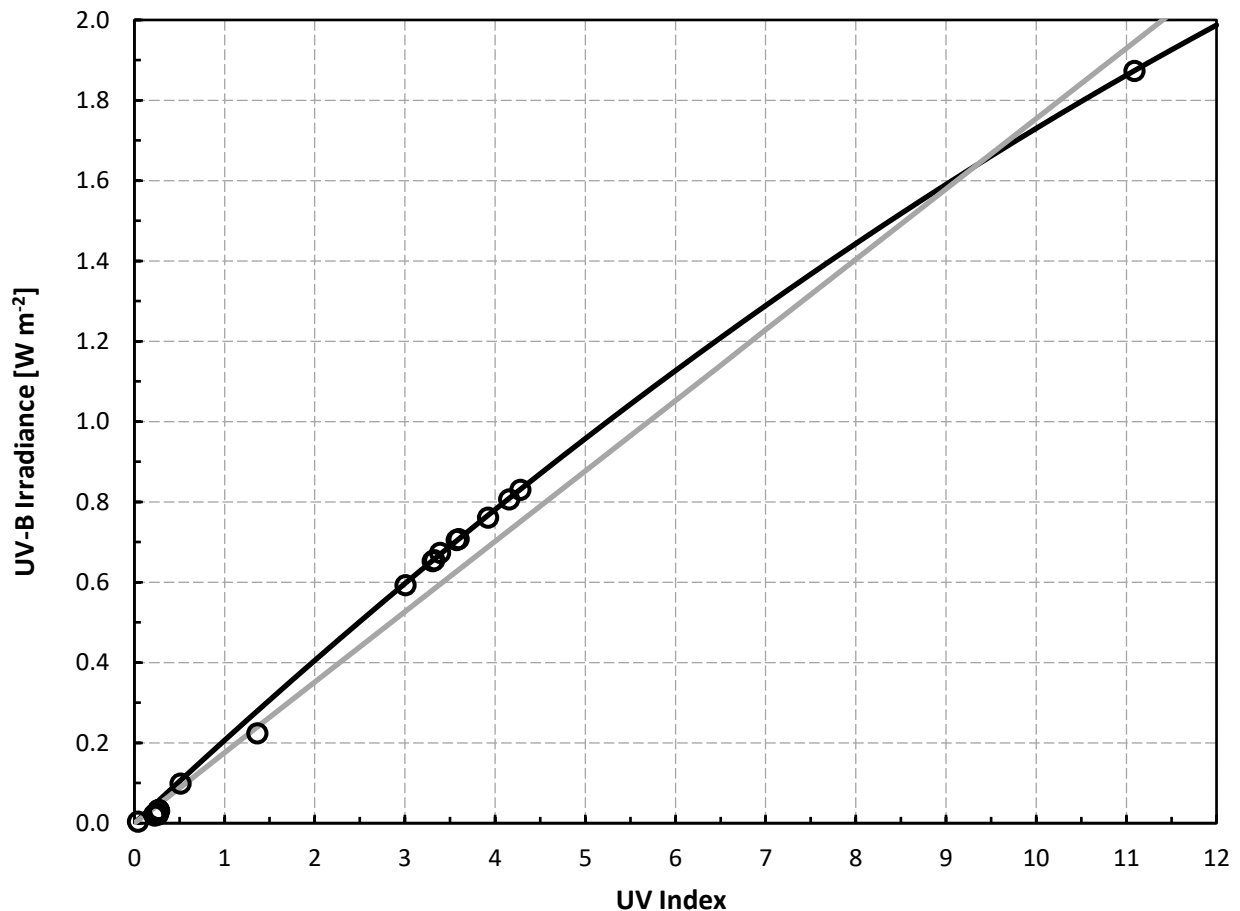
Apogee Instruments UV Index sensors are calibrated to measure ultraviolet radiation from the sun between 280 and 315 nm in Watts per square meter (calibration factor is 1.75 W m<sup>-2</sup> per mV). In addition to naturally occurring UV Index radiation from the sun, there are many electric light sources that emit UVI radiation (e.g., cool white fluorescent, metal halide, mercury arc, and germicidal lamps). Although the relative wavelengths of radiation differ among sunlight and electric lights, the error estimates shown in the table below indicate the SU-300 provides reasonable estimates of UVI radiation coming from electric lamps (table provides spectral error estimates for UVI radiation measurements from radiation sources other than clear sky solar radiation). For most common lamps, the error is less than 10 %. The SU-300 is particularly useful for determining the UVI/UVB filtering capacity of the transparent plastic and glass barriers that are commonly used below electric lamps.

Radiation Source (Error Calculated Relative to Sun, Clear Sky)	Expected EFD Error [%]	Expected PFD Error [%]
Clear Sky	0.0	0.0
Overcast	-2.1	-8.9
Direct Normal	-0.1	-0.5
Diffuse Blue	0.1	0.3
Mercury Arc	3.7	8.9
T12 Fluorescent UV-A Enhanced	-0.1	3.0
UU-enhanced T5 Cool White Fluorescent	1.9	4.8

### Converting from UV Index to UVB in Units of $\text{W m}^{-2}$ and $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

There is a relatively linear relationship between UV Index and UVB irradiance for sunlight (see graph below), suggesting UVB irradiance can be approximated from UV Index measurements from the SU-300 sensor. To convert from UV Index to UV irradiance in units of  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ , divide UV Index by 5.7 (slope of the line in the graph below).

UVB irradiance (in units of  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) can be converted to UVB photon flux density by dividing UVB irradiance (in units of  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) by the average energy content of solar UVB photons, 0.384 J per  $\mu\text{mol}$ . To convert UV Index to UVB photon flux density, divide the UV Index measurement by 2.2 (slope of the line in the graph below multiplied by 0.384 J per  $\mu\text{mol}$ ).



Relationship between UV Index and UVB irradiance (in units of  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ). Data are from multiple solar spectra representing a wide range of atmospheric conditions. Slope of the line is 5.7, with an  $r^2 = 0.99$ .

To simply convert from UVI to UVB, divide UVI by 5.7. You can also adjust the calibration factor to solve for UVB using the same calculation. Where the calibration factor for UV Index is 10, the calibration factor for UVB is 1.75, outputting in units of  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  per mV.

**Converting from UV Index to UVE in Units of  $W\ m^{-2}$** 

To convert from UV Index to Erythemal UV (UVE) in units of  $W\ m^{-2}$ , divide UVI by 40. You can adjust the calibration factor to calculate this variable using the same calculation. Where the calibration factor for UV Index is 10, the calibration factor for UVE is 0.25, outputting in units of  $W\ m^{-2}$  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 SU-300 sensor can block the optical path in three common ways:

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

SU-300 series 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.

**Never use solvents such as alcohol or acetone to clean the sensor.** Use only gentle pressure when cleaning the diffuser with a cotton swab or soft cloth, to avoid scratching the outer surface. The vinegar should be allowed to do the cleaning, not mechanical force. **Never use an abrasive material or cleaner on the diffuser.**

It is recommended that UV sensors be recalibrated every two years. See the Apogee webpage for details regarding return of sensors for recalibration (<http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/tech-support-recalibration-repairs/>).

## TROUBLESHOOTING AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

### Independent Verification of Functionality

Apogee SU-300 sensors are self-powered devices and output a voltage signal proportional to incident UVI/UVB radiation. A quick and easy check of sensor functionality can be determined using a voltmeter with millivolt resolution. Connect the positive lead of the voltmeter to the white wire from the sensor and the negative lead (or common) to the black wire from the sensor. Direct the sensor head toward the sun and verify the sensor provides a signal. Blocking all UV radiation from the sensor should force the sensor signal to zero.

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

SU-300 sensors are calibrated with a standard calibration factor of 10.0 UV Index units per mV, yielding a sensitivity of 0.1 mV per UV Index unit. Thus, a compatible measurement device (e.g., datalogger or controller) should have resolution of at least 0.1 mV to provide a measurement resolution of 1 UV Index, and 0.01 mV to provide a measurement resolution of 0.1 UV Index.

An example datalogger program for Campbell Scientific dataloggers can be found on the Apogee webpage at <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/content/UV-Sensor.CR1>.

### Zero Offset Error

With the use of certain dataloggers it is possible to measure a non-zero voltage (zero offset) when the sensor output should be zero (no UV irradiance incident on diffuser). This offset can be corrected by adding or subtracting the measured offset from the sensor output. However, if the offset is substantial, and your sensor is outputting unrealistic values then it may need to be recalibrated. In this case, contact Apogee customer support to recalibrate the sensor.

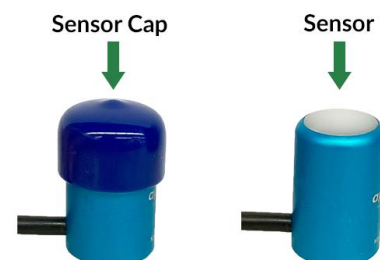
### Cable Length

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 at <http://www.apogeeinstruments.com/how-to-make-a-weatherproof-cable-splice/>.

**NOTE:** Remove protective cap before using any sensor.



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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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