



# Healthy UV Curing on Wood

**Jim Raymont**

**EIT Instrument Markets**

July 20, 2017



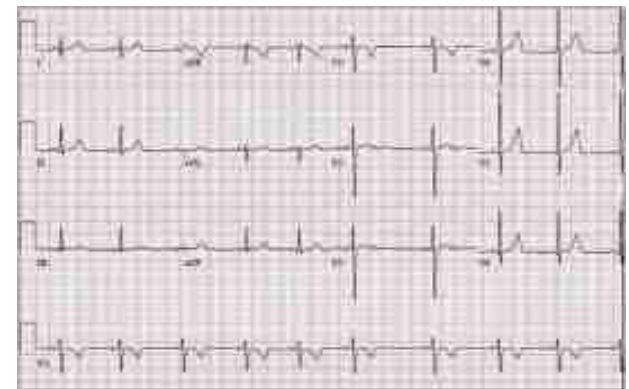
# Preventative Medicine



**“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”**



**“You have a rare condition called ‘good health’.  
Frankly, I’m not sure how to treat it.”**

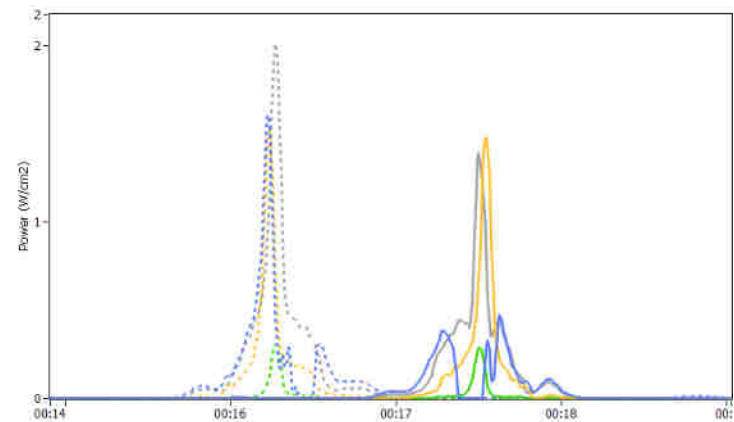


**Physical, Lab Tests, History, Lifestyle Changes,  
Medicine, Communication, Common Sense**

# Preventative (UV) Maintenance



“An ounce of preventative maintenance is worth.....”



**Process Window, Lab Tests, Process History,  
Maintenance, Communication, Common Sense**

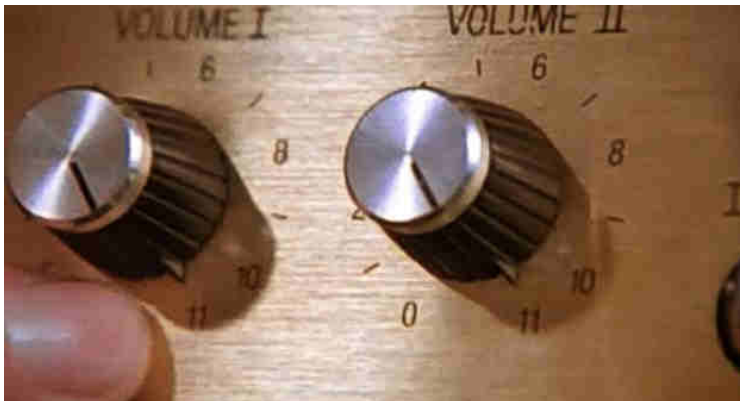


# Similarities Between the Medical and UV Worlds



## Medical

- Medical History
- Visual Examination
- Diagnosis
- Natural Causes
- Sudden
- Abuse
- Malpractice



## UV

- Job History or Job Log
- Visual Examination
- Diagnosis
- Natural Causes
  - Lamp output decays over time
  - Materials have a shelf life
- Sudden
  - Something breaks
  - Changes to settings
- Operator Error
  - Lack of maintenance
  - Changed/Wrong Settings
  - Tinkering with formulas

# Check List of Desired Coating Properties



- Abrasion Resistance
- Scratch Resistance
- Chemical Resistance
- Hardness
- Weatherability
- Non-Yellowing
- Flexibility
- Tensile Strength
- Gloss
- Coating Viscosity
- Film Thickness
- Ability to Over Coat
- Sandability
- TBD

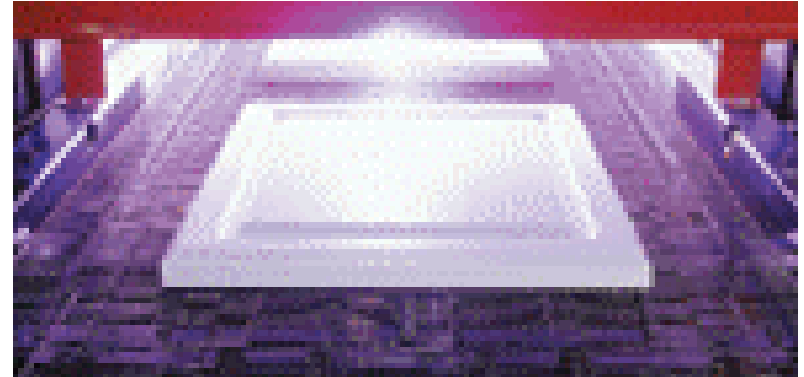
**What properties are formulation driven?**

**What properties are process/UV source driven?**

# Wood Line Characteristics



- Multiple Lamps
- Multiple Bulb Types: Mercury, Mercury-Gallium, LED
- Varying Lamp Output
  - Station to Station
  - Across the Width of Lamp
- Uniformity of Equipment in a Facility or Company?
- Environment
  - Dust, Dirt, Particles
  - Reflector Cleanliness
- Variable Production Speeds





# Rules of UV: Margaritaville Rule



**Rule #1A: Blame the Formulator**

**Rule #1B: Blame the Equipment Supplier**



# The UV Process-Analogy



**Cake: Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes**



Oven Temperature (°F) is similar to Irradiance (Watts/cm<sup>2</sup>)

Bake Time (Minutes or seconds) is similar to Energy Density (Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>)

Not Specified: Oven Type

## Changing the Cake Process Window

- 350° X 30 = 10,500

### Equal Degree Minute Options

- 700°F for 15 minutes?
- 175°F for 60 minutes?



What if the cake mix only gave you the time?



# Speaking the Same Terminology



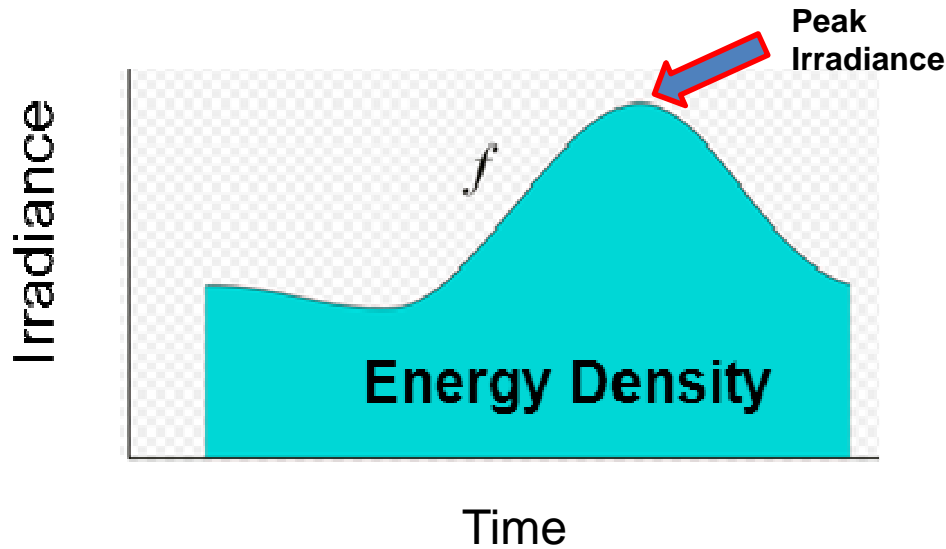
## Irradiance (Intensity)

- Expressed in watts or milliWatts per square centimeter ( $\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  or  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$ )
- Total radiant power of (all) wavelengths passing from *all* incident directions onto an infinitesimally small area ( $\text{cm}^2$ )
- Depth of cure, penetration through pigments and opaque colors, adhesion to the substrate

## Energy Density (Dose)

- Expressed in Joules ( $\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ ) or milliJoules ( $\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ ) per square centimeter
- Incorporates time as part of the measurement
- One watt for One second = One Joule
- Area under the irradiance curve
- Often the only UV exposure guide number supplied

# Speaking the Same Terminology



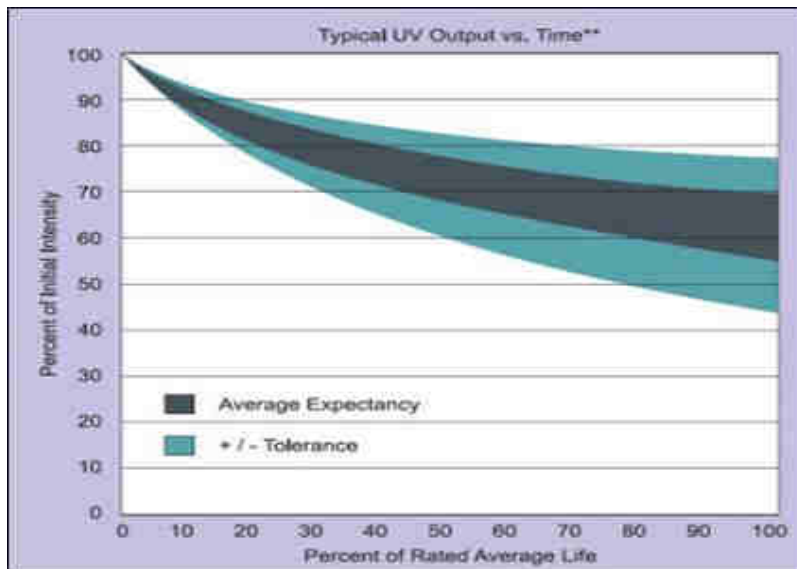
# Impacts To UV Irradiance & Energy Density



- Line speed
- Age of the lamp
- Lamp output settings
- Distance from the lamp to the coating
- The condition of lamp reflectors
- Darkening of lamp electrodes



# Natural Aging

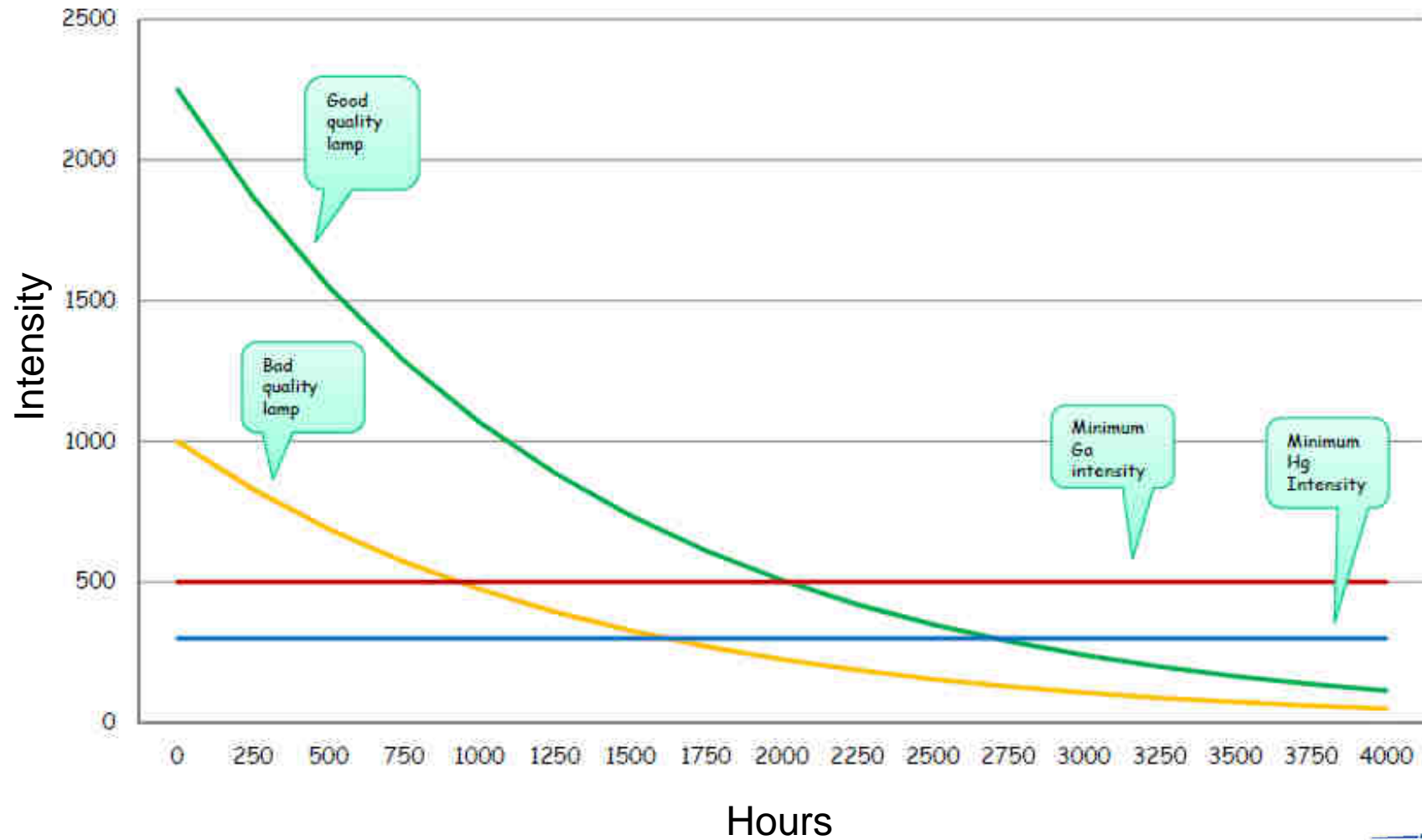


**UV lamps age...**



**...and so do (opened) coatings.**

# Bulbs: Buy on Value vs. Price



Courtesy Efsen Engineering





# Bulbs: Buy on Value vs. Price



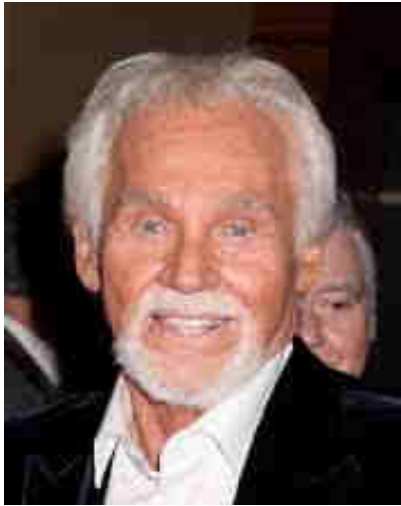
THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE...



... WHO WILL DO IT CHEAPER!

**Watch purchasing staff getting 'specials'**

# Un-Natural Aging



# Using Absolute Instruments



## Standard Unit

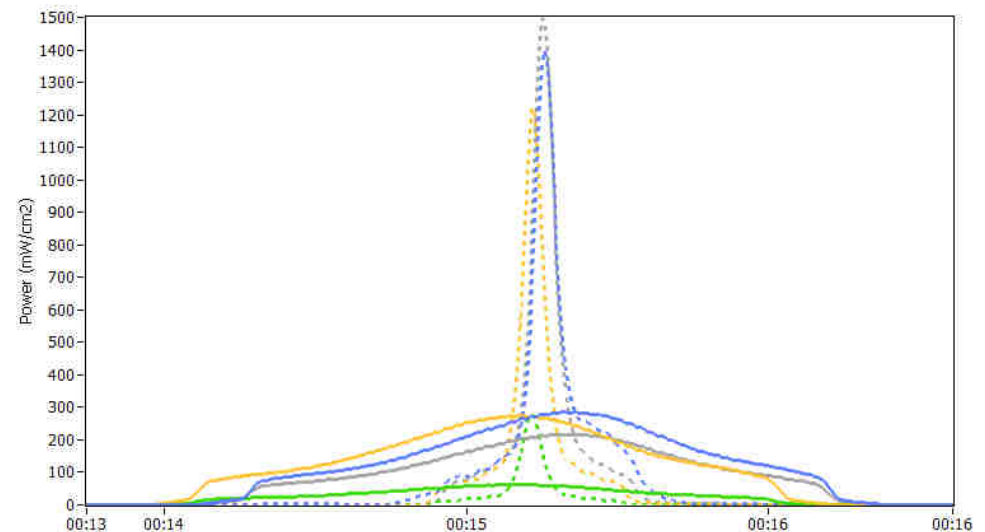
- Want a “number”
  - Match a specification
  - Troubleshoot
  - Optimize a process
  - Compare lines
  - Communicate data



	mJ/CM2	mW/CM2
UVA	113.044	522.326
UVB	149.315	663.604
UVC	33.791	150.709
UVV	641.394	1957.974
- - - RUN		

## Profiling Radiometers

- The irradiance as a function of time
- Irradiance profiles useful to:
  - View system over time
  - View lamp focus (Gloss)
  - Determine lamp type
  - Analyze multi-lamp systems
  - Joules/Watt from each bulb
- Targeted Maintenance Approach



# Lamp Performance-Numbers

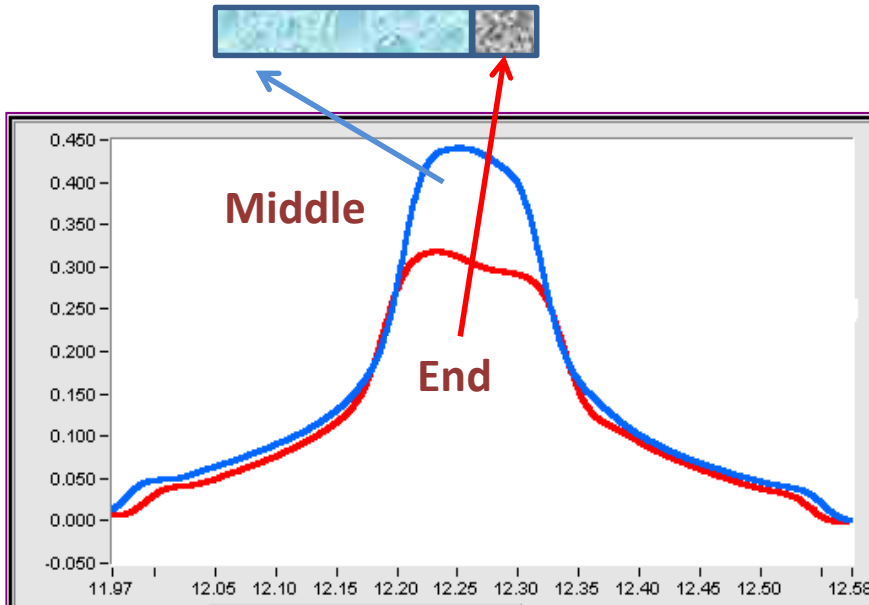


55" (140 cm) bulb



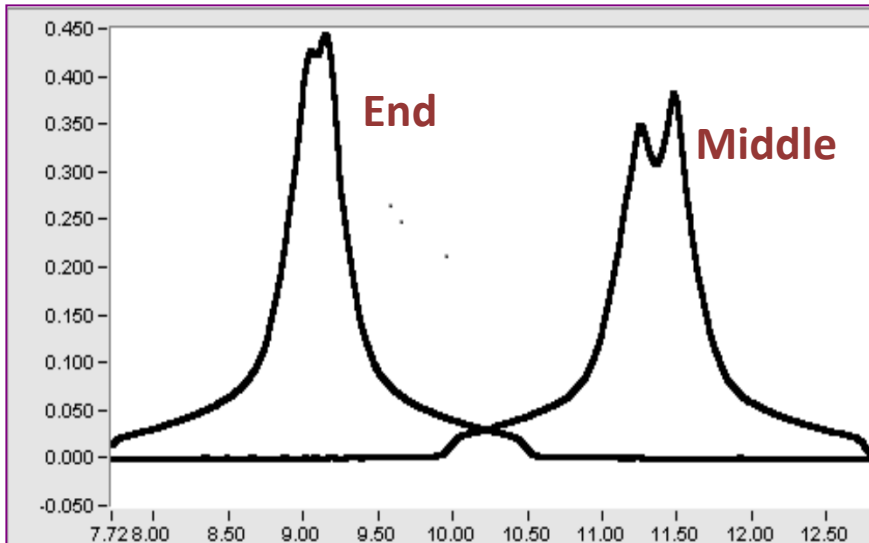
Irradiance mW/cm <sup>2</sup>		Data collected 3/24/16		
Band	Left	Center	Right	Highest Delta
UVA	797	983	635	35.4%
UVB	713	888	573	35.5%
UVC	200	257	167	35.0%
UVV	612	757	492	35.0%
Energy Density mJ/cm <sup>2</sup>				
UVA	243	282	234	17.0%
UVB	206	239	195	18.4%
UVC	58	68	55	19.1%
UVV	231	264	222	15.9%

# Lamp Performance- Visual



## Aged Arc Lamp

- 440mW/cm<sup>2</sup> (Middle)
- 317 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> (End)



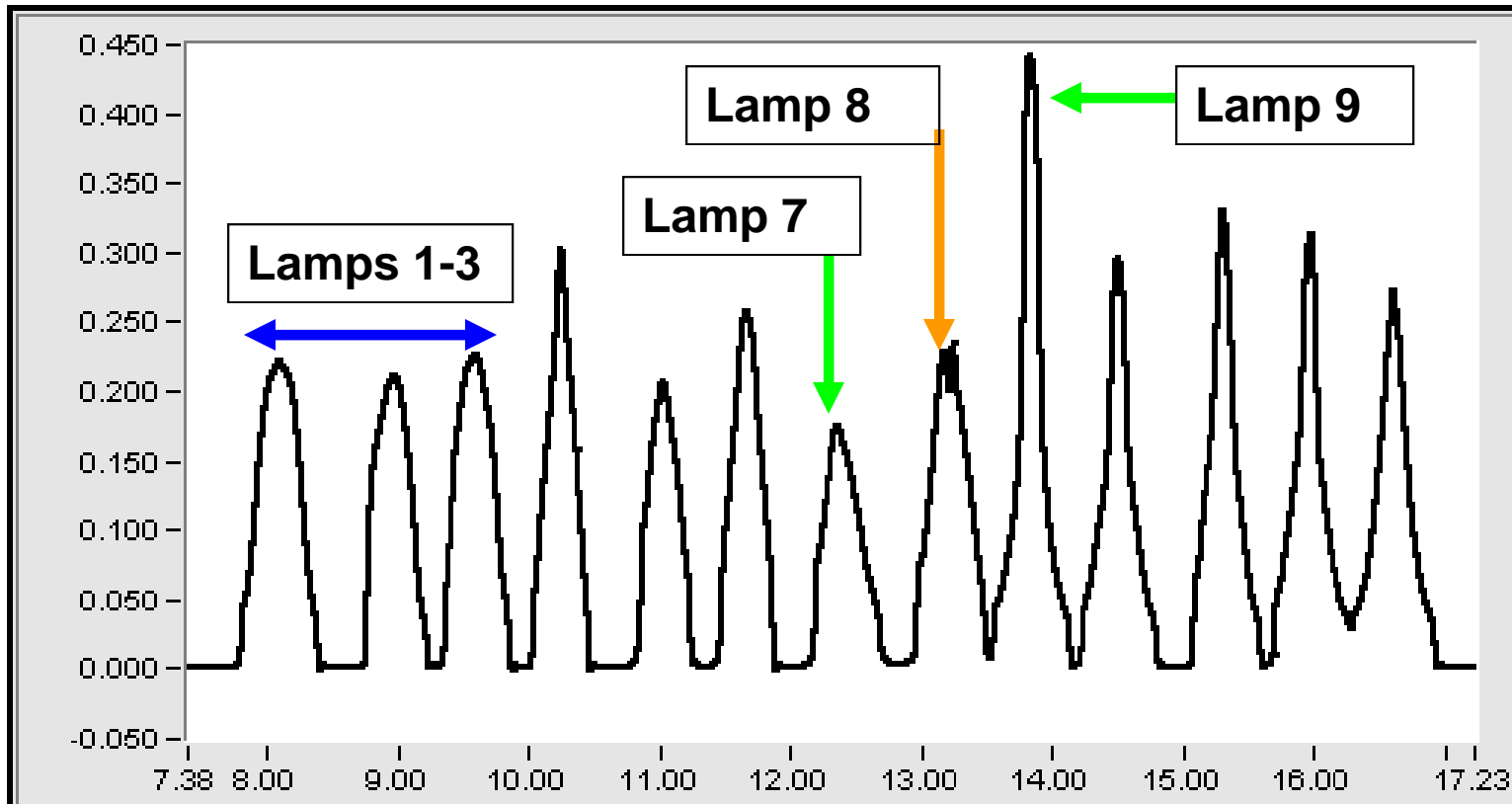
**Inadequate  
Cooling  
Airflow**



# Multiple Lamps on Production Line



Graphically display and show multi-lamp systems



Lamps 1-3: Parabolic reflectors

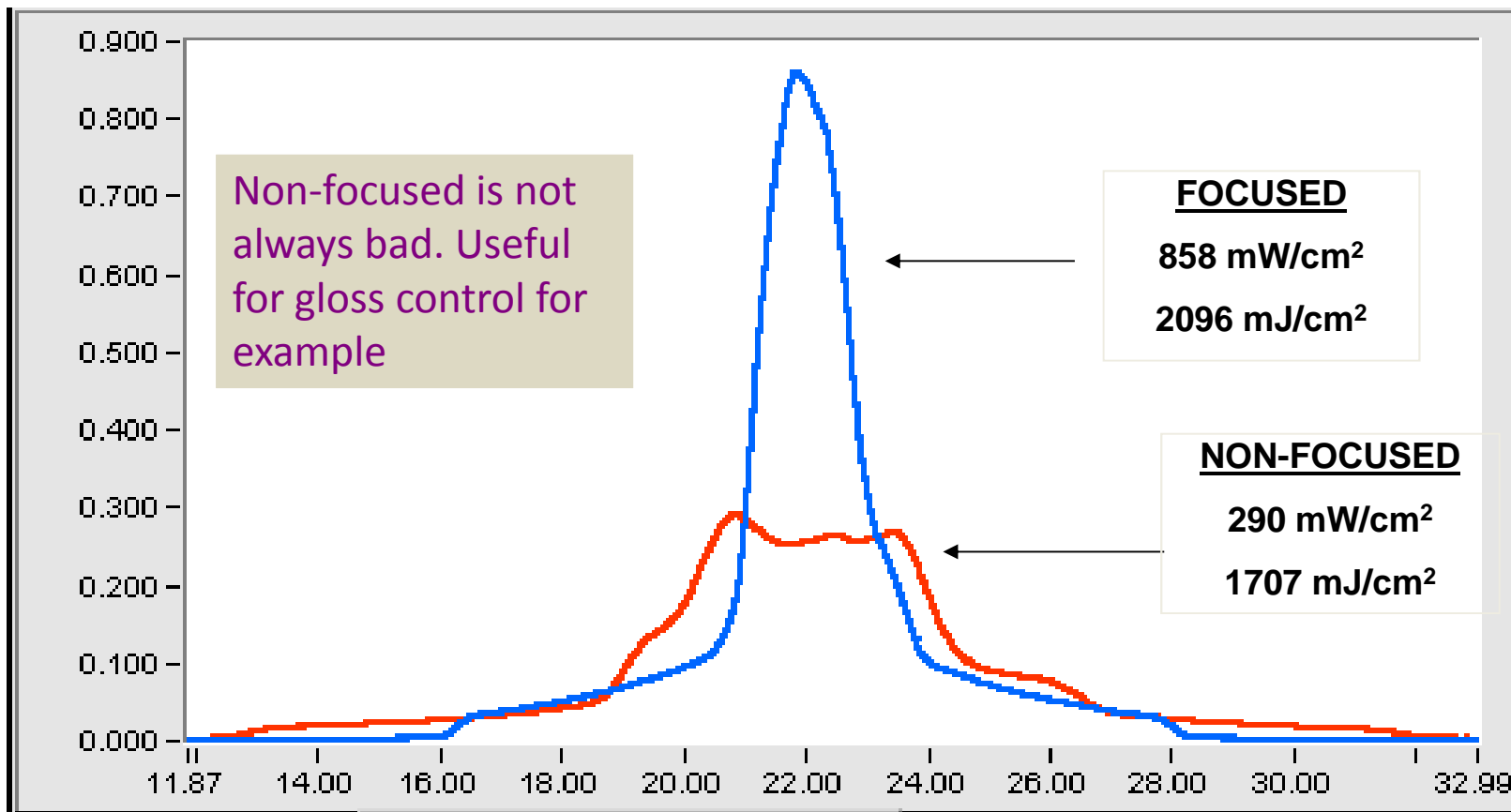
Lamp 8: Out of focus

Lamp 7 to Lamp 9: 173 vs. 440 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, 58 vs. 93 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>

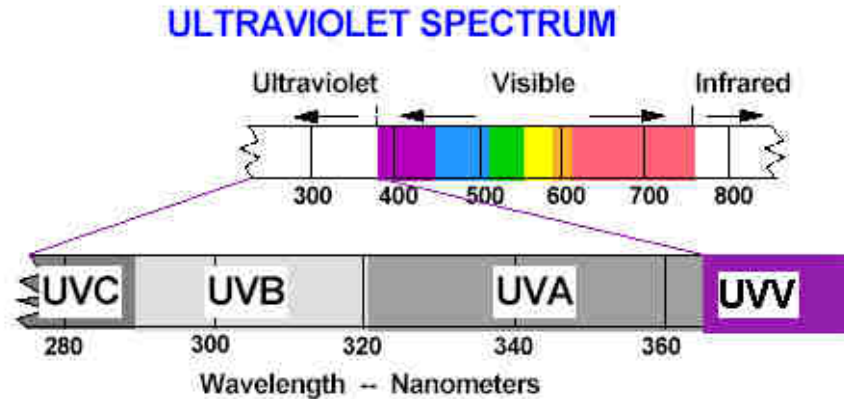
# Changing the distance from the UV System to the substrate



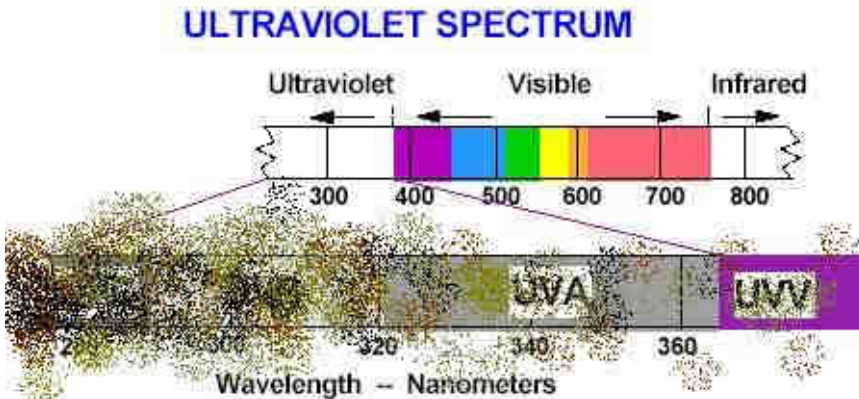
- The effect of moving the UV housing away from the cure surface
- Substrate Height?



# Process Variables-Reflectors



**A CLEAN BULB AND REFLECTOR DELIVERS ALL THE UV SPECTRUM IN THE RANGES OF UVA, UVB, UVC AND UVV**



**A DIRTY BULB AND REFLECTOR DELIVERS VERY LITTLE OF THE UV SPECTRUM IN UVC & UVB, AND REDUCED AMOUNTS OF UVA AND UVV**

Abrasion  
Resistance

Toughness

Adhesion

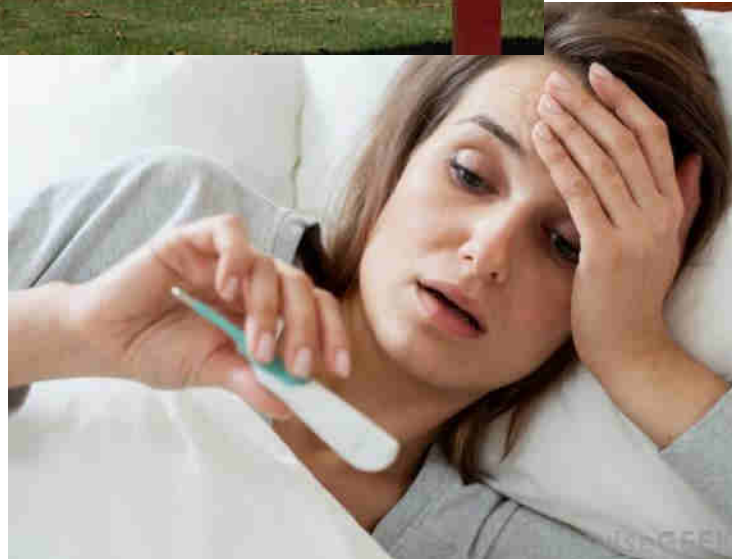
Adhesion  
& TiO<sub>2</sub>  
Cure

**A multi-channel radiometer allows you to compare short & long wave ratios and identify changes**

**UVC: UVA**  
**UVC: UVV**



# Please Overnight a Radiometer to Us?



Too often, a doctor visit or UV measurement happens only when things go wrong.





***“I am loose and tight  
in all the  
wrong places”***



# Process Window



- The range in which a process will work with the desired results
  - Adhesion, hardness, flexibility, gloss, texture, stain or scratch resistance, chemical rub, cross hatch, abrasion rub, color ID, registration
  - Often a compromise (Desired Coating Properties)
- Invest before production & confirm when things are working!
  - Starting guidelines from formulator?
  - Define your lower limits and document the readings
  - Increase line speed/decrease applied power until you undercure, note readings and cushion by 20%
  - Upper limits?
- Monitor your readings by job, hour, shift or day as required to maintain quality
- Establish your process window during the design/development phase and start monitoring from day one in production

# Process Window



**Normal Operating Window**

**Caution 20% Undercure Buffer Range**

**Stop! Undercure Limit**

**Over cure or over temperature?**

# Starting Point: Formulator Guidelines



## Basic Formulator Specification

- 2x Hg lamps 80 W/cm (electrical not UV)  
5 meters/minute, forward feed

## Improved Formulator Specification?

- Testing can define a process window
- Lab testing is less expensive than production testing or no process window



## Variables:

- Line speed
- Lamp distance
- Lamp output
- Bulb Type
- Source Type
- Coating
- Instrument Type



# Organize Your Data



## For each UV lamp system

- Hour meter
- Indicated vs. actual process speed
- Power settings (WPI, Amps)
- Irradiance ( $W/cm^2$ )
- Radiant Energy Density ( $J/cm^2$ )
- Lamp matched to chemistry
- Focus/Reflector condition

## Other things to consider

- Date/job number
- Operator signature
- Mesh count
- Formulation type
- Pass/fail on specific QC tests-cross hatch, rub, registration
- Maintenance log of system
- Radiometer type/bandwidths

Date	Line Speed Dwell Time FPM/RPM		UV System: North Line Lamp: 2			
	Ind.	Actual.	Power WPI	Hour Meter	Irradiance ( $W/cm^2$ )	Energy Density ( $J/cm^2$ )
8/17	25	22	400	780	0.859	1.45

## Notes

UV System  
 Line:  
 Lamp Number:  
 Equipment:  
 Lamp Type:  
 Power Setting:  
 Line Speed/Exposure Time:  
 Reflector Position:  
 Product:  
 Product Notes:  
 Maintenance Notes:

# Outside the Process Window



- **Panic!!!!!!**
- **Rule 1A/1B: Blame the Formulator & the Equipment Supplier**
- If you have a process window established, relax & breathe deep
- Gradual change towards caution area?
- Which way do you have to go?
- Perform simple routine system maintenance (measure, record, clean, repeat) for your type of equipment
- Adjust user controlled variables until you are back in your process window
- If simple maintenance does not work, look toward major or comprehensive maintenance
- Work and communicate with suppliers in good times and bad times

**Get into “predict and perform preventative maintenance”  
routine vs. a “fix it when it breaks” routine**





# UV LEDs



## Wide variety of UV LED sources

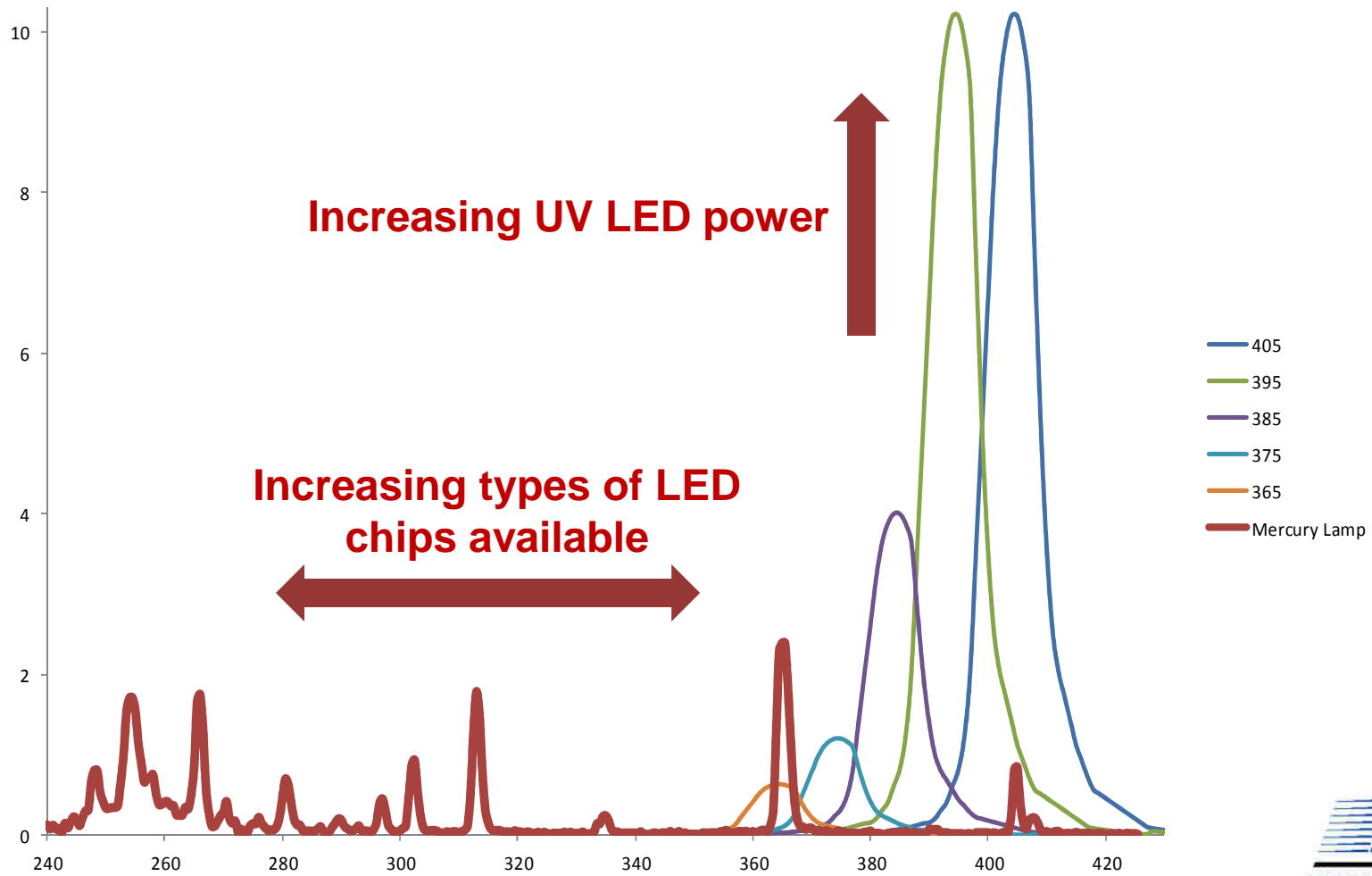
- Multiple suppliers with wide level of expertise, support, finances
- Match source to your application & process



Images courtesy Baldwin, Dymax, Integration Technology, Excelitas & Phoseon Technology



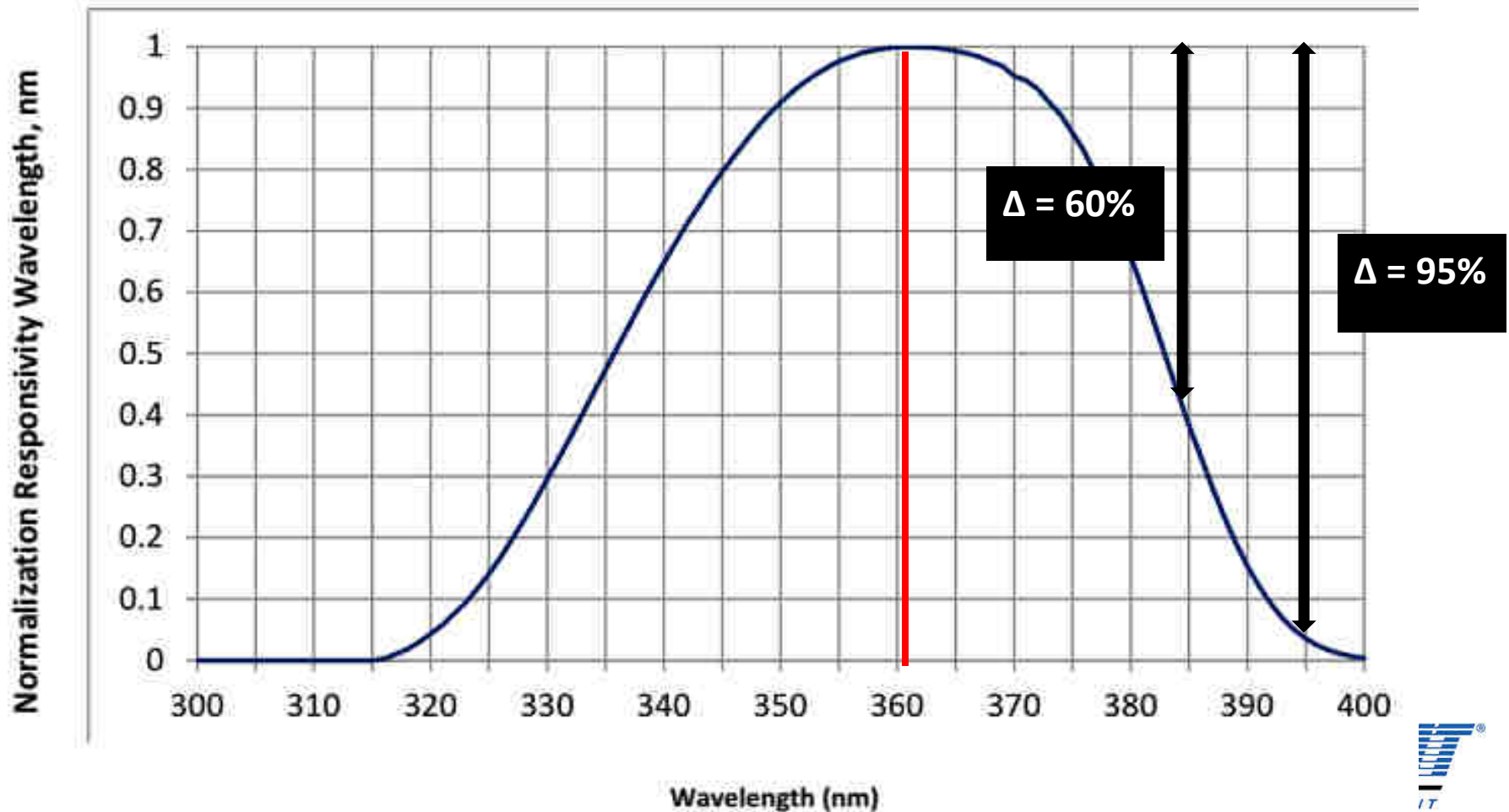
# UV LED Power Output vs. Wavelength



# Measurement of 395 nm LED



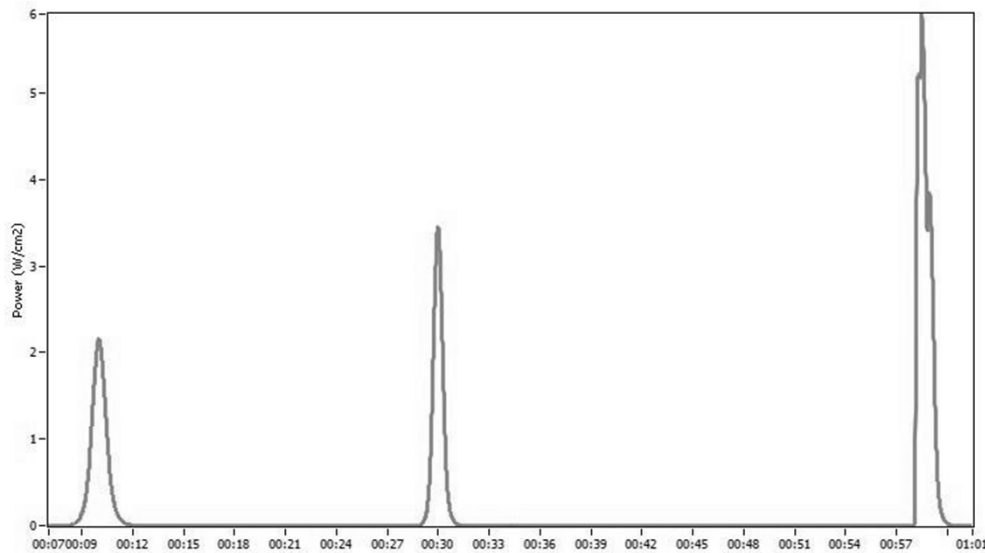
Using UVA to measure a 385 nm or 395 nm LED



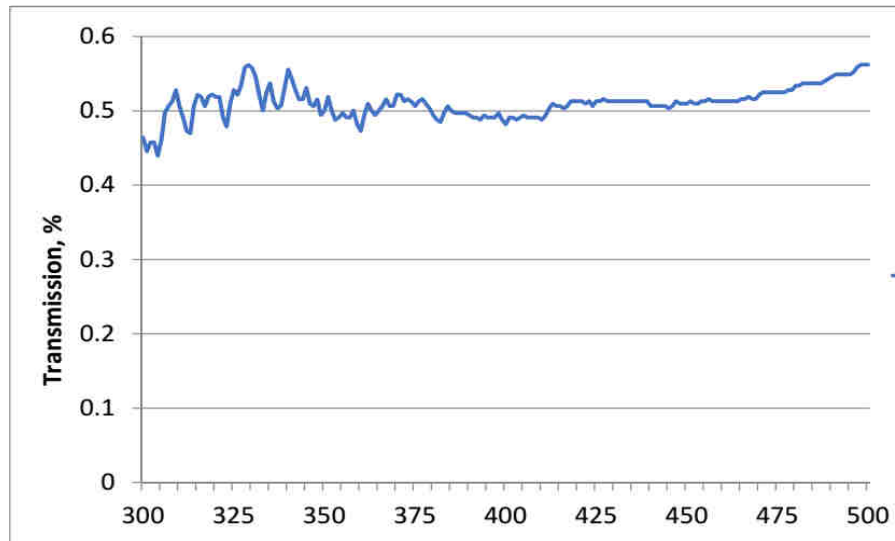
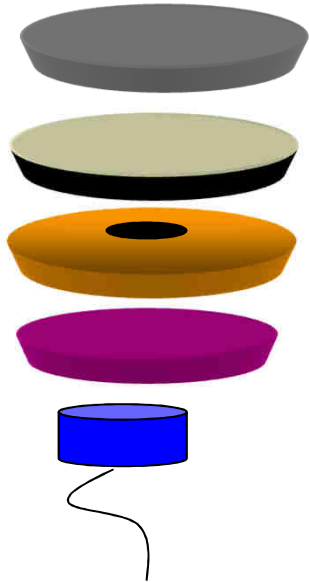
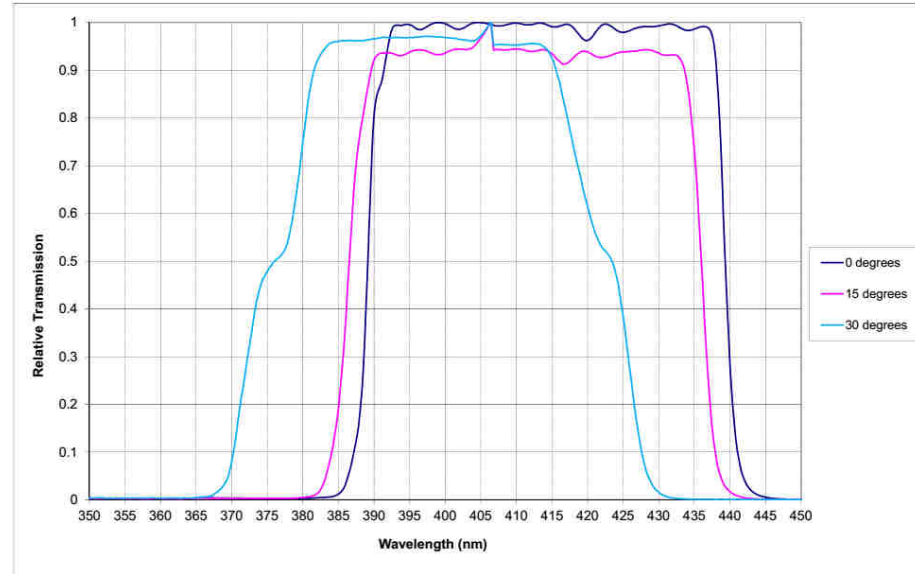
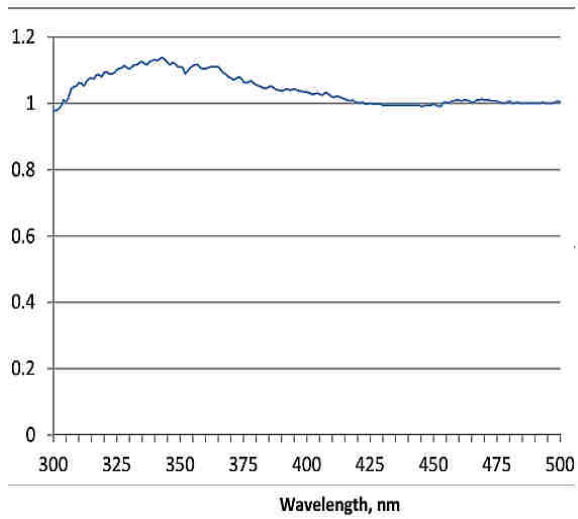
# LEDcure™ LED-R™ L395 Series



- 40 Watt Dynamic Range
- Display Plus Profiler Option
- **L395: Total Measured Optics Response**
- Additional L-Bands coming soon



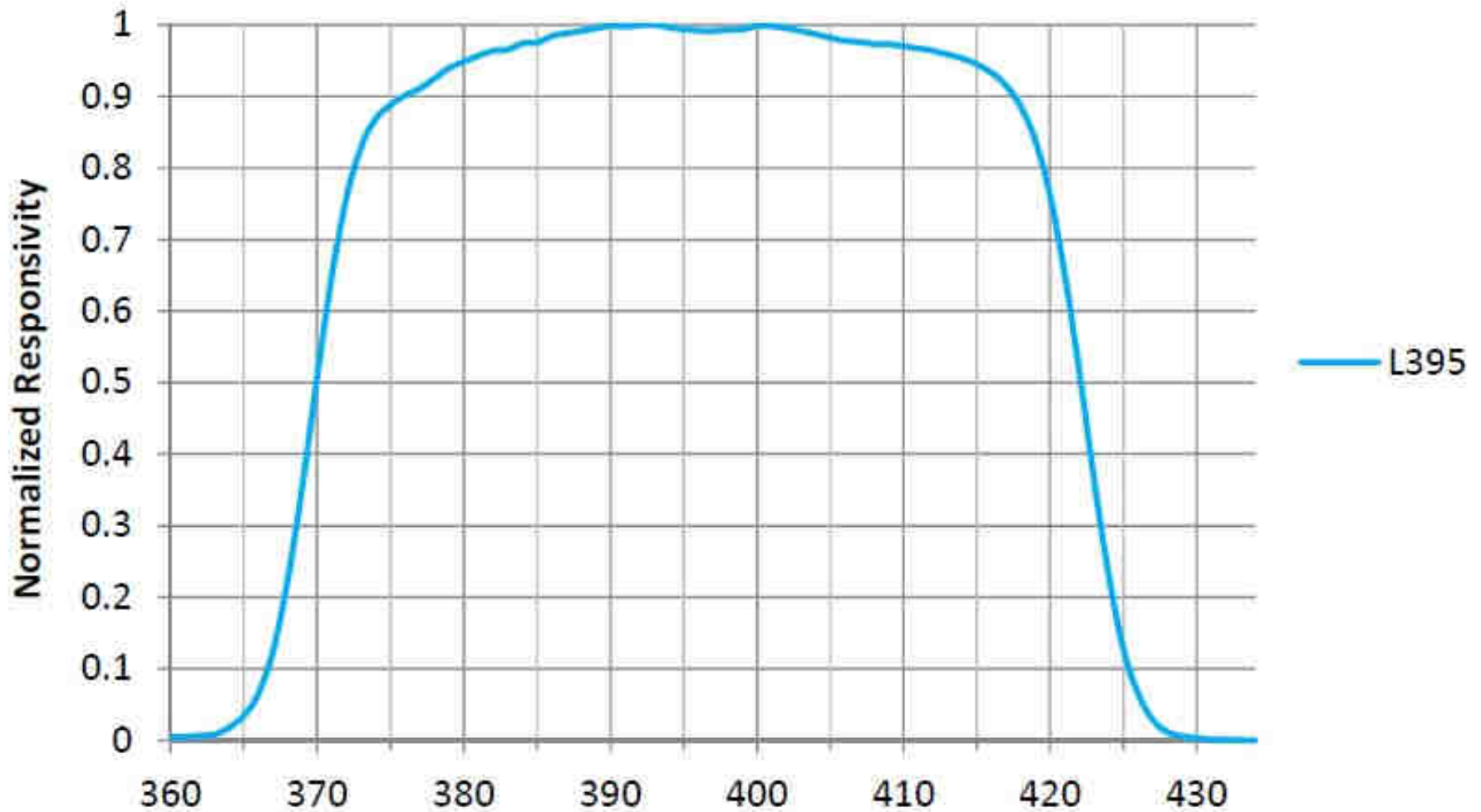
# EIT Patented Optics Design



# LEDcure™ L395 Instrument Response



## Total Measured Optics Response

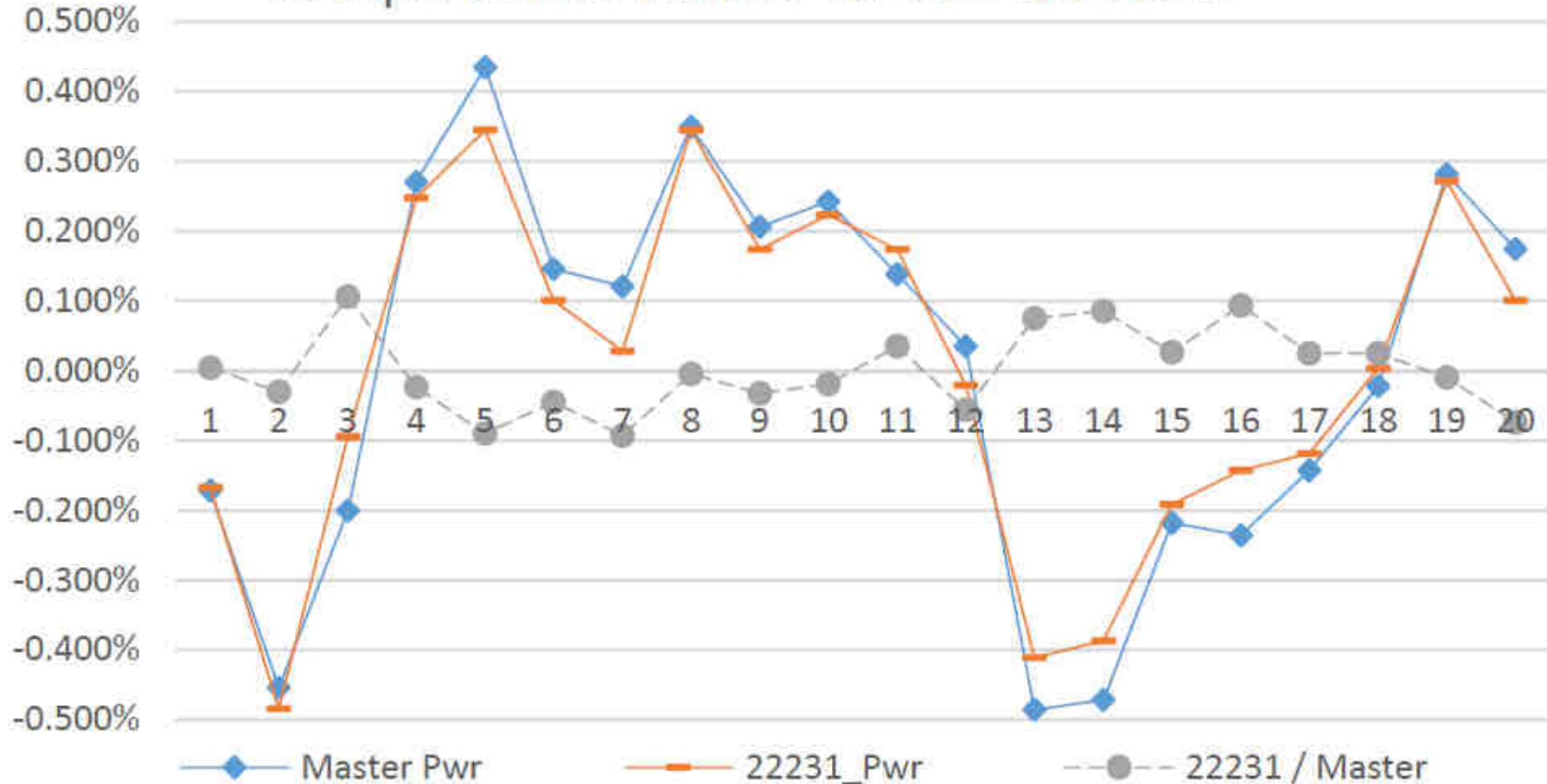




# LEDcure L395 Performance

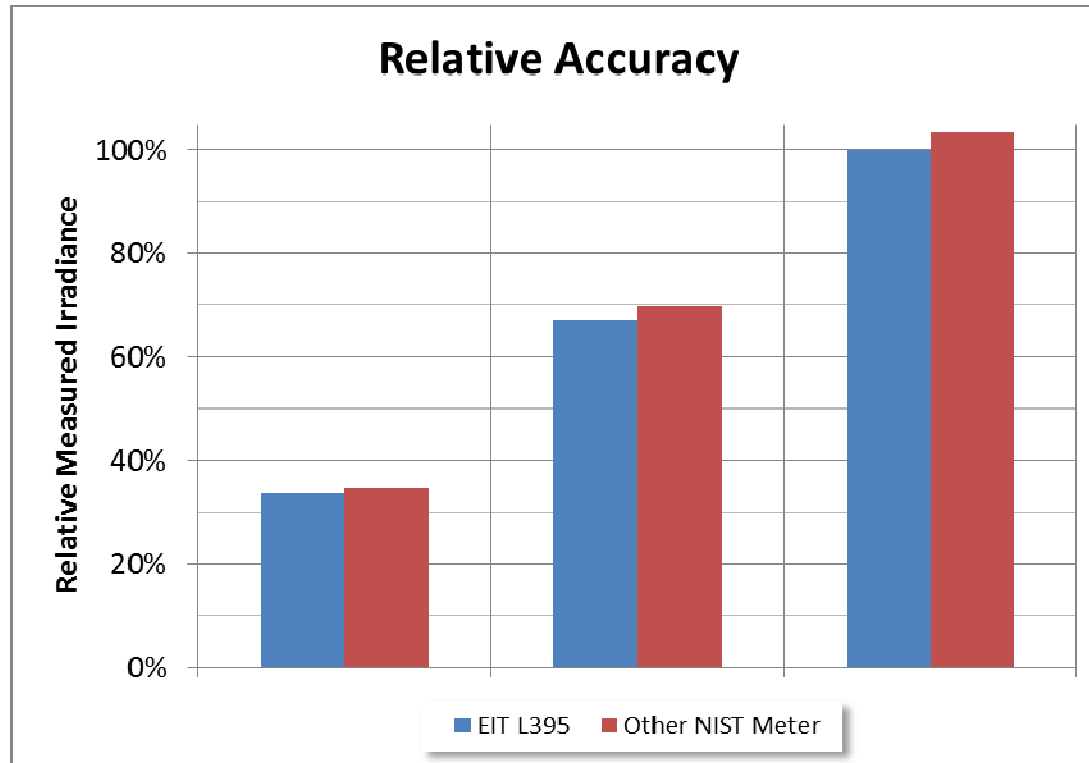


## Comparison of Master to Unit SN22231



Data collected at EIT February 9, 2017

# LEDCure L395 Feedback



- A 395nm UV LED source was calibrated to 16W/cm<sup>2</sup> using the EIT L395.
- The UV LED source was then measured with another NIST traceable radiometer.
- The two radiometers matched to within 4% at different irradiance levels.

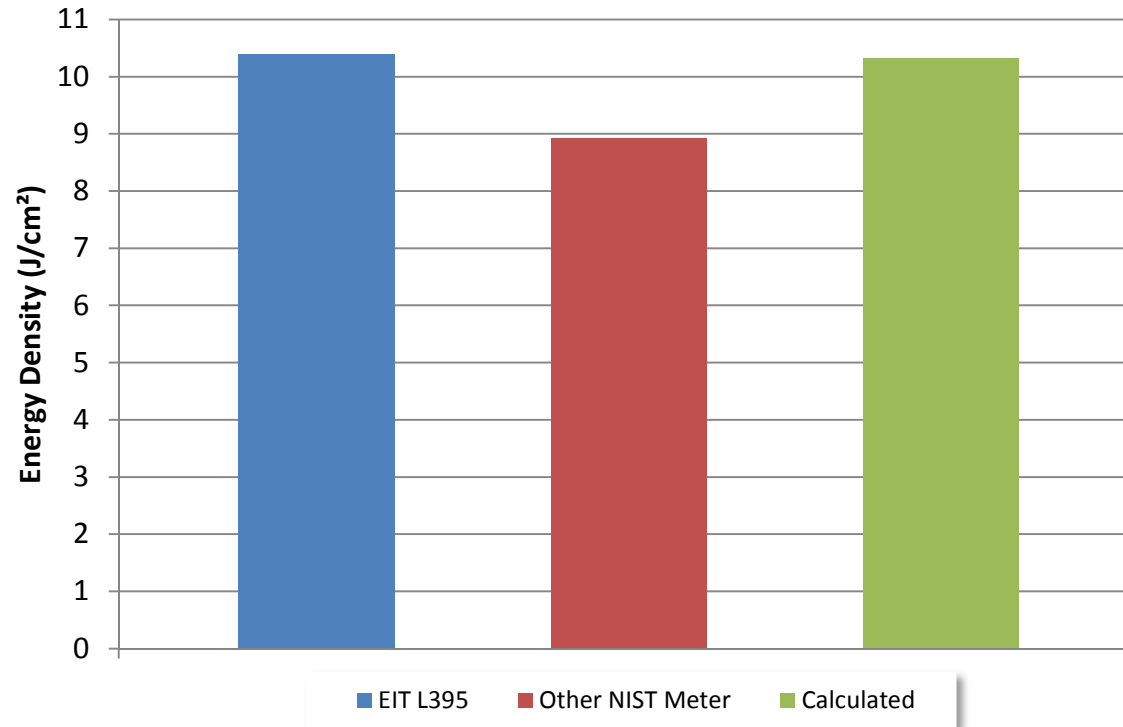
Data Courtesy of Phoseon Technology



# LEDCure L395 Feedback



## Energy Density Measurements

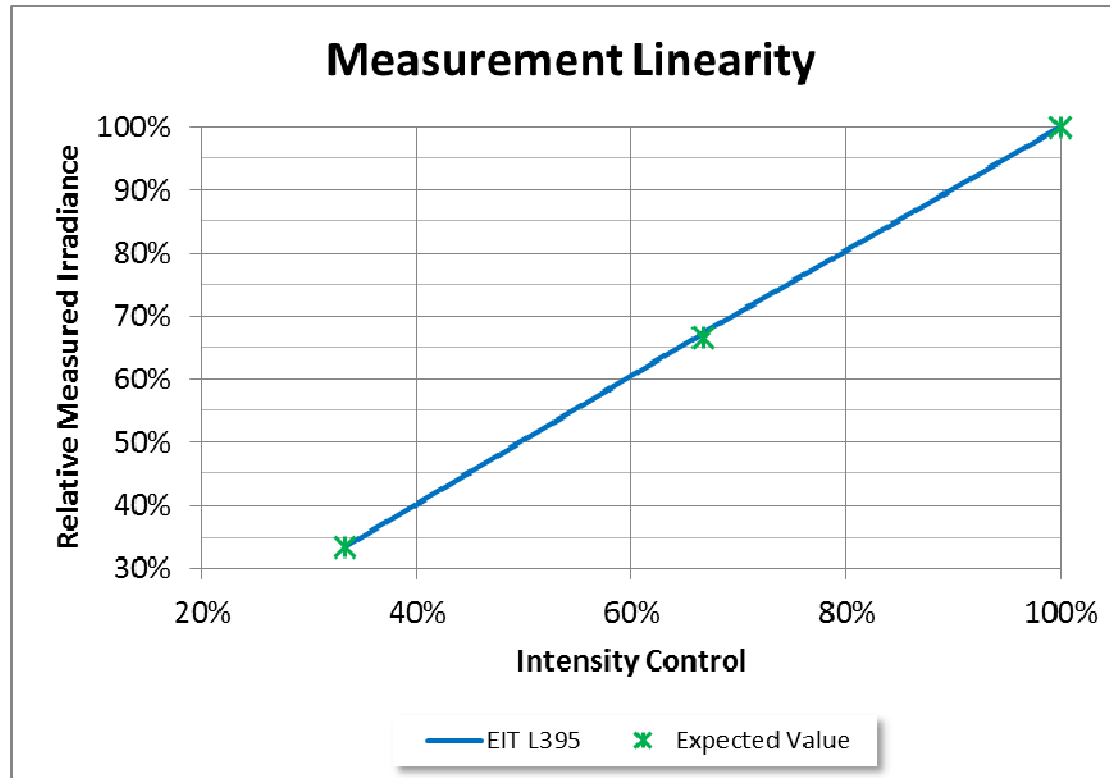


- Energy Density (Dose) measurements were taken at a speed of 20mm/sec (1.2m/min) and compared to the calculated value based on the short axis spatial response.
- The EIT measurement differed from the calculated value by less than 1%.
- The other NIST traceable radiometer differed from the calculated value by more than 13%.

Data Courtesy of Phoseon Technology



# LEDCure L395 Feedback



- Measurements at different irradiance settings were made with the EIT L395 radiometer, and compared to the expected values.
- The L395's linearity across a 3:1 dynamic range is excellent.

Data Courtesy of Phoseon Technology



# LEDCure L395 Performance



## LEDCure vs National Standard

Working Distance (mm)	Primary Standard: Integrating Sphere (W/cm <sup>2</sup> )	LEDCure L395 (W/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Difference
5	9.01	9.23	2.4%
10	7.74	7.74	0.0 %
15	6.66	6.63	- 0.5%
20	5.74	5.83	1.6%
25	5.04	5.08	0.8%

Data Courtesy Lumen Dynamics/Excelitas



# Continuous On-Line UV Measurement



- 1.3 meter (51") wide wood processing LED line
- Multiple LED heads
- 52 individual sections over 1.3 meter (51") wide line



- Supplier requires contractor to confirm UV output at the start of each 8 hour shift

Photo courtesy Efsen Engineering



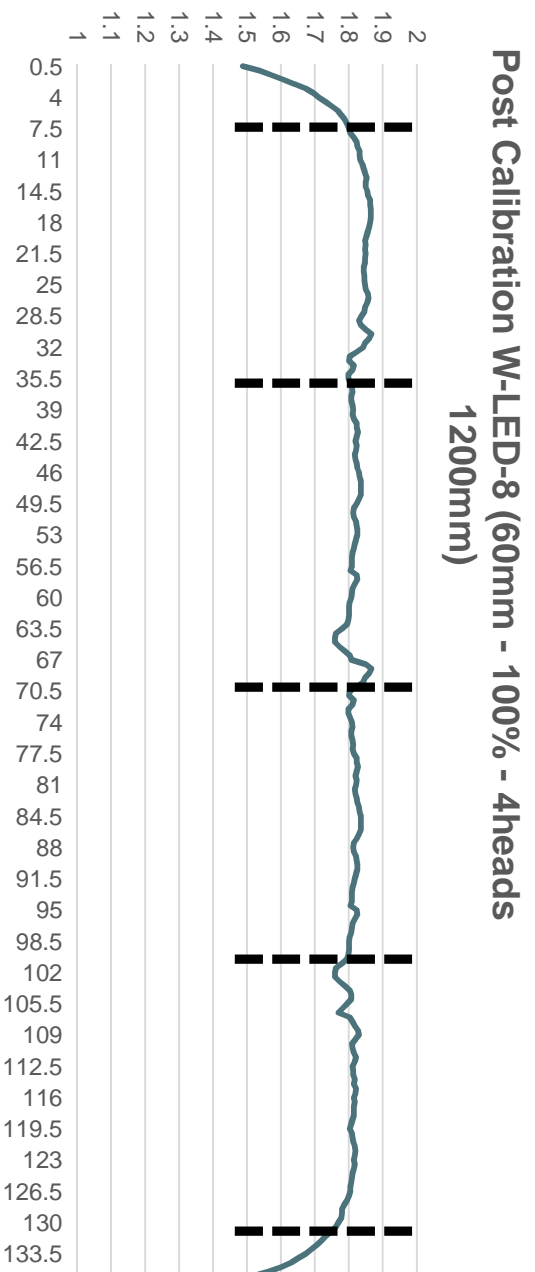
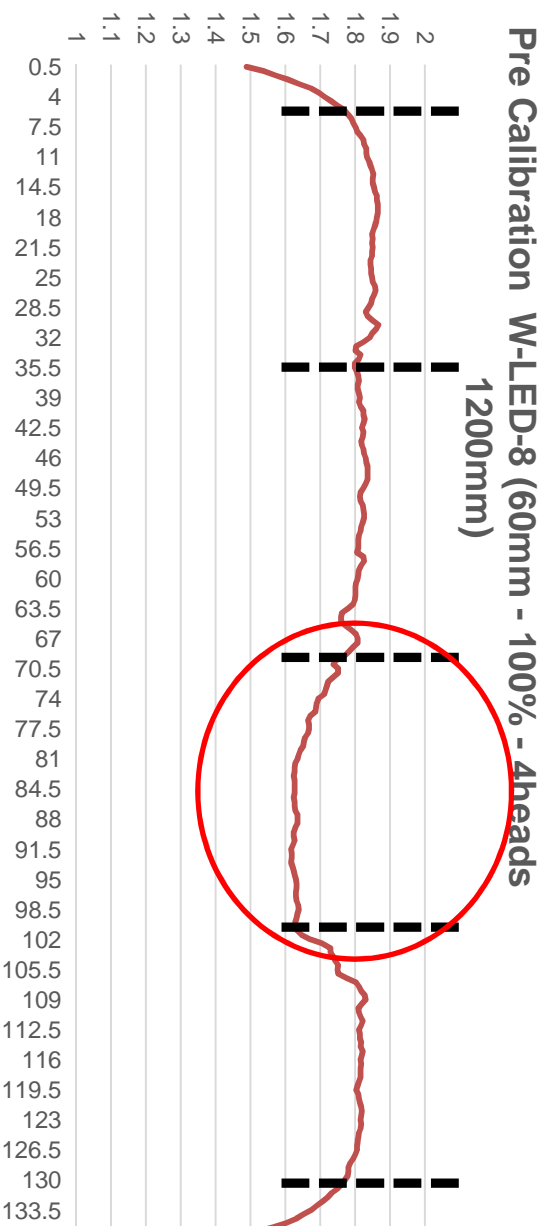
# Continuous On-Line UV Measurement



- Rail placed under LED Array with Sensor
- Measure perpendicular to the conveyor direction

Photo courtesy Efsen Engineering

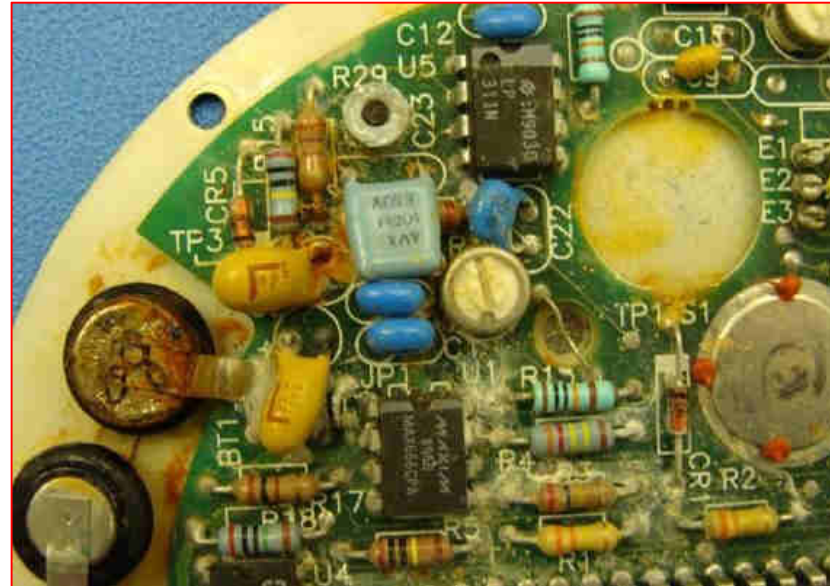
# Continuous On-Line UV Measurement



# Calibration & Service



- Radiometers work better when properly maintained



# Calibration & Service



## EIT® INSTRUMENT CLEANING GUIDELINES

EIT radiometers are used to design, measure and control industrial UV applications in a wide variety of locations. The environmental conditions that our instruments are exposed to vary from pristine (medical clean room) to challenging (wood manufacturing facility). Careful cleaning of the outer optics using these guidelines will help your EIT instrument perform as designed between service intervals at EIT. The guidelines are general and specific questions should be directed to EIT ([uv@eit.com](mailto:uv@eit.com)). Instruments that stop functioning when accidentally dropped, get stuck in equipment or wind up covered or immersed with the product being cured need to come back to EIT for further evaluation.

### General Cleaning Guidelines

1. Establish an area for cleaning with the necessary supplies.
2. Avoid cleaning the optics with anything dry or abrasive such as a cloth, towel or cloth-



- Two recommended methods:
  - Lint/detergent free wipes or IPA with cotton swab
- Advantages and disadvantages to each method
- First do no harm
- Avoid shirt sleeve, shop towel, etc.
- Avoid 'dry' cleaning instrument
- You Tube video on cleaning

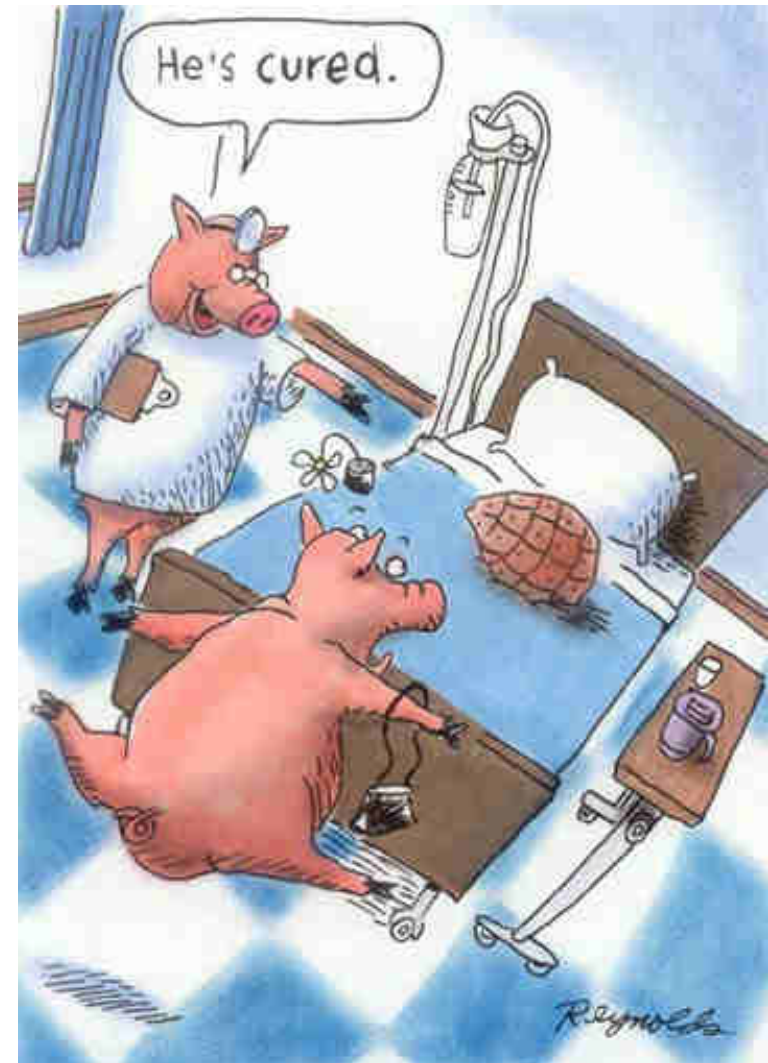




# Prescription for Profit



- ✓ Establish a baseline.
- ✓ Establish a process window.
- ✓ Make measurements routinely.
- ✓ Measure consistently. Same location, speed, device
- ✓ Document test procedures
- ✓ Label & mark equipment
- ✓ Use the right radiometer
- ✓ Calibrate all of your tools
- ✓ Communicate





# Thank You

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