



Ceilometer CL51

for high-range cloud height detection



Vaisala Ceilometer CL51 is designed to measure high-range cirrus cloud heights without surpassing the low and middle layer clouds, or vertical visibility in harsh conditions.

CL51 employs a pulsed diode laser LIDAR (light detection and ranging) technology, where short, powerful laser pulses are sent out in a vertical or near-vertical direction. The reflection of light (backscatter) caused by clouds, precipitation or other obscuration is analyzed and used to determine the cloud base height.

Measurement from ground level

The enhanced single lens technology applied in CL51 ensures excellent performance starting at a height of virtually zero. The signal is strong and stable over the whole measurement range.

CL51 is able to detect 3 cloud layers simultaneously. If the cloud base is obscured due to precipitation or ground-based fog, CL51 reports vertical visibility. CL51 is able to provide the backscatter profile over the full measurement range. This information provides a possibility for an advanced boundary layer and atmospheric analysis.

Designed for harsh weather

CL51 has a shield with a blower and heater, which allows steady operation in precipitation and under extreme temperatures. Reliable solar protection is

ensured by optical filters. A tiltable shield further protects the instrument from precipitation and specular reflection from ice crystals. The tilt angle measurement and correction is automatic.

Self-diagnostics

In addition to cloud height data, the fully automatic CL51 outputs messages with information on the instrument status. The information is based on comprehensive self-diagnostic routines. In case of a malfunction the diagnostics help the user to identify the failed module.

Maintenance

Periodic maintenance of CL51 is normally limited to window cleaning. There is no need for adjustments in the field. The automatic window blower with heater improves performance by keeping the window clean and dry. In cold conditions heating prevents frost generation on the window. Any malfunction is automatically reported in the data and status messages.

Features

- Cloud reporting range up to 13 km (43 000 ft)
- Backscatter profiling over full range up to 15 km (49 200 feet)
- Second-generation, advanced single-lens optics with excellent performance also at low altitudes
- Field-proven, fully automatic 24/7 operation in all weather conditions
- Modular design for easy installation and maintenance
- Extensive self-diagnostics with fault analysis
- Reliable operation in all weather: unsurpassed performance in precipitation
- Based on robust and affordable laser diode technology
- Detection of cirrus clouds
- Latest technology from the world leading manufacturer - over 5000 ceilometer installations worldwide

Technical data

Measurement performance

Measurement range	0 ... 15 km (0 ... 50 000 ft)
Measurement resolution	10 m (33 ft)
Cloud detection range	0 ... 13 km (0 ... 43 000 ft)
Reporting interval	Programmable 6 ... 120 s, or polling
Measurement interval	6 s
Distance measurement accuracy against a hard target	Greater of ±1 % or ±5 m (16 ft)
Laser	InGaAs diode
Wavelength	910 nm

Operating environment

Operating temperature	-55 ... +60 °C (-67 ... +140°F)
Operating humidity	0 ... 100 %RH
Wind tolerance	Up to 55 m/s (123 mph)
Vibration	Lloyds Register / IEC 60068-2-6 5 ... 13.2 Hz, ±1.0 mm 13.2 ... 100 Hz, ±0.7 g 9.1 ... 150 Hz, ±0.5 g
Pollution degree	2
Maximum operating altitude	3000 m (9800 ft)

Inputs and outputs

Operating voltage	115/230 V AC ±10 %
Frequency (min/max)	45 ... 65 Hz
Power consumption	Max. 310 W including heating
Backup battery	Internal, 2 Ah
Overvoltage category	II

Interfaces

Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RS-232 RS-485, multidrop, 2-wire DXL421 modem module LAN (Ethernet) interface option
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Maintenance	RS-232
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Baud rate

RS-232 / RS-485	300 ... 115 200 bps
Modem V.21, V.22	300 ... 1200 bps

Data messages

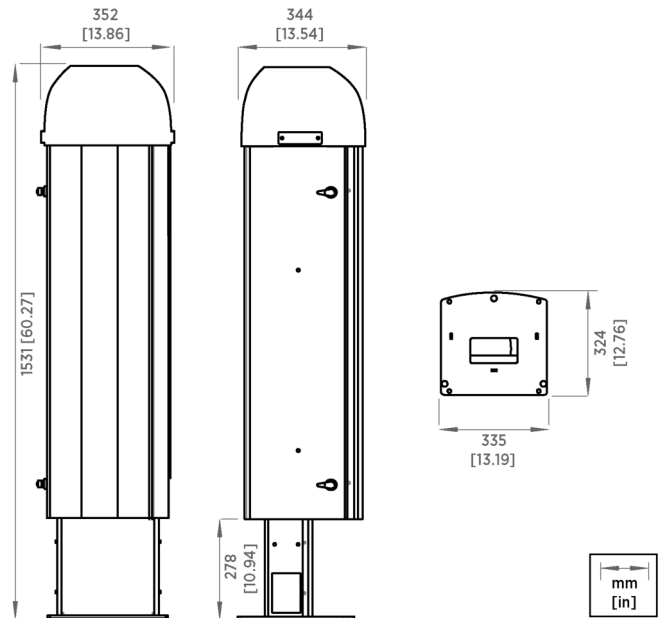
Cloud hits (up to 3 layers) and status information
Cloud hits, status, and backscatter profile
Cloud hits and internal monitoring data
Emulation of CL31 and LD-40
Sky condition (optional)

Compliance

EMC	IEC/EN 61326-1
EU directives	EMC, LVD, RoHS
Electrical safety	IEC/EN 61010-1
Eye safety	IEC 60825-1
Compliance marks	CE, RCM

Mechanical specifications

IP rating	IP65
Dimensions	
Measurement unit	834 × 266 × 264 mm (32.83 × 10.47 × 10.40 in)
Height with radiation shield	1531 mm (60.28 in)
Total	1531 × 335 × 324 mm (60.28 × 13.19 × 12.76 in)
Weight	
Measurement unit	18.6 kg (41 lb)
Radiation shield and blower	27.4 kg (60.4 lb)
Total	46 kg (101.41 lb)
Plywood transport container	
Container size	1650 × 540 × 480 mm (65 × 21.26 × 18.90 in)
Shipping weight	Typically 75 kg (165.3 lb)



Ceilometer CL51 dimensions

Spare parts and accessories

Cable termination box with extra transient protection	Termbox-1200
PC maintenance cable	QMZ101
Shock absorbing mounting pad for ship installations	CT35022
Modem	DXL421
Attachment mechanics for radio modem antenna	CL51RADIOKIT
Graphical User Interface for Ceilometers	CL-VIEW
Boundary Layer View Software for Ceilometers	BL-VIEW
Bird deterrent	CL51BIRDKIT
Air Quality Plug and Play Package for Ceilometer with laptop and pre-installed BL-View	CLAQPACKAGE