

Operating Instructions

Radar sensor for continuous level
measurement

VEGAPULS C 21

SDI-12



Document ID: 58342



VEGA

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1 About this document

1.1 Function

This instruction provides all the information you need for mounting, connection and setup as well as important instructions for maintenance, fault rectification, the exchange of parts and the safety of the user. Please read this information before putting the instrument into operation and keep this manual accessible in the immediate vicinity of the device.

1.2 Target group

This operating instructions manual is directed to trained personnel. The contents of this manual must be made available to the qualified personnel and implemented.

1.3 Symbols used



Document ID

This symbol on the front page of this instruction refers to the Document ID. By entering the Document ID on www.vega.com you will reach the document download.



Information, note, tip: This symbol indicates helpful additional information and tips for successful work.



Note: This symbol indicates notes to prevent failures, malfunctions, damage to devices or plants.



Caution: Non-observance of the information marked with this symbol may result in personal injury.



Warning: Non-observance of the information marked with this symbol may result in serious or fatal personal injury.



Danger: Non-observance of the information marked with this symbol results in serious or fatal personal injury.



Ex applications

This symbol indicates special instructions for Ex applications.



List

The dot set in front indicates a list with no implied sequence.



Sequence of actions

Numbers set in front indicate successive steps in a procedure.



Battery disposal

This symbol indicates special information about the disposal of batteries and accumulators.

2 For your safety

2.1 Authorised personnel

All operations described in this documentation must be carried out only by trained, qualified personnel authorised by the plant operator.

During work on and with the device, the required personal protective equipment must always be worn.

2.2 Appropriate use

VEGAPULS C 21 is a sensor for continuous level measurement.

You can find detailed information about the area of application in chapter "*Product description*".

Operational reliability is ensured only if the instrument is properly used according to the specifications in the operating instructions manual as well as possible supplementary instructions.

2.3 Warning about incorrect use

Inappropriate or incorrect use of this product can give rise to application-specific hazards, e.g. vessel overfill through incorrect mounting or adjustment. Damage to property and persons or environmental contamination can result. Also, the protective characteristics of the instrument can be impaired.

2.4 General safety instructions

This is a state-of-the-art instrument complying with all prevailing regulations and directives. The instrument must only be operated in a technically flawless and reliable condition. The operator is responsible for the trouble-free operation of the instrument. When measuring aggressive or corrosive media that can cause a dangerous situation if the instrument malfunctions, the operator has to implement suitable measures to make sure the instrument is functioning properly.

During the entire duration of use, the user is obliged to determine the compliance of the necessary occupational safety measures with the current valid rules and regulations and also take note of new regulations.

The safety instructions in this operating instructions manual, the national installation standards as well as the valid safety regulations and accident prevention rules must be observed by the user.

For safety and warranty reasons, any invasive work on the device beyond that described in the operating instructions manual may be carried out only by personnel authorised by the manufacturer. Arbitrary conversions or modifications are explicitly forbidden. For safety reasons, only the accessory specified by the manufacturer must be used.

To avoid any danger, the safety approval markings and safety tips on the device must also be observed.

The low transmitting power of the radar sensor is far below the internationally approved limits. No health impairments are to be expected

with intended use. The band range of the transmission frequency can be found in chapter "*Technical data*".

2.5 EU conformity

The device fulfils the legal requirements of the applicable EU directives. By affixing the CE marking, we confirm the conformity of the instrument with these directives.

The EU conformity declaration can be found on our homepage.

2.6 Installation and operation in the USA and Canada

This information is only valid for USA and Canada. Hence the following text is only available in the English language.

Installations in the US shall comply with the relevant requirements of the National Electrical Code (ANSI/NFPA 70).

Installations in Canada shall comply with the relevant requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code

A Class 2 power supply unit has to be used for the installation in the USA and Canada.

2.7 Safety instructions for Ex areas

For Ex applications, only devices with corresponding Ex approval may be used. Observe the Ex-specific safety instructions. These are an integral part of the operating instructions and are enclosed with every device with Ex approval.

3 Product description

3.1 Configuration

Scope of delivery

The scope of delivery encompasses:

- VEGAPULS C 21 radar sensor
- Information sheet "*Documents and software*" with:
 - Instrument serial number
 - QR code with link for direct scanning
- Information sheet "*PINs and Codes*" with:
 - Bluetooth access code
- Information sheet "*Access protection*" with:
 - Bluetooth access code
 - Emergency Bluetooth unlock code
 - Emergency device code



Note:

Optional instrument features are also described in this operating instructions manual. The respective scope of delivery results from the order specification.

Scope of this operating instructions

This operating instructions manual applies to the following instrument versions:

- Hardware version from 1.0.0
- Software version from 1.0.0

Constituent parts

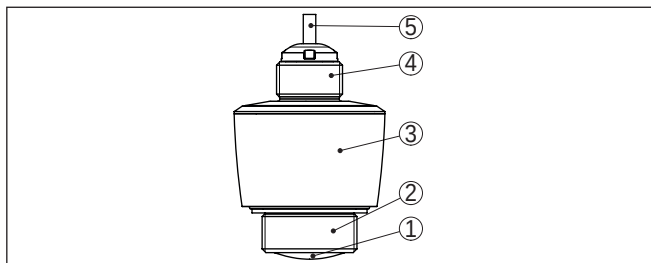


Fig. 1: Components of VEGAPULS C 21

- 1 Radar antenna
- 2 Process fitting
- 3 Electronics housing
- 4 Mounting thread
- 5 Connection cable

Type label

You can find the type label on the sensor housing as well as on the type label support on the connection cable.

The type label contains the most important data for identification and use of the instrument.

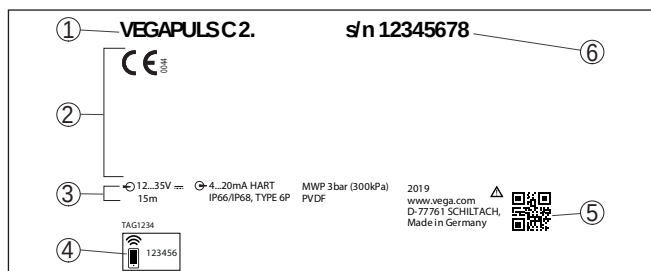


Fig. 2: Layout of the type label (example)

- 1 Instrument type
- 2 Field for approvals
- 3 Technical data
- 4 Bluetooth access code
- 5 QR code for device documentation
- 6 Serial number

Documents and software

Move to "www.vega.com" and enter in the search field the serial number of your instrument.

There you can find the following information about the instrument:

- Order data
- Documentation
- Software

Alternatively, you can find all via your smartphone:

- Scan the QR-code on the type label of the device or
- Enter serial number manually in the VEGA Tools app (available free of charge in the respective stores)

3.2 Principle of operation

Power supply and signal processing

The VEGAPULS C 21 SDI-12 can be operated on any data logger with SDI-12 interface. The sensors are powered via the +12 V cable of the three-wire connection cable. The device is therefore particularly suitable for battery-supported applications requiring low power consumption as well as applications with a signal and supply cable for several sensors.

Power supply and signal processing

The VEGAPULS C 21 SDI-12 can be operated on any data logger with SDI-12 interface. The sensors are powered via the +12 V cable of the three-wire connection cable. The device is therefore particularly suitable for battery-supported applications requiring low power consumption as well as applications with a signal and supply cable for several sensors.

Functional principle

The instrument emits a continuous, frequency-modulated radar signal through its antenna. The emitted signal is reflected by the medium and received by the antenna as an echo with modified frequency. The frequency change is proportional to the distance and is converted into the filling height.

3.3 Adjustment

Wireless adjustment

The optionally integrated Bluetooth module enables a wireless adjustment of VEGAPULS C 21 via standard adjustment devices:

- Smartphone/tablet (iOS or Android operating system)
- PC/notebook with Bluetooth USB adapter (Windows operating system)

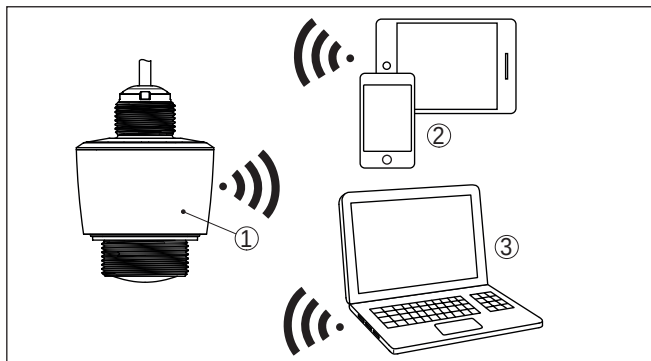


Fig. 3: Wireless connection to standard adjustment devices with integrated Bluetooth LE or alternatively Bluetooth USB adapter.

- 1 Sensor
- 2 Smartphone/Tablet
- 3 PC/Notebook

Adjustment via the signal cable

Devices with signal output SDI-12 can also be operated via the signal line. This is done via commands from the SDI-12 data logger.

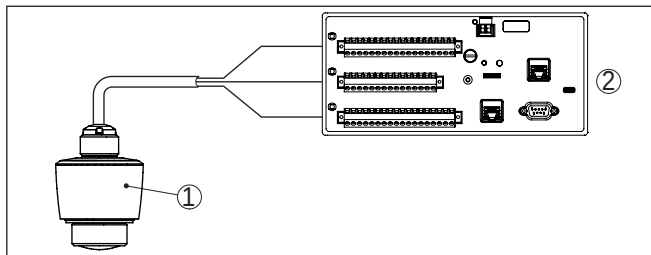


Fig. 4: Connection of VEGAPULS C 21 SDI-12 to the data logger

- 1 Sensor
- 2 Data logger

3.4 Packaging, transport and storage

Packaging

Your instrument was protected by packaging during transport. Its capacity to handle normal loads during transport is assured by a test based on ISO 4180.

The packaging consists of environment-friendly, recyclable cardboard. For special versions, PE foam or PE foil is also used. Dispose of the packaging material via specialised recycling companies.

Transport	Transport must be carried out in due consideration of the notes on the transport packaging. Nonobservance of these instructions can cause damage to the device.
Transport inspection	The delivery must be checked for completeness and possible transit damage immediately at receipt. Ascertained transit damage or concealed defects must be appropriately dealt with.
Storage	Up to the time of installation, the packages must be left closed and stored according to the orientation and storage markings on the outside. Unless otherwise indicated, the packages must be stored only under the following conditions: ● Not in the open ● Dry and dust free ● Not exposed to corrosive media ● Protected against solar radiation ● Avoiding mechanical shock and vibration
Storage and transport temperature	● Storage and transport temperature see chapter "<i>Supplement - Technical data - Ambient conditions</i>" ● Relative humidity 20 ... 85 %
3.5 Accessories	
Flanges	Screwed flanges are available in different versions according to the following standards: DIN 2501, EN 1092-1, BS 10, ASME B 16.5, JIS B 2210-1984, GOST 12821-80.
Welded sockets and adapters	Welded sockets are used to connect the sensors to the process. Threaded adapters enable simple adaptation of sensors with standard threaded fittings, e.g. to process-side hygiene connections.
Mounting accessories	The optional mounting accessories include bracket and mounting bracket and are used for stable mounting of the sensor at the measuring point. The parts are available in various versions and sizes.

4 Mounting

4.1 General instructions

Ambient conditions

The instrument is suitable for standard and extended ambient conditions acc. to DIN/EN/IEC/ANSI/ISA/UL/CSA 61010-1. It can be used indoors as well as outdoors.

Process conditions



Note:

For safety reasons, the instrument must only be operated within the permissible process conditions. You can find detailed information on the process conditions in chapter "Technical data" of the operating instructions or on the type label.

Hence make sure before mounting that all parts of the instrument exposed to the process are suitable for the existing process conditions.

These are mainly:

- Active measuring component
- Process fitting
- Process seal

Process conditions in particular are:

- Process pressure
- Process temperature
- Chemical properties of the medium
- Abrasion and mechanical influences

4.2 Mounting versions

Mounting bracket

For a rigid mounting, a mounting bracket with opening for thread G1½ is recommended. The mounting of the sensor in the bracket is carried out via a G1½ counter nut of plastic. Take note of chapter "Mounting instructions" for the recommended distance to the wall.

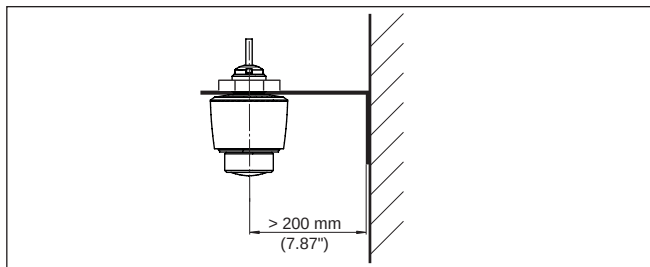


Fig. 5: Mounting via a mounting bracket

4.3 Mounting instructions

Polarisation

The emitted radar impulses of the radar sensor are electromagnetic waves. The polarisation is the direction of the electrical wave component. By turning the instrument in the mounting strap, the polarisation can be used to reduce the effects of false echoes.

The position of the polarisation is in the middle of the type label on the instrument.

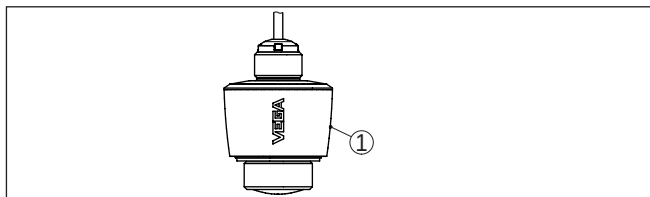


Fig. 6: Position of the polarisation

1 Middle of the type label

Installation position

Mount the sensor at a position that is at least 200 mm (7.874 in) away from a wall or structural parts (see illustrations above).

If you cannot maintain this distance, you should carry out a false signal suppression during setup. This applies particularly if buildup on the wall or structural parts is to be expected. In such cases, we recommend repeating the false signal suppression at a later date with existing buildup.

Reference plane

The antenna edge of the device is the beginning of the measuring range and at the same time the reference plane for the min./max. adjustment, see following diagram:

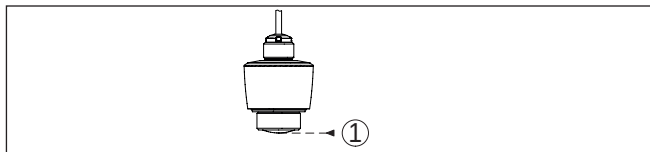


Fig. 7: Reference plane

1 Reference plane

Inflowing medium

Do not mount the instruments in or above the feed stream. Make sure that you detect the product surface, not the inflowing product.

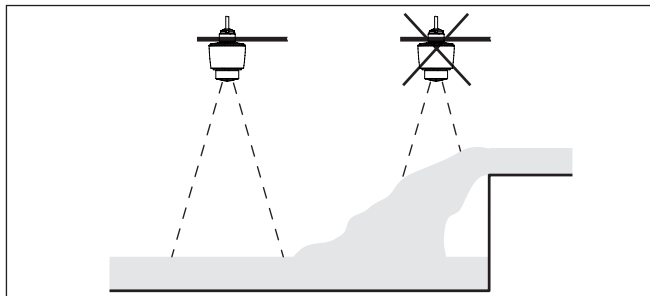


Fig. 8: Mounting of the radar sensor with inflowing medium

Sensor orientation

In liquids, direct the sensor as perpendicular as possible to the product surface to achieve optimum measurement results.

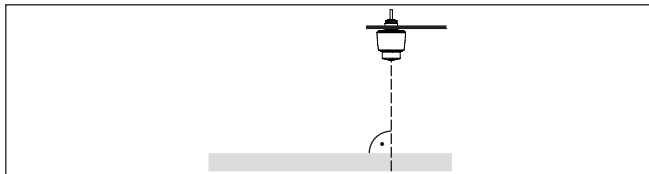


Fig. 9: Alignment in liquids

Foam generation

Through the action of filling, stirring and other processes in the vessel, compact foams which considerably damp the emitted signals may form on the product surface.

If foams lead to measurement errors, you should use the biggest possible radar antennas or sensors with guided radar.

4.4 Measurement setups - Gauge

In general, the following must be observed while mounting the sensor:

- Mounting on solid bracket or mounting bracket
- High or low water for mounting position
- Measurement on water surface as flat as possible in calm area
- Minimum distance to the max. water level

The following examples serve as an overview for gauge measurement.

River level

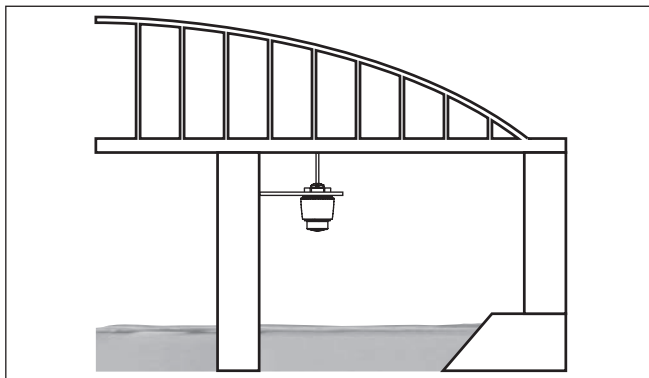


Fig. 10: Gauge measurement river, sensor mounting on bridge pier

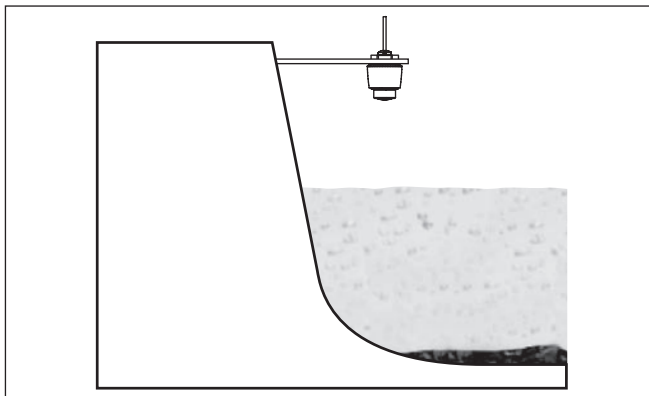
Dam gauge

Fig. 11: Gauge measurement dam, sensor mounting on bracket

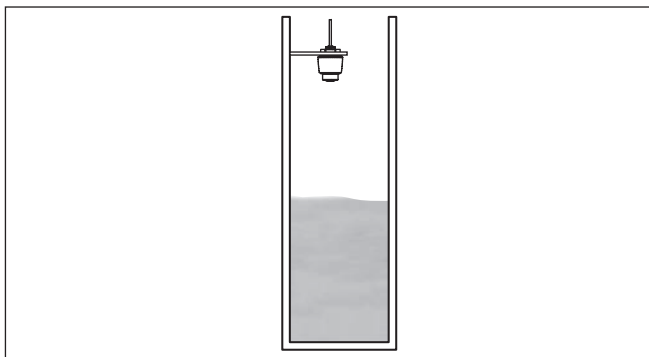
Deep well level

Fig. 12: Gauge measurement deep well, sensor mounting on lid

4.5 Measurement setup - Flow

In general, the following must be observed while mounting the sensor:

- Mounting the sensor on the upstream or inlet side
- Installation in the centre of the flume and vertical to the liquid surface
- Distance to the overfall orifice or Venturi flume
- Min. distance to the max. height of damming for optimum accuracy: 250 mm (9.843 in)¹⁾

Detailed project planning data can be found at the channel manufacturers and in the technical literature.

The following examples serve as an overview for flow measurement.

¹⁾ At smaller distances the measuring accuracy is reduced, see Technical data.

Rectangular overflow

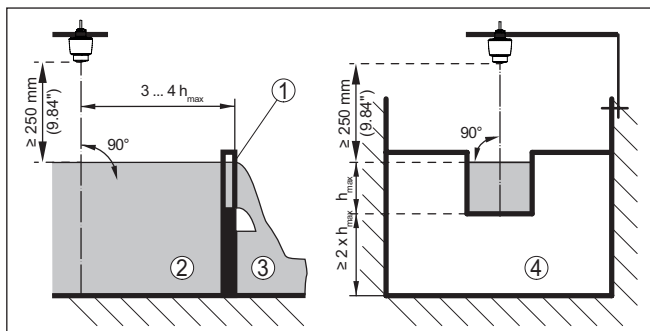


Fig. 13: Flow measurement with rectangular flume: $h_{\max.} = \text{max. filling of the rectangular flume}$

- 1 Overflow orifice (side view)
- 2 Headwater
- 3 Tailwater
- 4 Overfall orifice (view from tailwater)

Khafagi-Venturi flume

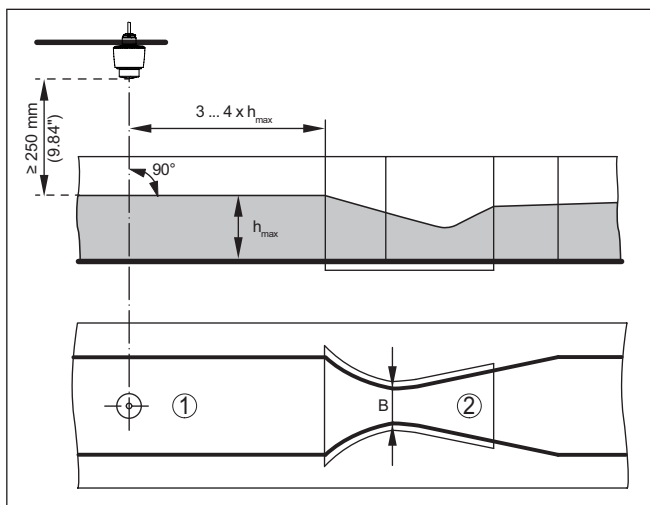


Fig. 14: Flow measurement with Khafagi-Venturi flume: $h_{\max.} = \text{max. filling of the flume}$; B = tightest constriction in the flume

- 1 Position sensor
- 2 Venturi flume

5 Connecting to power supply

5.1 Preparing the connection

Safety instructions

Always keep in mind the following safety instructions:

- Carry out electrical connection by trained, qualified personnel authorised by the plant operator
- If overvoltage surges are expected, overvoltage arresters should be installed



Warning:

Only connect or disconnect in de-energized state.

Voltage supply

The device is supplied with power via an SDI-12 datalogger.



Note:

Power the instrument via an energy-limited circuit (power max. 100 W) acc. to IEC 61010-1, e.g.

- Class 2 power supply unit (acc. to UL1310)
- SELV power supply unit (safety extra-low voltage) with suitable internal or external limitation of the output current

The data for power supply are specified in chapter "Technical data".

Connection cable

The instrument is connected with standard three-wire cable without screen. If electromagnetic interference is expected which is above the test values of EN 61326-1 for industrial areas, screened cable should be used.

Wire assignment, connection cable

5.2 Wiring plan

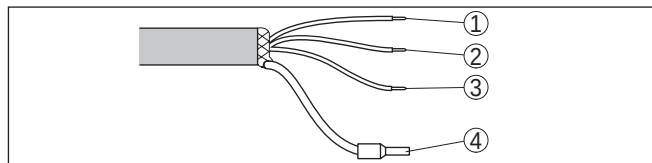


Fig. 15: Wire assignment in permanently connected connection cable

	Wire colour	Function	Polarity
1	Brown	Voltage supply	+
2	Blue	Voltage supply	-
3	White	SDI data	+
4		Shielding	

5.3 Switch-on phase

After connection to the power supply, the device carries out a self-test.

**Note:**

No SDI-12 commands are answered during this self-test

After the self-test, the standard SDI-12 communication is used.

Transmitted values take settings into account that have already been carried out, e.g. default setting.

6 Access protection

6.1 Bluetooth radio interface

Devices with a Bluetooth radio interface are protected against unwanted access from outside. This means that only authorized persons can receive measured and status values and change device settings via this interface.

Bluetooth access code

A Bluetooth access code is required to establish Bluetooth communication via the adjustment tool (smartphone/tablet/notebook). This code must be entered once when Bluetooth communication is established for the first time in the adjustment tool. It is then stored in the adjustment tool and does not have to be entered again.

The Bluetooth access code is individual for each device. It is printed on the device housing and is also supplied with the device in the information sheet "*PINs and Codes*". It can be changed by the user after the first connection has been established. If the Bluetooth access code has not been entered correctly, a new entry can only be made after a waiting period has elapsed. The waiting time increases with each additional incorrect entry.

Emergency Bluetooth unlock code

The emergency Bluetooth access code enables Bluetooth communication to be established in the event that the Bluetooth access code is no longer known. It can't be changed. The emergency Bluetooth access code can be found in information sheet "*Access protection*". If this document is lost, the emergency Bluetooth access code can be retrieved from your personal contact person after legitimation. The storage and transmission of Bluetooth access codes is always encrypted (SHA 256 algorithm).

6.2 Protection of the parameterization

The settings (parameters) of the device can be protected against unwanted changes. The parameter protection is deactivated on delivery, all settings can be made.

Device code

To protect the parameterization, the device can be locked by the user with the aid of a freely selectable device code. The settings (parameters) can then only be read out, but not changed. The device code is also stored in the adjustment tool. However, unlike the Bluetooth access code, it must be re-entered for each unlock. When using the adjustment app or DTM, the stored device code is then suggested to the user for unlocking.

Emergency device code

The emergency device code allows unlocking the device in case the device code is no longer known. It can't be changed. The emergency device code can also be found on the supplied information sheet "*Access protection*". If this document is lost, the emergency device code can be retrieved from your personal contact person after legitimation. The storage and transmission of the device codes is always encrypted (SHA 256 algorithm).

6.3 Storing the codes in myVEGA

If the user has a "myVEGA" account, then the Bluetooth access code as well as the device code are additionally stored in his account under "*PINs and Codes*". This greatly simplifies the use of additional adjustment tools, as all Bluetooth access and device codes are automatically synchronized when connected to the "myVEGA" account

7 Setup with smartphone/tablet (Bluetooth)

7.1 Preparations

System requirements

Make sure that your smartphone/tablet meets the following system requirements:

- Operating system: iOS 8 or newer
- Operating system: Android 4.3 or newer
- Bluetooth 4.0 LE or newer

Download the VEGA Tools app from the "Apple App Store", "Google Play Store" or "Baidu Store" to your smartphone or tablet.

7.2 Connecting

Connecting

Start the adjustment app and select the function "Setup". The smartphone/tablet searches automatically for Bluetooth-capable instruments in the area.

The message "Searching ..." is displayed.

The devices found are listed and the search is automatically continued.

Select the requested instrument in the device list.

Authenticate

For the first connection, the adjustment tool and the sensor must authenticate each other. After successful authentication, the next connection functions without authentication.

iOS

During the pairing process, the following message is displayed: "Pairing request (Bluetooth), e.g. 12345678 wants to pair with your iPad/iPhone". Press "Pair".

Android

The coupling passes through automatically.

Enter Bluetooth access code

For authentication, enter the 6-digit Bluetooth access code in the next menu window or scan it via the DataMatrix code. You can find the code on the outside of the device housing and on the information sheet "PINs and Codes" in the device packaging.

For the very first connection, the adjustment unit and the sensor must authenticate each other.

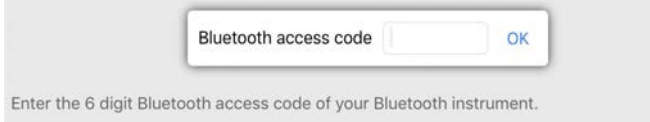


Fig. 16: Enter Bluetooth access code



Note:

If an incorrect code is entered, the code can only be entered again after a delay time. This time gets longer after each incorrect entry.

The message "Waiting for authentication" is displayed on the smartphone/tablet.

Connected

After connection, the sensor adjustment menu is displayed on the respective adjustment tool.

If the Bluetooth connection is interrupted, e.g. due to a too large distance between the two devices, this is displayed on the adjustment tool. The message disappears when the connection is restored.

Change device code

Parameter adjustment of the device is only possible if the parameter protection is deactivated. When delivered, parameter protection is deactivated by default and can be activated at any time.

It is recommended to enter a personal 6-digit device code. To do this, go to menu "Extended functions", "Access protection", menu item "Protection of the parameter adjustment".

Enter parameters

7.3 Parameter adjustment

The sensor adjustment menu is divided into two areas, which are arranged next to each other or one below the other, depending on the adjustment tool.

- Navigation section
- Menu item display

The selected menu item can be recognized by the colour change.

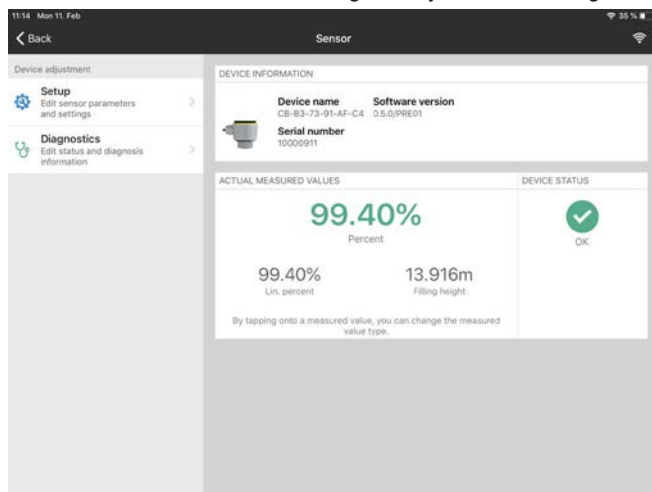


Fig. 17: Example of an app view - Setup sensor adjustment

Enter the requested parameters and confirm via the keyboard or the editing field. The settings are then active in the sensor.

Close the app to terminate connection.

8 Setup with PC/notebook (Bluetooth)

8.1 Preparations

System requirements

Make sure that your PC/notebook meets the following system requirements:

- Operating system Windows 10
- DTM Collection 12/2019 or newer
- Bluetooth 4.0 LE or newer

Activate Bluetooth connection

Activate the Bluetooth connection via the project assistant.



Note:

Older systems do not always have an integrated Bluetooth LE. In these cases, a Bluetooth USB adapter is required. Activate the Bluetooth USB adapter using the Project Wizard.

After activating the integrated Bluetooth or the Bluetooth USB adapter, devices with Bluetooth are found and created in the project tree.

8.2 Connecting

Connecting

Select the requested sensor for the online parameter adjustment in the project tree.

Authenticate

The window "Authentication" is displayed. For the first connection, the adjustment tool and the sensor must authenticate each other. After successful authentication, the next connection functions without authentication.

Enter Bluetooth access code

For authentication, enter in the next menu window the 6-digit Bluetooth access code:

Fig. 18: Enter Bluetooth access code

You can find the code on the outside of the device housing and on the information sheet "PINs and Codes" in the device packaging.



Note:

If an incorrect code is entered, the code can only be entered again after a delay time. This time gets longer after each incorrect entry.

The message "Waiting for authentication" is displayed on the PC/notebook.

Connected

After connection, the sensor DTM appears.

If the connection is interrupted, e.g. due to a too large distance between sensor and adjustment tool, this is displayed on the adjustment tool. The message disappears when the connection is restored.

Change device code

Parameter adjustment of the device is only possible if the parameter protection is deactivated. When delivered, parameter protection is deactivated by default and can be activated at any time.

It is recommended to enter a personal 6-digit device code. To do this, go to menu "Extended functions", "Access protection", menu item "Protection of the parameter adjustment".

8.3 Parameter adjustment

Prerequisites

For parameter adjustment of the instrument via a Windows PC, the configuration software PACTware and a suitable instrument driver (DTM) according to FDT standard are required. The latest PACTware version as well as all available DTMs are compiled in a DTM Collection. The DTMs can also be integrated into other frame applications according to FDT standard.

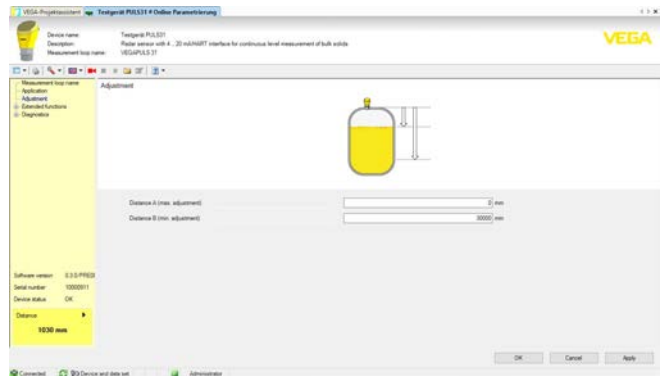


Fig. 19: Example of a DTM view - Setup, sensor adjustment

9 Menu overview

Main menu

Menu item	Selection	Basic settings
Measurement loop name	Alphanumeric characters	Sensor
Application liquid	Storage tank, agitator tank, dosing tank, pumping station/pump shaft, rain overflow basin, tank/collection basin, plastic tank (measurement through tank top), mobile plastic tank (IBC), level measurement in waters, flow measurement flume/overflow, demonstration	Storage tank
Application bulk solid	Silo (slim and high), bunker (large volume), stockpile (point measurement/profile detection), crusher, demonstration	Silo (slender and high)
Units	Distance unit of the device Temperature unit of the instrument	Distance in m Temperature in °C
Adjustment	Max. adjustment (distance A) Min. adjustment (distance B)	Max. adjustment 15,000 m Min. adjustment 0,000 m

Extended functions

Menu item	Selection	Basic settings
Damping	Integration time	0 s
Linearisation	Linearisation type	Linear
Scaling	Scaling size Scaling unit Scaling format	0 % correspond to 0 l 100 % correspond to 100 l
Display	Menu language Displayed value Backlight	- Filling height On
Access protection	Bluetooth access code	-
	Protection of the parameterization	Deactivated
False signal suppression	False signal suppression	0 m
	Sounded distance to the medium	0 m
Reset	Delivery status, basic settings	-

Diagnostics

Menu item	Selection	Basic settings
Status	Sensor status Measured value status Status output Status additional measured values	-
Echo curve	Indication of echo curve	-
Peak value indicator	Pointer function distance, measurement reliability, meas. rate, electronic temperature	-
Measured values	Measured values Additional measured values Outputs	-
Sensor information	Device name, serial number, hardware/software version, device revision, factory calibration date	-
Sensor characteristics	Sensor features from order text	-
Simulation	Measured value Simulation value	-
Measured value memory (DTM)	Indication measured value memory from DTM	

10 Diagnostics and servicing

10.1 Maintenance

Maintenance

If the device is used properly, no special maintenance is required in normal operation.

Precaution measures against buildup

In some applications, buildup on the antenna system can influence the measuring result. Depending on the sensor and application, take measures to avoid heavy soiling of the antenna system. If necessary, clean the antenna system in certain intervals.

Cleaning

The cleaning helps that the type label and markings on the instrument are visible.

Take note of the following:

- Use only cleaning agents which do not corrode the housings, type label and seals
- Use only cleaning methods corresponding to the housing protection rating

10.2 Rectify faults

Reaction when malfunction occurs

The operator of the system is responsible for taking suitable measures to rectify faults.

Causes of malfunction

The device offers maximum reliability. Nevertheless, faults can occur during operation. These may be caused by the following, e.g.:

- Sensor
- Process
- Voltage supply
- Signal processing

Fault rectification

The first measures are:

- Evaluation of fault messages
- Checking the output signal
- Treatment of measurement errors

A smartphone/tablet with the adjustment app or a PC/notebook with the software PACTware and the suitable DTM offer you further comprehensive diagnostic possibilities. In many cases, the causes can be determined in this way and the faults eliminated.

Reaction after fault rectification

Depending on the reason for the fault and the measures taken, the steps described in chapter "Setup" must be carried out again or must be checked for plausibility and completeness.

24 hour service hotline

Should these measures not be successful, please call in urgent cases the VEGA service hotline under the phone no. **+49 1805 858550**.

The hotline is also available outside normal working hours, seven days a week around the clock.

Since we offer this service worldwide, the support is provided in English. The service itself is free of charge, the only costs involved are the normal call charges.

10.3 Status messages according to NE 107

The instrument features self-monitoring and diagnostics according to NE 107 and VDI/VDE 2650. In addition to the status messages in the following tables there are more detailed error messages available under the menu item "Diagnostics" via the respective adjustment module.

Status messages

The status messages are divided into the following categories:

- Failure
- Function check
- Out of specification
- Maintenance requirement

and explained by pictographs:

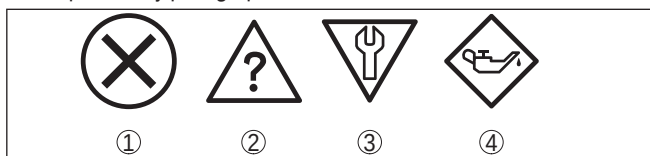


Fig. 20: Pictographs of the status messages

- 1 Failure - red
- 2 Out of specification - yellow
- 3 Function check - orange
- 4 Maintenance - blue

Failure: Due to a malfunction in the instrument, a fault message is output.

This status message is always active. It cannot be deactivated by the user.

Function check: The instrument is being worked on, the measured value is temporarily invalid (for example during simulation).

This status message is inactive by default.

Out of specification: The measured value is unreliable because an instrument specification was exceeded (e.g. electronics temperature).

This status message is inactive by default.

Maintenance: Due to external influences, the instrument function is limited. The measurement is affected, but the measured value is still valid. Plan in maintenance for the instrument because a failure is expected in the near future (e.g. due to buildup).

This status message is inactive by default.

Failure

Code Text message	Cause	Rectification
F013 no measured value available	No measured value in the switch-on phase or during operation	Check or correct installation and/or parameter settings Clean the antenna system
F017 Adjustment span too small	Adjustment not within specification	Change adjustment according to the limit values (difference between min. and max. ≥ 10 mm)
F025 Error in the linearization table	Index markers are not continuously rising, for example illogical value pairs	Check linearisation table Delete table/Create new
F036 No operable software	Checksum error if software update failed or aborted	Repeat software update Send instrument for repair
F040 Error in the electronics	Limit value exceeded in signal processing Hardware error	Restart instrument Send instrument for repair
F080 General software error	General software error	Restart instrument
F105 Determine measured value	The instrument is still in the start phase, the measured value could not yet be determined	Wait for the end of the switch-on phase Duration up to 3 minutes depending on the measurement environment and parameter settings
F260 Error in the calibration	Checksum error in the calibration values Error in the EEPROM	Send instrument for repair
F261 Error in the instrument settings	Error during setup False signal suppression faulty Error when carrying out a reset	Repeat setup Carry out a reset
F265 Measurement function disturbed	Program sequence of the measuring function disturbed	Device restarts automatically

Function check

Code Text message	Cause	Rectification
C700 Simulation active	A simulation is active	Finish simulation Wait for the automatic end after 60 mins.

Out of specification

Code Text message	Cause	Rectification
S600 Impermissible electronics temperature	Temperature of the electronics in the non-specified range	Check ambient temperature Insulate electronics

Code Text message	Cause	Rectification
S601 Overfilling	Danger of vessel overfilling	Make sure that there is no further filling Check level in the vessel
S603 Impermissible operating voltage	Terminal voltage too small	Check terminal voltage, increase operating voltage

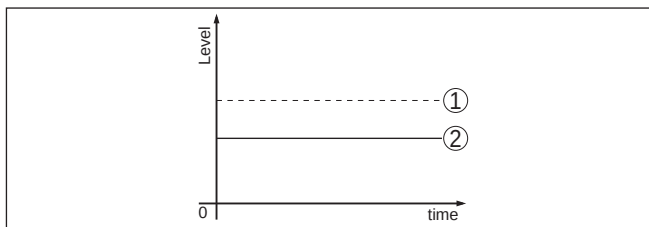
Maintenance

Code Text message	Cause	Rectification
M500 Error in the delivery status		
M501 Error in the delivery status		
M504 Error at a device interface	Hardware defect	Check connections Exchanging the electronics Send instrument for repair
M505 No echo available	Sensor does not detect an echo during operation Antenna dirty or defective	Clean the antenna Use a more suitable antenna/sensor Remove possible false echoes Optimize sensor position and orientation
M507 Error in the instrument settings	Error during setup Error when carrying out a reset False signal suppression faulty	Carry out reset and repeat setup
M508 Data error in program memory Bluetooth controller		
M509 Software update		
M510 No communication with the sensor		

10.4 Treatment of measurement errors

The tables below give typical examples of application-related measurement errors.

The images in column "*Error description*" show the actual level as a dashed line and the output level as a solid line.



1 Real level

2 Level displayed by the sensor

**Note:**

If the output level is constant, the cause could also be the fault setting of the current output to "Hold value".

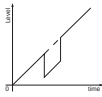
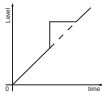
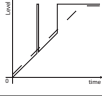
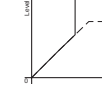
If the level is too low, the reason could be a line resistance that is too high

Liquids: Measurement error at constant level

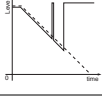
Fault description	Cause	Rectification
Measured value shows a too low or too high level 	Min./max. adjustment not correct	Adapt min./max. adjustment
	Incorrect linearisation curve	Adapt linearisation curve
Measured value jumps towards 100 % 	Due to the process, the amplitude of the level echo sinks A false signal suppression was not carried out	Carry out a false signal suppression
	Amplitude or position of a false signal has changed (e.g. condensation, build-up); false signal suppression no longer matches actual conditions	Determine the reason for the changed false signals, carry out false signal suppression, e.g. with condensation.

Liquids: Measurement error during filling

Fault description	Cause	Rectification
Measured value remains unchanged during filling 	False signals in the close range too big or level echo too small Strong foam or spout generation Max. adjustment not correct	Eliminate false signals in the close range Check measuring point: Antenna should protrude out of the threaded mounting socket, possible false echoes through flange socket? Remove contamination on the antenna In case of interferences due to installations in the close range, change polarisation direction Create a new false signal suppression Adapt max. adjustment

Fault description	Cause	Rectification
Measured value jumps towards 0 % during filling 	The level echo cannot be distinguished from the false signal at a false signal position (jumps to multiple echo)	In case of interferences due to installations in the close range: Change polarisation direction Chose a more suitable installation position
Measured value jumps towards 100 % during filling 	Due to strong turbulence and foam generation during filling, the amplitude of the level echo sinks. Measured value jumps to false signal	Carry out a false signal suppression
Measured value jumps sporadically to 100 % during filling 	Varying condensation or contamination on the antenna	Carry out a false signal suppression or increase false signal suppression with condensation/contamination in the close range by editing
Measured value jumps to ≥ 100 % or 0 m distance 	Level echo is no longer detected in the close range due to foam generation or false signals in the close range. The sensor goes into overfill protection mode. The max. level (0 m distance) as well as the status message "Overfill protection" are output.	Check measuring point: Antenna should protrude out of the threaded mounting socket, possible false echoes through flange socket? Remove contamination on the antenna

Liquids: Measurement error during emptying

Fault description	Cause	Rectification
Measured value remains unchanged in the close range during emptying 	False signal larger than the level echo Level echo too small	Check measuring point: Antenna should protrude out of the threaded mounting socket, possible false echoes through flange socket? Remove contamination on the antenna In case of interferences due to installations in the close range: Change polarisation direction After eliminating the false signals, the false signal suppression must be deleted. Carry out a new false signal suppression
Measured value jumps sporadically towards 100 % during emptying 	Varying condensation or contamination on the antenna	Carry out false signal suppression or increase false signal suppression in the close range by editing With bulk solids, use radar sensor with purging air connection

10.5 Software update

The device software is updated via Bluetooth.

The following components are required:

- Instrument
- Voltage supply
- PC/notebook with PACTware/DTM and Bluetooth USB adapter
- Current instrument software as file

You can find the current instrument software as well as detailed information on the procedure in the download area of our homepage.



Caution:

Instruments with approvals can be bound to certain software versions. Therefore make sure that the approval is still effective after a software update is carried out.

You can find detailed information in the download area on our homepage.

10.6 How to proceed if a repair is necessary

You can find an instrument return form as well as detailed information about the procedure in the download area of our homepage. By doing this you help us carry out the repair quickly and without having to call back for needed information.

In case of repair, proceed as follows:

- Print and fill out one form per instrument
- Clean the instrument and pack it damage-proof
- Attach the completed form and, if need be, also a safety data sheet outside on the packaging
- Ask the agency serving you to get the address for the return shipment. You can find the agency on our homepage.

11 Dismount

11.1 Dismounting steps

**Warning:**

Before dismantling, be aware of dangerous process conditions such as e.g. pressure in the vessel or pipeline, high temperatures, corrosive or toxic media etc.

Take note of chapters "*Mounting*" and "*Connecting to voltage supply*" and carry out the listed steps in reverse order.

11.2 Disposal

The device is made of recyclable materials. For this reason, it should be disposed of by a specialist recycling company. Observe the applicable national regulations.

12 Certificates and approvals

12.1 Environmental instructions

Objective and measures

Protection of the environment is one of our most important duties. That is why we have introduced an environment management system with the goal of continuously improving company environmental protection. The environment management system is certified according to DIN EN ISO 14001.

Please help us fulfil this obligation by observing the environmental instructions in this manual:

- Chapter "*Packaging, transport and storage*"
- Chapter "*Disposal*"

13 Supplement

13.1 Technical data

Note for approved instruments

The technical data in the respective safety instructions which are included in delivery are valid for approved instruments (e.g. with Ex approval). These data can differ from the data listed herein, for example regarding the process conditions or the voltage supply.

All approval documents can be downloaded from our homepage.

Materials and weights

Materials, wetted parts

– Antenna, process fitting	PVDF
– Counter nut (depending on device version)	PP
– Process seal	FKM

Materials, non-wetted parts

– Housing	PVDF
– Cable entry seal	NBR
– Connection cable	PUR

Weight

– Instrument	0.7 kg (1.543 lbs)
– Connection cable	0.1 kg/m

Process fitting Thread G1½, R1½, 1½ NPT

Mounting connection Thread G1, R1, 1 NPT

Torques

Torque counter nut max.	7 Nm (5.163 lbf ft)
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Input variable

Measured variable	The measured variable is the distance between the antenna edge of the sensor and the product surface. The antenna edge is also the reference plane for the measurement.
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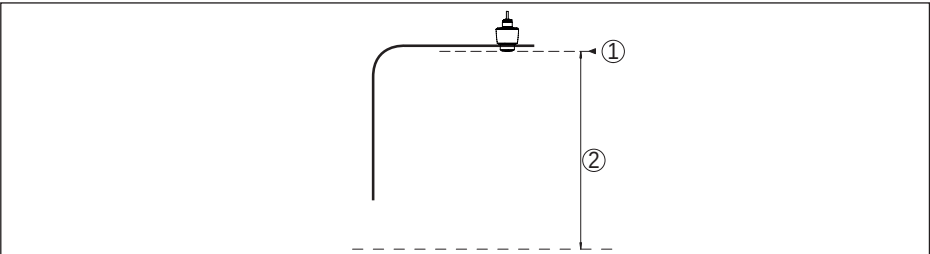


Fig. 21: Data of the input variable

- 1 Reference plane
- 2 Measured variable, max. measuring range

Max. measuring range ²⁾	15 m (49.21 ft)
Recommended measuring range ³⁾	up to 10 m (32.81 ft)

Switch-on phase

Start-up time with operating voltage U_b < 10 s

Output variable

Output signal	SDI-12 (only digital)
Transmission rate	1200 bit/s
Resolution, digital	1 mm (0.039 in)
Data signal	
– Logical 1	0 V
– Logical 0	5 V
Protocol	SDI-12: 7 data bits, 1 stop bit, even parity
Output voltage	
– Minimum logical 0	3.5 V
– Maximum logical 1	0.8 V

Deviation (according to DIN EN 60770-1)

Process reference conditions according to DIN EN 61298-1

- Temperature +18 ... +30 °C (+64 ... +86 °F)
- Relative humidity 45 ... 75 %
- Air pressure 860 ... 1060 mbar/86 ... 106 kPa (12.5 ... 15.4 psig)

Installation reference conditions

- Distance to installations > 200 mm (7.874 in)
- Reflector Flat plate reflector
- False reflections Biggest false signal, 20 dB smaller than the useful signal

Deviation with liquids ≤ 2 mm (meas. distance > 0.25 m/0.8202 ft)

Non-repeatability⁴⁾ ≤ 2 mm

Deviation with bulk solids The values depend to a great extent on the application.
Binding specifications are thus not possible.

²⁾ Depending on application and medium

³⁾ With bulk solids

⁴⁾ Already included in the meas. deviation

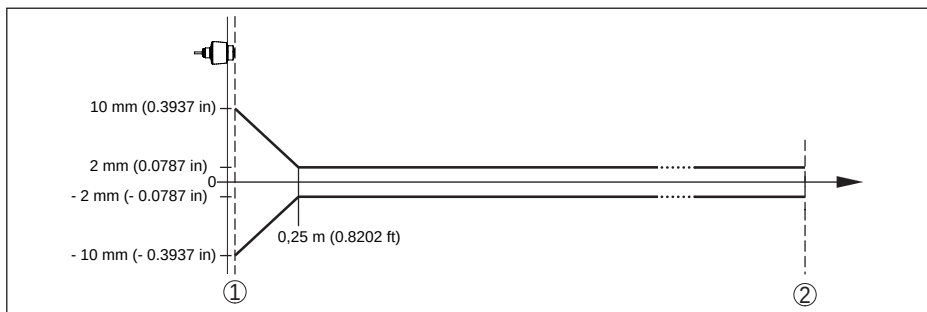


Fig. 22: Deviation under reference conditions

1 Antenna edge, reference plane

2 Recommended measuring range

Variables influencing measurement accuracy

Temperature drift - Digital output < 3 mm/10 K, max. 10 mm

Additional deviation through electromagnetic interference acc. to EN 61326 < 50 mm

Characteristics and performance data

Measuring frequency W-band (80 GHz technology)

Measuring cycle time ≤ 250 ms

Step response time⁵⁾ ≤ 3 s

Beam angle⁶⁾ 8°

Emitted HF power (depending on the parameter setting)⁷⁾

– Average spectral transmission power density -3 dBm/MHz EIRP

– Max. spectral transmission power density +34 dBm/50 MHz EIRP

– Max. power density at a distance of 1 m < 3 μW/cm²

Ambient conditions

Ambient temperature -40 ... +80 °C (-40 ... +176 °F)

Storage and transport temperature -40 ... +80 °C (-40 ... +176 °F)

Mechanical environmental conditions

Sinusoidal vibrations Class 4M8 acc. to IEC 60271-3-4

Impacts 50 g, 2.3 ms acc. to IEC 60271-3-6 (mechanical shock)

Impact resistance IK07 acc. to IEC 62262

⁵⁾ Time span after a sudden distance change from 1 m to 5 m until the output signal reaches 90 % of the final value for the first time (IEC 61298-2). Valid with operating voltage $U_b \geq 24$ V DC.

⁶⁾ Outside the specified beam angle, the energy level of the radar signal is 50% (-3 dB) less.

⁷⁾ EIRP: Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power

Process conditions

For the process conditions, please also note the specifications on the type label. The lowest value (amount) always applies.

Process temperature	-40 ... +80 °C (-40 ... +176 °F)
Process pressure	-1 ... 3 bar (-100 ... 200 kPa/-14.5 ... 43.51 psig)

Electromechanical data

Cable entry	Fixed connection
Connection cable	
– Configuration	Wires, screen braiding, sheathing
– Wire cross-section	0.5 mm ² (AWG 20)
– Min. bending radius (at 25 °C/77 °F)	25 mm (0.984 in)
– Diameter	approx. 6 mm (0.236 in)
– Wire isolating and cable cover	PUR
– Colour	Black
– Colour - Ex i version	Blue
– Flame retardant according to	IEC 60332-1-2, UL 1581 (Flametest VW-1)

Bluetooth interface

Bluetooth standard	Bluetooth 5.0 (downward compatible to Bluetooth 4.0 LE)
Frequency	2402 ... 2480 GHz
emitted power max.	+4dBm
Max. number of participants	1
Max. effective range ⁸⁾	25 m (82 ft)

Voltage supply

Operating voltage U_B	8 ... 30 V DC
Power consumption max. ⁹⁾	
– Low power mode	24 mW
– Standard mode	96 mW
Reverse voltage protection	Integrated
Permissible residual ripple	
– for 12 V < U_B < 18 V	$\leq 0.7 V_{eff}$ (16 ... 400 Hz)
– for 18 V < U_B < 35 V	$\leq 1 V_{eff}$ (16 ... 400 Hz)

Electrical protective measures

Potential separation	Electronics potential free up to 500 V AC
Protection rating	IP66/IP68 (3 bar) acc. to IEC 60529, Type 4P acc. to UL 50
Altitude above sea level	5000 m (16404 ft)

⁸⁾ Depending on the local conditions

⁹⁾ Corresponds with $U_B = 12 V$: 2 mA or 8 mA

Protection class	III
Pollution degree	4

13.2 Basics SDI-12

Bus description

SDI-12 (1200 bits/sec serial digital interface) is an asynchronous serial communication protocol for intelligent environmental data acquisition sensors. These sensors typically have a low voltage requirement (12 V DC), are used at remote measuring points and communicate with data loggers or other measurement data acquisition systems. The protocol takes into account a master/slave configuration where the master (SDI-12 data logger) requests measurement data from the intelligent sensors (SDI-12 sensors) with a defined address. The electrical connection is made via a three-core cable for supply and data transmission. The data are transmitted asynchronously as ASCII characters as 5 V levels similar to RS 232.

Bus architecture and communication process

At least 10 participants can be connected to an SDI-12 bus with a respective cable length of 60 m. Longer cable lengths are also possible with fewer bus participants. The SDI-12 standard allows a sleep mode at the sensor with minimal power consumption, which is interrupted by a signal from the master. To identify the sensor, each command from the master contains the address of the addressed sensor as the first character. Sensors that are not addressed ignore the command and return to sleep mode.

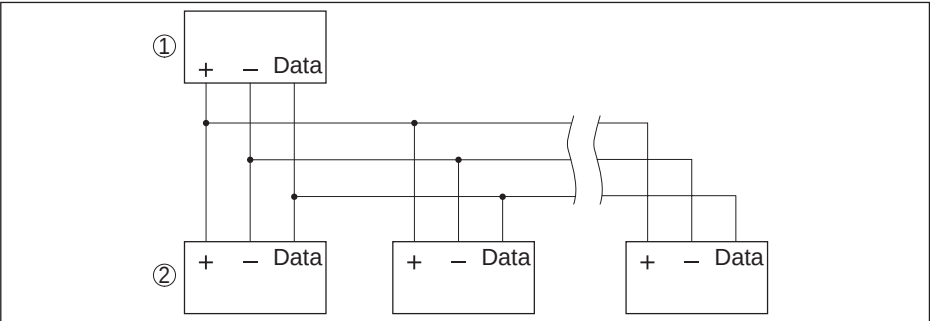


Fig. 23: Bus architecture SDI-12

- 1 SD-12-Master
- 2 Bus participant

Basic Commands

Command	Response	Description
Break	-	A data recorder starts a request by transmitting a break
a!	a<CR><LF>	Acknowledge Active
al!	aiiccccccmmmmmmvvvx.. xx<CR><LF>	Send Identification
aAb!	b<CR><LF>	Change Address

Command	Response	Description
?!	b<CR><LF>	Address Query
aM!	atttn<CR><LF>	Start Measurement
aMC!	atttn<CR><LF>	Start Measurement and Request CRC
aM1! ... aM9!	atttn<CR><LF>	Additional Measurements
aMC1! ... aMC9!	atttn<CR><LF>	Additional Measurements and Request CRC
aC!	atttn<CR><LF>	Start Concurrent Measurement
aCC!	atttn<CR><LF>	Start Concurrent Measurement and Request CRC
aC1! ... aC9!	atttn<CR><LF>	Additional Concurrent Measurements
aCC1! ... aCC9!	atttn<CR><LF>	Additional Concurrent Measurements and Request CRC
aR0! ... aR9!	a<values><CR><LF>	Continuous Measurements
aRC0! ... aRC9!	a<values><CRC><CR><LF>	Continuous Measurements and Request CRC
aD0! ... aD9!	a<values><CR><LF> or a<values><CRC><CR><LF>	Send Data (M*, C*, V)
aV!	atttn<CR><LF>	Start Verification

Extended Commands

Command	Response	Description
Break	-	A data recorder starts a request by transmitting a break
aXRPOM!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Read Power Operation Mode
aXWPOM<value>!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Write Power Operation Mode
aXRDU!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Read distance unit
aXWDU<value>!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Write distance unit
aXRTU!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Read temperature unit
aXWTU<value>!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Write temperature unit
aXRSR!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Read stage reference
aXRSR<value>!	a<value1><value2><CR><LF>	Write stage reference

Device-Status¹⁰⁾

Failure

Code	Description
F013	No measured value available
F017	Adjusted span too small
F025	Error in the linearization table
F036	No executable software

¹⁰⁾ Value 4 with aD0!, aR0!, aRC0!, value 2 with aD0! behind aV!

Code	Description
F040	Error in the electronics
F080	General software error
F105	Measured value is determined
F260	Error in the calibration
F261	Error in the device setting
F264	Installation/setup error
F265	Measurement function

Maintenance

Code	Description
M500	Error in the delivery status
M501	Error in the non-active linearization table
M504	Error on an device interface
M505	No measured value available
M507	Error in the device setting
M508	Non executable Bluetooth software
M509	Software update running
M510	No communication with the main controller
M511	Inconsistent software configuration

Out of spec

Code	Description
S600	Impermissible electronics temperature
S601	Overfilling
S603	Impermissible power supply

Function check

Code	Description
C700	Simulation active

VVO-Status¹¹⁾

Code	Description
0	NO_ERROR
128	EXECUTION_ERROR

¹¹⁾ Value 2 with aXWPOM<value>!, aXWDU<value1>!, aXWTU<value>!, aXWSR<value1>!, value 1 with aX-WAPPL!, aXWAPEC<value>!

Code	Description
129	ACTION_NOT_IMPLEMENTED
132	INVALID_SELECTION
133	INVALID_DATA_LENGTH
134	VALUE_TOO_LARGE
134	VALUE_TOO_SMALL
136	INVALID_DATA
138	TELEGRAM_TOO_LARGE
142	DATA_NOT_AVAILABLE
143	DEVICE_BUSY
144	WRITE_PROTECTED
149	READ_ONLY
150	NOT_AUTHENTICATED

13.3 Dimensions

VEGAPULS C 21

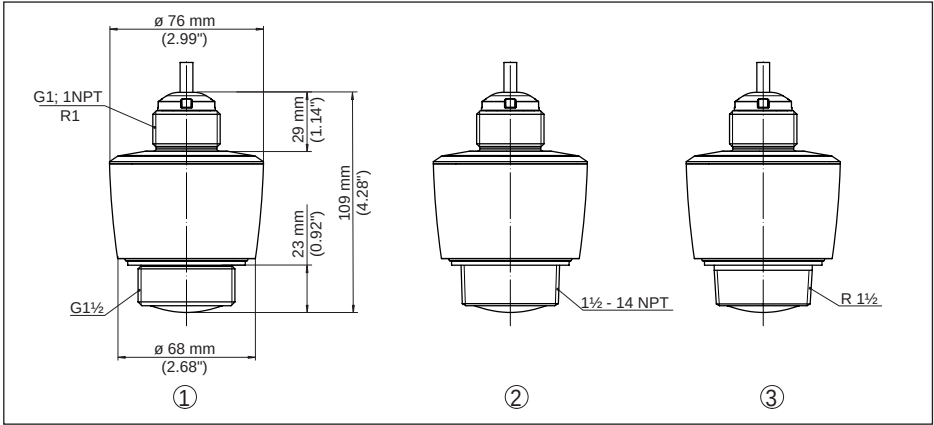


Fig. 24: Dimensions VEGAPULS C 21

- 1 Thread G1½
- 2 Thread 1½ NPT
- 3 Thread R1½

13.4 Industrial property rights

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13.6 Trademark

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Printing date:

VEGA

All statements concerning scope of delivery, application, practical use and operating conditions of the sensors and processing systems correspond to the information available at the time of printing.

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