



# MiniMet AWS Self Maintenance Schedule

Thank you for purchasing a Skye Instruments Weather Station. Below is a short guide for keeping your station in fully operational condition.

## Every Month

- The DataHog2 is fitted with 6 'C' cell batteries that provide up to 9V of power. We recommend batteries are replaced when they get below 6.5V. This can be checked in the DataHog2 menu (option 1, sub-menu 5) through our software SkyeLynxComms. We also recommend checking all sensors and blanking caps on the datalogger are secure, but do not over tighten.
- Check the Raingauge for any blockages, inspecting the funnel and filter for any damage. This is especially important during the months where surrounding vegetation lose their leaves. To remove the filter for cleaning, remove the cap from the filter tube and remove the material carefully. Once cleaned, roll up the material and place back into the tube, ensuring the cap is securely back in place.
- Inspect any light sensor heads for dust, detritus or animal waste. Wipe off using a damp cloth taking care not to scratch the surface. Cleaning products containing solvents may cause damage to your sensor.
- Briefly check the solar panel (if you have one) for similar dirt, removing with a damp cloth if necessary.
- Assess the level of water within the Tensiometer shaft, if the device appears to be low, a top up may be required. To do this, either remove the Septum Topper or for Electronic Tensiometers unscrew the top up screw. Skye Tensiometers must be filled with degassed deionised water to ensure efficient functionality. A syringe and filling tube will have been supplied with the station.

## Every 3 Months

- Inspect the 9V/12V battery if you have a GPRS system, checking all connections are secure and the battery is holding its charge. This can be achieved by checking the battery charge indicator inside the GPRS housing. This is in the lower half of the housing and comprises of several LED lights, beneath which is the small black button that, when pressed, shows battery voltage.
- Check all guylines and pegs are tight, these can be increased slightly by lifting the collar up the pole and re tightening.
- Ensure all levelling plates are level. Adjustments can be made using the wingnuts on the light sensor levelling mounts.
- Inspect all aspects of the station are clean and free of dust and debris.

## Annually

- Refer to sensor calibration certificates to check if any require calibration. If so, please get in touch with Skye to arrange an Annual Weather Station Service.
- Check the stiffness of the raingauge pivoting arm to see it is still reading accurately. Please note; this is best tested when the raingauge is disconnected from the DataHog2 to avoid erroneous readings. The easiest way to test this involves balancing the bucket in its central position. This should be near on impossible to achieve on a fully functional raingauge, however, if the bucket sticks, examine the bucket and pivot pin closely for any wear or dirt.

**Please note:** During summer months the surrounding vegetation may grow close to the station and could overshadow light sensors, block or increase water access to the raingauge or become entangled in the station itself.