

OL SERIES 426

Low Light Level Integrating Sphere Calibration Standards

The OL Series 426 Low-Light-Level Calibration Standard is designed for accurately calibrating very sensitive microphotometers, image intensifiers, telephotometers, and imaging spectroradiometers for photometric or spectroradiometric response at moderate to extremely low light levels. It serves as a highly accurate, large area, uniform, diffusely radiating source with a near normal luminance that can be varied over nearly 6 decades with essentially constant color temperature.

The OL Series 426 consists of an Optics Head and a separate electronic display console/power supply (OL 400-C Controller). This enables remote location of either unit, which facilitates alignment or positioning of the source with respect to the device to be calibrated. The source module/optics head is designed such that it can be configured with integrating spheres having diameters of 4, 6, 8, 12 and 18 inches with exit (radiating) ports of 1, 1½, 2, 3 and 6 inches, respectively.

OPTICS HEAD

The OL 426 is based on a dual integrating sphere design, with the arrangement of these spheres in series. The exit port of the first sphere, or primary sphere, produces a uniform beam into the entrance port of the secondary sphere. A baffle tube connects the exit port of the primary sphere to the entrance port of the secondary sphere, and an aperture in the baffle tube determines how much light is allowed into the secondary sphere, thus the maximum luminance at the radiating port can range over several decades depending on the size of the aperture installed. The aperture is not used to determine the true luminance at the exit port of the secondary sphere but merely scale it by the desired amount. A precision silicon detector-filter combination with an accurate photopic response mounted in the wall of the primary sphere tracks the luminance in the primary sphere at higher levels for accuracy purposes, and the luminance display is scaled to indicate the actual luminance at the exit port of the secondary sphere. The actual luminance of the exit port is calibrated via measurements, and then the monitor detector gain is scaled appropriately.

The in-line sphere port concept with an intermediate spider baffle provides exceptional uniformity in the near normal luminance across the radiating port.



A shutter is located between the lamp and the entrance port of the primary sphere. The luminance/ radiance output can be switched between zero and any desired level without adjustment or lamp changes.

An optional filter holder, mounted at the exit port, accommodates alignment targets, filters, de-coupling diffusers etc. for specific user requirements. Spectral shaping filters can be utilized to simulate various sources such as Illuminate A, B, C, D65, etc. In addition to luminance and color temperature, the OL Series 426 can be obtained with calibrations for spectral radiance over the 350 to 1100 nm wavelength range.

CONTROLLER

The microprocessor-based OL 400-C Controller performs all system interface and monitoring functions. An automatic ramp up/down function eliminates potentially dangerous current surges to the lamp. Luminance, color temperature, and lamp current are displayed on a 2 line by 20 character alphanumeric LED display, which may be turned off for low-light level conditions. An 8-key keypad and main power switch are located on the front panel for easy access to all system functions. Luminance is displayed with 4½ digits plus exponent in units specified by the user. As an option, the display can be factory programmed to read in virtually any pertinent units the user desires. DC current supplied to the lamp has a 0.001 ampere resolution with a 0.02% uncertainty. The controller computes the color temperature of the source over the range of 2000 – 3000K. Software for remote operation of the source is provided, allowing control of lamp on/off functions and setting the lamp current (color temperature) as well as readout of the photometer in any preprogrammed optical unit. An optional software development kit is available for custom programming.

OL SERIES 426 SPECIFICATIONS

OL 426-OH OPTICS HEAD	
Luminance Uncertainty <i>(k=2)</i>	±2% (2300 K to 2900 K (±50K)) ±2.0% to ±3.5% (2000 K to 2300 K)
Spectral Radiance Calibration – Optional <i>(Relative to NIST)</i>	±2% to ±3%, 350 – 1100 nm
Correlated Color Temperature Range	2000 to 2950 K (±50 K)
Correlated Color Temperature Uncertainty <i>(k=2)</i>	Less than ±25 K
Luminance Stability @ 2856 K Short Term Long Term	±0.5% (After 15 Minutes Warm-up) ±2% 100 Hours of Use or 1 Year
Spectral Radiance Uncertainty @ 550 nm	±2% Relative to NIST
Sphere Coating (reflectance)	> 99% (350 to 1100 nm)
Variable Aperture	Micrometer-controlled
Shutter	Open / Closed

OL 400-C CONTROLLER	
Current Source	
Luminance Display Range	6.600 A
Resolution	0.001 A
Accuracy	0.02% of Full-scale
Stability	10 ppm After Warm-up
Line Voltage Sensitivity	< 2 ppm / V
Temperature Sensitivity	< 25 ppm / °C
Photometer	
Ranges	2E-10 to 2E-3 A
Resolution	4½ digits (0.0001 E-x A)
Accuracy	
E-3 to E-7 ranges	0.05% ± 1 Digit
E-8 to E-9 ranges	0.10% ± 1 Digit
E-10 ranges	0.50% ± 2 Digit
Range Selector	Auto, Manual, or Software-selectable
Response Time	0.1 to 10 Seconds
Physical	
Size	12.0 in D x 9.38 in W x 5.38 in H (30.48 cm x 23.83 cm x 13.67 cm)
Weight	17.0 pounds (7.7 kg)
Power Input	100 / 115 / 230 VAC, 3.2 / 3.2 / 2 A, 50 / 60 Hz
Operating Temperature Range	15° to 35°C
Operating Humidity Range	10% to 85% (Non-condensing)

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Data sheet: B136 Sept 2018

As part of our policy of continuous product improvement, we reserve the right to change specifications at any time.

OL SERIES 426 SPECIFICATIONS *(Continued)*

LUMINANCE LEVELS (NOMINAL)						
Model Number	Sphere Diameter	Exit Port Diameter	Uniformity	Maximum Luminance		Display Resolution
				@ 2856 K	@ 3000 K	
OL 426-4	4"	1"	±1.0%	80 fL	130 fL	1 E-7 fL
OL 426-6	6"	1½"	±1.0%	40 fL	70 fL	1 E-7 fL
OL 426-8	8"	2"	±1.0%	29 fL	40 fL	1 E-7 fL
OL 426-12	12"	3"	±1.0%	14 fL	23 fL	1 E-7 fL
OL 426-18	18"	6"	±2.0%	4 fL	7 fL	1 E-7 fL

**Other configurations available upon request.*

CALIBRATION OPTIONS	
OL 426-X-	Luminance, Color Temperature
OL 426-X-1	Luminance, Color Temperature, ^{1/} Spectral Radiance (350 to 1100 nm)
OL 426-X-U	Uncalibrated

**Note: "X" designates the diameter of the integrating sphere.
^{1/}Spectral radiance measured at a color temperature of ~3000K unless otherwise specified.*

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