

User Guide

Elcometer 138

Conductivity Meter

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For the avoidance of doubt, please refer to the original English language version.

Dimensions: 164 x 29 x 20mm (6.5 x 1.1 x 0.79")

Weight: 50g (1.76 oz) - including sensor and batteries

A Material Safety Data Sheet for the Elcometer 138 Standard 1413µS/cm Calibration Solution is available to download via our website:

http://www.elcometer.com/images/stories/MSDS/Elcometer_138_1413uScm_Calibration_Solution.pdf

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1 OVERVIEW

Incorporating a flat sensor, the Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter enables accurate measurement of the conductivity of a solution from a single drop of the sample.

The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter can be used in accordance with the following two test methods:

- ISO 8502-6 / ISO8502-9
- US NAVY PPI 63101-000 (Rev 27)

It can also be used in accordance with ISO 8502-11; AS 3894.6-A and SSPC Guide 15.

For IMO PSPC^a, the surface salts should be measured and recorded. The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter can be used for this.

2 BOX CONTENTS

- Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter & Sensor
- Conditioning Solution; 14ml (0.47 fl oz)
- Calibration Solution 1413 μ S/cm; 14ml (0.47 fl oz)
- CR2032 Lithium Batteries; x2 (supplied fitted to the Elcometer 138)
- User Guide

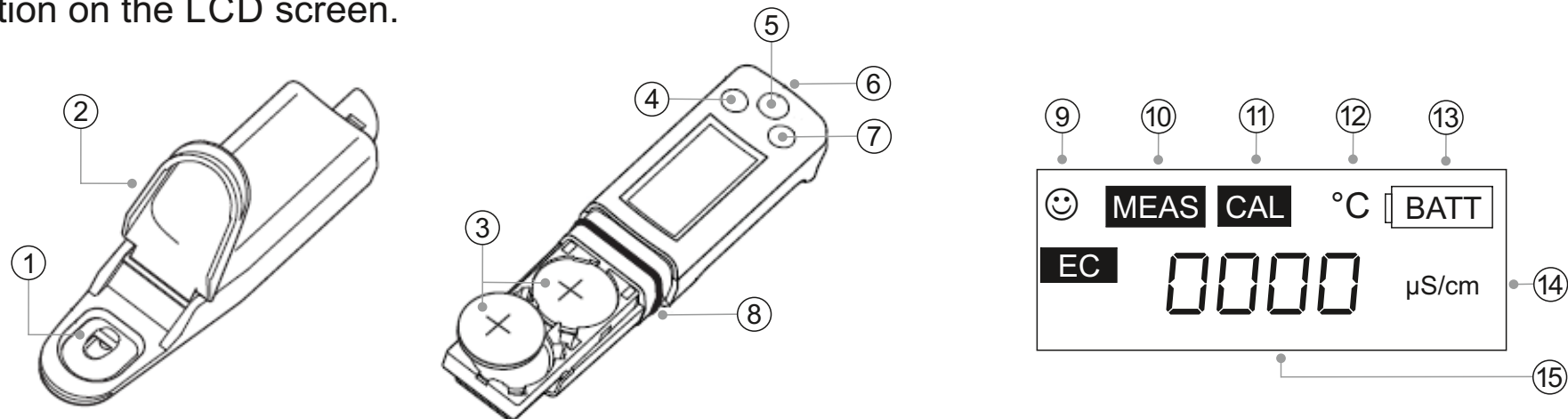
Note: The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter measures aqueous solutions. The meter is NOT designed to measure solids, organic solvents, surfactant, oil, adhesive, alcohol, strong acids (pH: 0 to 2) or strong alkalis (pH: 12 to 14). The life of the sensor will be extremely short if these substances are measured.

^a International Maritime Organisation, Performance Standard for Protective Coatings.



3 THE CONTROLS & DISPLAY

The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter is operated using 3 buttons and displays readings and other information on the LCD screen.



ELCOMETER 138 CONDUCTIVITY METER OVERVIEW		
1	Measurement Cell	Place a liquid sample in this cell to measure it with the electrode located on the bottom of the cell.
2	Protection Cover	Protects the measurement cell and flat sensor in storage.
3	Lithium Batteries	CR2032 x 2
4	MEAS Button	Sets the measurement mode (EC). View the ambient temperature measured with the internal temperature sensor (to be used as a guide only). Switches from calibration mode to measurement mode.
5	ON/OFF Button	Turns the meter On / Off.
6	Strap Eyelet	A strap can be attached here.
7	CAL Button	Starts calibration procedure.
8	Waterproof Gasket	Makes the meter waterproof.

3 THE CONTROLS & DISPLAY (continued)

DISPLAY INDICATORS		
9	Stability Icon	Illuminates when measured value is stabilised.
10	MEAS Icon	Illuminates when in measurement mode.
11	CAL Icon	Flashes during calibration and illuminates steadily when calibration is finished.
12	Temperature Alarm Icon	Flashes when the ambient temperature does not meet the specified operating temperature of 5°C to 40°C (41°F to 105°F).
13	Battery Alarm Icon	Illuminates when the batteries are low and need to be replaced.
14	Measurement Units	The default setting is $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
15	Measured Value	Displays the measured conductivity of the sample

4 USING THE ELCOMETER 138 CONDUCTIVITY METER

4.1 CAUTION

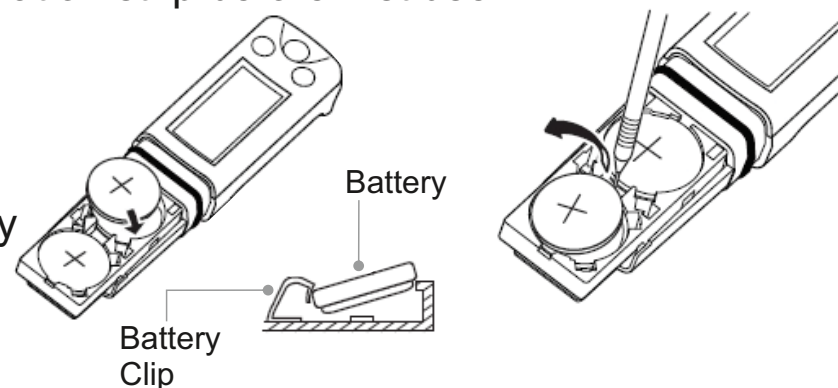
- The sensor is a consumable part. If it becomes damaged or its performance deteriorates, it will need to be replaced - see Section 8 'Spares & Accessories' on page en-13.
- Do not drop the meter.
- Never apply undue force when opening the meter (to change the batteries or sensor).
- Do not exert undue force on the sensor.
- Do not allow utensils (tweezers, pipette, etc) to touch sensor cell.
- Do not measure samples hotter than 40°C (105°F)
- Do not allow contact with solvents.
- Do not subject the meter to high temperature or humidity.
- Although the product is waterproof, avoid immersing it completely. If the meter is accidentally dropped in water, take it out and remove the moisture.
- To ensure the meter is waterproof check that the waterproof gasket is clean, not damaged, seated properly in the groove and is not twisted or warped.

4.2 FITTING AND REPLACING THE BATTERIES

The Elcometer 138 ConductivityMeter uses dry cell batteries only and is supplied with two CR2032 lithium batteries fitted with an isolation strip. Remove the isolation strip before first use.

To fit or replace the batteries:

- 1 Place batteries in the battery clips ensuring correct polarity.
- 2 To reassemble the meter, slide the sensor onto the body of the meter and push the body and sensor together gently until sensor retaining clip engages.



4 USING THE ELCOMETER 138 CONDUCTIVITY METER (continued)

When the battery voltage becomes low, the low battery warning indicator will flash. Replace both batteries immediately.

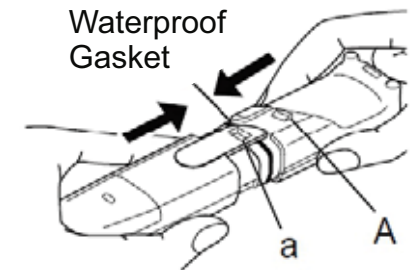
*Note: Lithium batteries must be disposed of carefully to avoid environmental contamination. Please consult your local Environmental Authority for information on disposal in your region. **Do not dispose of any batteries in fire.***

4.3 ATTACHING & DETACHING THE SENSOR

Ensure the meter is turned OFF before attaching / detaching the sensor. If the meter is turned ON with the sensor detached, the battery alarm may illuminate. In this case, turn the meter OFF and attach the sensor, and then turn the meter ON again.

Attaching the sensor:

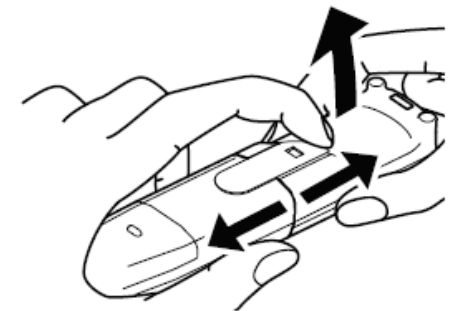
- 1 Ensure that the waterproof gasket is clean and undamaged.
- 2 Slide the sensor across the meter so the clip (A) fits into the hole on the sensor tongue (a), as shown.



Note: Ensure that the waterproof gasket is lying flat and not twisted.

Detaching the sensor:

- 1 Lift the sensor tongue tip and slide the sensor slightly away from the meter.
- 2 The sensor can now be completely removed from the meter.

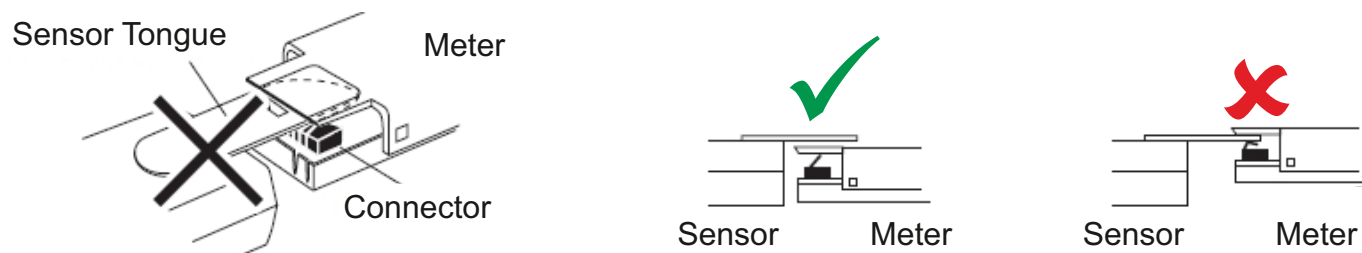


When removing the sensor, do not let any water penetrate the inside of the meter. If some moisture remains on the waterproof gasket, very carefully wipe the moisture off.

4 USING THE ELCOMETER 138 CONDUCTIVITY METER (continued)

Correct procedure for closing meter after removal of the sensor:

Ensure that the sensor tongue is outside the meter case. If the tongue is inserted between the case and the connector of the meter, it may damage the connector.



The sensor is a consumable part. If it becomes damaged or its performance deteriorates, it will need to be replaced.

Description

Replacement Sensor

Part Number

T13830628

4.4 ELECTRODE SURFACE TREATMENT PROCEDURE

When using the sensor for the first time or again after several weeks of disuse, perform the electrode surface treatment procedure as follows:

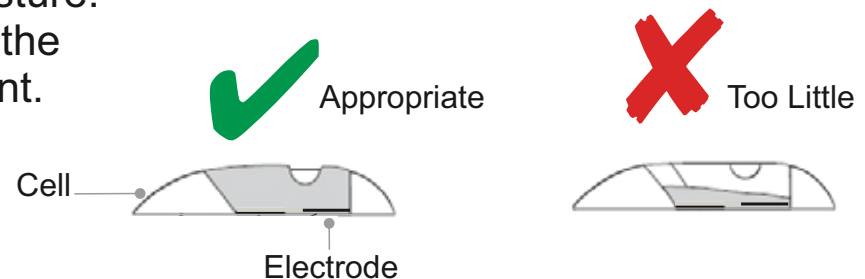
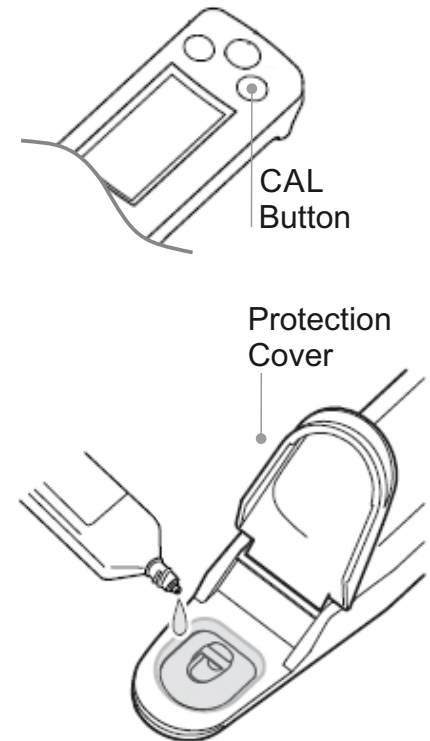
- 1 Put some drops of the conditioning solution into the measurement cell.
- 2 Leave for approximately 10 minutes.
- 3 Clean the measurement cell with running water.
- 4 Wash the measurement cell with standard solution.
- 5 Perform the calibration procedure, see Section 4.5 on page en-8.

4 USING THE ELCOMETER 138 CONDUCTIVITY METER (continued)

4.5 CALIBRATING THE ELCOMETER 138

When using the sensor for the first time or again after several weeks of disuse, perform the electrode surface treatment procedure, see Section 4.4 on page en-7:

- 1 Press the ON/OFF button to switch the meter on.
- 2 Press the **CAL** button until **CAL** appears on the display.
- 3 Open the protection cover and place an appropriate amount of the standard 1413 μ S/cm solution supplied, see Section 8 'Spares & Accessories on page en-13, into the measurement cell avoiding the inclusion of bubbles. Washing the sensor with standard solution beforehand may provide more accurate calibration.
 - ▶ Bubbles in the solution may cause the measurement to be inaccurate.
- 4 Close the protection cover and press the **CAL** button for over 2 seconds. **CAL** and ☺ flash and the calibration value is displayed. After the calibration is completed, **CAL** and ☺ stop flashing and illuminate steadily.
 - ▶ If **CAL** continues to flash and the 'Err' (error message) is displayed, the calibration has failed. Check that the standard solution conductivity is correct and perform the calibration procedure again after thoroughly cleaning the sensor. If the calibration failed whilst using the correct standard solution, the sensor may be damaged and should be replaced, see Section 4.3 on page en-7.
- 5 Clean the sensor with tap water and remove moisture.
- 6 Press the **MEAS** button for 0.5 seconds to enter the measurement mode and prepare for measurement.



5 TAKING A READING

5.1 BEFORE YOU START

- 1 Press the ON/OFF button to switch the meter on.
- 2 Open the protection cover.

5.2 SAMPLING METHODS

The following sampling methods are available:

- **Drop:** for a small amount of sample - this is the preferred method for these tests.
- **Immersion:** for a large amount sample.
- **Scooping:** for sampling part of a sample.

When using the Drop sampling method:

- 1 Put a few drops of the sample into the measurement cell avoiding the inclusion of bubbles.
 - ▶ Bubbles in the solution may cause the measurement to be inaccurate.
- 2 Close the protection cover.
 - ▶ Ambient air may cause the measurement values to fluctuate. To reduce environmental interference, close the protection cover.
- 3 Read the value displayed when 😊 appears. 😊 illuminates when measured value is stabilised.



Note: If a measurement result is out of the specified measurement range, the displayed measured value flashes.

5 TAKING A READING (continued)

When using the Immersion sampling method:

- 1 Immerse the sensor into the sample and stir gently 2 or 3 times.
- 2 Read the value displayed when ☺ appears. ☺ illuminates when measured value is stabilised.

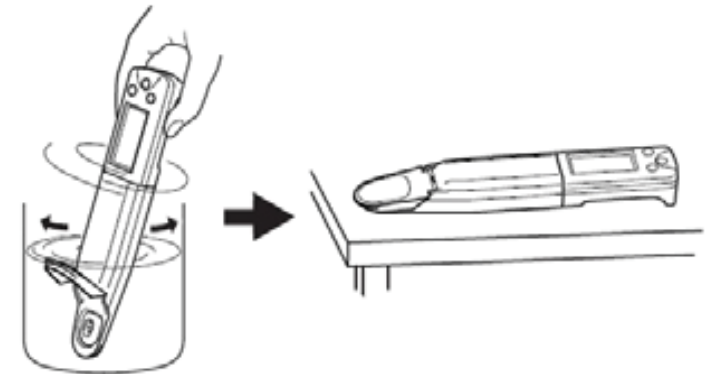
Note: If a measurement result is out of the specified measurement range, the displayed measured value flashes.

Note: Although this product is waterproof, avoid immersing it completely. If the product is accidentally dropped into water, take it out of the water and remove the moisture from the instrument.



When using the Scooping sampling method:

- 1 Immerse the sensor into the sample, stir gently 2 or 3 times and then scoop up some of the sample with the sensor.
- 2 Place the meter flat and confirm that the sample is in the measurement cell.
- 3 Close the protection cover.
 - ▶ Ambient air may cause the measurement values to fluctuate. To reduce environmental interference, close the protection cover.
- 4 Read the value displayed when ☺ appears. ☺ illuminates when measured value is stabilised.



Note: If a measurement result is out of the specified measurement range, the displayed measured value flashes.

Note: Although this product is waterproof, avoid immersing it completely. If the product is accidentally dropped into water, take it out of the water and remove the moisture from the instrument.

5 TAKING A READING (continued)

5.3 AFTER MEASUREMENT

- 1 Press the ON/OFF button to switch the meter off.
- 2 Wash the sensor with tap water and wipe away any residual water using a clean tissue.
- 3 Replace the sensor protection cap.

Note: If the meter is to remain unused for a long period of time, use pure water instead of tap water to wash the sensor.

6 CARE & MAINTENANCE

The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter is designed to give many years reliable service under normal operating conditions.

- Prolonged periods of non-use may cause the sensor to dry out. This can result in malfunction or unstable readings. Pour conditioning solution into the sensor cell and leave for a few minutes to allow the sensor to become saturated. Wash the sensor with water prior to use.
- If the measuring surface of the sensor is contaminated or if air bubbles are regularly present in the sample, clean the sensor using a diluted neutral detergent (diluted 100 times).
- The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter incorporates a Liquid Crystal Display. If the display is heated above 50°C (120°F) it may be damaged. This can happen if the meter is left in a car parked in strong sunlight.

The Elcometer 138 Conductivity Meter does not contain any user-serviceable components. In the unlikely event of a fault, the meter should be returned to your local Elcometer supplier or directly to Elcometer Limited - contact details can be found on our website, www.elcometer.com. The warranty will be invalidated if the instrument has been opened.

7 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Measurement Principle	2 Electrode Bioplar AC
Measurement Mode	Conductivity, Temperature
Minimum Sample Volume	0.12ml
Measurement Range	0 - 19.99mS/cm
Resolution	0 - 1999 μ S/cm : 1 μ S/cm 2.00 - 19.99mS/cm : 0.01mS/cm
Accuracy	\pm 2% of full scale (for each range)
Operating Temperature	5°C to 40°C (41°F to 105°F)
Operating Humidity	85% or less relative humidity (no condensation)
Battery Type	2 x CR2032 lithium
Battery Life	Approximately 200 hours continuous use without backlight
Dimensions	164 x 29 x 20mm (6.5 x 1.1 x 0.79")
Weight	50g (1.76 oz) - including sensor and batteries

8 SPARES & ACCESSORIES

Description

Replacement Sensor for Elcometer 138 ConductivityMeter
 Standard 1413 μ S/cm Calibration Solution: 250ml (8.45fl oz) Bottle

Part Number

T13830628
 T13830629-2

A Material Safety Data Sheet for the Elcometer 138 Standard 1413 μ S/cm Calibration Solution is available to download via our website:
http://www.elcometer.com/images/stories/MSDS/Elcometer_138_1413uScm_Calibration_Solution.pdf

9 LEGAL NOTICES & REGULATORY INFORMATION

Declaration of Conformity: This product complies with the requirements of the following EU Directives:

- 2014/30/EU Electromagnetic Compatibility
- 2011/65/EU Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances

The Declaration of Conformity is available to download via:

www.elcometer.com/images/stories/PDFs/Datasheets/Declaration of Conformity/English/DoC_138.pdf

This product is Class B, Group 1 ISM equipment according to CISPR 11.

Class B product: Suitable for use in domestic establishments and in establishments directly connected to a low voltage power supply network which supplies buildings used for domestic purposes.

Group 1 ISM product: A product in which there is intentionally generated and/or used conductively coupled radio-frequency energy which is necessary for the internal functioning of the equipment itself.

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 United Kingdom

All other trademarks acknowledged.

Please ensure that all packaging is disposed of in an environmentally sensitive manner. Consult your local Environmental Authority for further guidance.

CAUTION



If the standard solution used for calibration of the meter comes into contact with the skin, wash the skin with fresh water. If the standard solution comes into contact with eyes, immediately flush the eye with large amounts of fresh water and seek medical advice.

