Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge Models 6011-A 6011-B



User's Manual



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1 General Information

Introduction

The Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge is a precision sensor used to measure rainfall volume and/or rate. Rain enters the gauge through a machined orifice and fills one of two buckets located inside the gauge. Each tip of the bucket represents 0.01 inches (0.25 mm) of rainfall with the Model 6011-A, while Model 6011-B accommodates 0.1 mm

of rainfall per tip. As the bucket tips, a reed switch makes a momentary closure, registering the tip.

Corrosion-resistant materials are used in construction of this instrument, and all external openings are protected from insects and foreign material by mesh screens.

2 Installation

2.1

General

This instrument is thoroughly tested and fully calibrated at the factory and is ready for installation.

Rain gauges used at AWOS installations can be mounted to a pad or to the sensor

2.2

Siting

Two prime considerations must be evaluated when locating an installation site for this rain gauge. The gauge must be mounted level and the gauge must be adequately protected from high winds. Errors of more than 5% can occur if not protected from the wind, due to rainfall blowing over the lip of the orifice.

Consider the height of surrounding obstacles. Install the rain gauge at a distance away from the obstacles two to four times the obstacle's height. Although the obstacle makes an ideal wind shield, it may block the normal rainfall path into the gauge or rainfall may blow off the obstacle and into the gauge.

2.3

Standard Installation

The rain gauge is normally mounted to a poured concrete pad with embedded mounting bolts. To mount the rain gauge to a pad:

- 1 Pour a 2 ft. x 2 ft. level concrete foundation about 4 inches deep.
- 2 Embed three 1/4" or 3/8" diameter bolts so that they protrude outward from the foundation, spaced to fit the three feet on the gauge.

If strong winds are common at the site, the model 6410 Wind Screen is recommended. Mount the wind screen as described in its accompanying manual.

Remove the collection funnel and check the bubble level on the base assembly before bolting the gauge to the foundation or tower mount. If the bubble is not centered, add washers between the base and the base assembly's feet in such a way that the bubble is centered **exactly** when the bolts are tightened. **This is of critical importance to the accuracy of the gauge.**

Connect the input of the recording device to the two binding posts that terminate the reed switch.

Replace the collection funnel and secure the two side screws.

2.4

AWOS Installation

To mount the sensor to a pad, construct the pad using a Ready-Form tube, rebar,

tower.

the pad using a Ready-Form tube, rebar, and foundation bolts as shown in **Figure 2-1**, then proceed as follows:

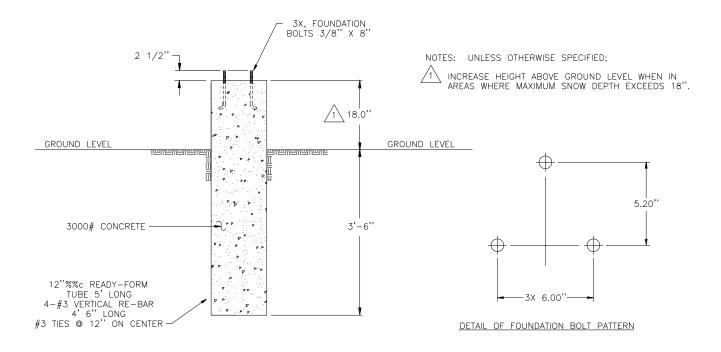
Remove the collection funnel and check the bubble level on the base assembly before bolting the gauge to the foundation or tower mount. If the bubble is not centered, add washers between the base and the base assembly's feet in such a way that the bubble is centered **exactly** when the bolts are tightened. **This is of critical importance to the accuracy of the gauge.**

Connect the input of the recording device to the two binding posts that terminate the reed switch.

Replace the collection funnel and secure the two side screws.

2.4.1

AWOS Pad Installation



(Figure 2-1) AWOS rain gauge pad construction.

2.4.2

AWOS Tower Installation

Using the M488169-01 tower mounting kit, the sensor mounts to a horizontal boom attached to the tower approximately 7' above the ground. To mount the rain gauge to a tower, refer to Drawing No. M488169-01-007 at the back of this manual, then proceed as follows:

Remove the collection funnel and check the bubble level on the base assembly before bolting the gauge to the foundation or tower mount. If the bubble is not

Connect a two-conductor cable between the two terminal posts on the gauge and the event accumulating device.

Be sure to remove any packing material and the bucket retaining clips from the instrument. centered, add washers between the base and the base assembly's feet in such a way that the bubble is centered **exactly** when the bolts are tightened. **This is of critical importance to the accuracy of the gauge.**

Connect the input of the recording device to the two binding posts that terminate the reed switch.

Replace the collection funnel and secure the two side screws.

Verify correct calibration before reinstalling the outer housing.

2.5

Connection

3 Theory of Operation

3.1

Operation

The rain gauge's eight inch diameter orifice was chosen as a compromise between two conflicting elements — the increased accuracy of a large sampling area, and the practical benefits of a small tipping bucket mechanism.

Precipitation is collected by the large funnel at the gauge orifice, which helps prevent evaporation inside the instrument. The collected precipitation is then channeled to the small funnel inside the instrument and directed to one of two tipping buckets. When one bucket fills, its weight tips the next bucket into position and the first empties. At the same time, a 100 millisecond momentary contact closure increments an event accumulating device. The measured water is

drained out the bottom of the instrument. A tank can be designed, if needed, to catch the water draining out of the instrument for further evaluation.

In AWOS systems, the rain gauge is used to correct visibility measurements when precipitation is present. When precipitation is falling, visibility measurements register a value less than the actual visibility. The degree to which the visibility value is affected depends on the intensity of the precipitation. To correct for this, the AWOS interprets the rain gauge data and corrects the visibility value with one of several correction factors corresponding to the intensity of the precipitation.

4 Calibration

4.1

Calibration Requirements

This instrument was calibrated before leaving the factory and should not require any further calibration unless maintenance is performed on the instrument. For Model 6011-A, 8.683 milliliters of water is equivalent to 0.01" of rainfall and 8.493 milliliters of water is equivalent to 0.25 mm of rainfall. For Model 6011-B, 3.418 milliliters of water equals 0.1 mm of rainfall.

4.2 Calibration

To calibrate the tipping bucket rain gauge, follow the steps below:

- Remove the two screws at the base of the gauge and remove the outer cover. Be sure the gauge remains level. Use the built-in bull's eye level as an indicator.
- 2 Devise a water source with a uniform flow rate of approximately 400 milliliters per hour. Direct this flow onto the wall of the small funnel.
- 3 Set up a counting device, such as an event recorder or solenoid counter, to count the number of tips of the bucket assembly, or count the tips yourself.
- After the gauge has tipped several times and the buckets are wet, collect the water in two containers (one beneath each drain tube). Carefully insert the collection containers between tips and allow at least 10 tips of each bucket (20 counts on the recorder).
- (5) Remove the containers between tips after an even number of tips.
- **(6)** Measure the amount of water in each container by weight or volume.
- Divide each quantity by the number of tips of each bucket. The value should be within 0.5% of the value listed in **Figure 4.1**.

4.3 Adjustment

Adjustments may be made to the stops located under the buckets. Raising the stop of the bucket will reduce the catch for that bucket; conversely, lowering the stop will increase the catch.

NOTE: The stop for a bucket is located under the opposite bucket. Make adjustments in small steps (1/4 turn per test). Repeat the calibration procedure until the gauge is within specifications.

The above procedure is for a rate of 0.5" per hour. The gauge may be calibrated at any selected rate.

After calibration, note the date and place of calibration and reinstall the outer cover and three screws. Be sure the cover is lined up correctly.

If the gauge has been removed from a field location for calibration, be sure to level it properly following installation.

MODEL 6011 TIPPING BUCKET RAIN GAUGE

4.4

Field Checks

To check for calibration in the field, make sure the buckets are empty and add the amount of water specified in **Figure 4.1**. If the buckets tip too soon or do not tip at all, the instrument requires a laboratory calibration as previously described. A standard 10 milliliters pipette or a Model 60103 Calibrator can be used as a field test device.

For maximum sensitivity, remove both the outer cover and the small funnel. Direct the water toward the center of the bucket partition when the buckets are at midpoint. The errors introduced by surface wetting and droplet formation at the funnel tip are eliminated using this method of calibration.

```
For Model 6011-A:

.01 in. of rain = 8.683 cc per tip
.25 mm of rain = 8.493 cc per tip

For Models 6011-B:
.1 mm of rain = 3.418 cc per tip

Use the following equation to calculate cc per tip:
cc per tip = pr² x depth of rain per tip

Example:
For .01 in. of rain per tip—
cc per tip = pr² x 0.01 in.
```

where r = 4.107 in.

(Figure 4-1) Calculating water volume per bucket tip.

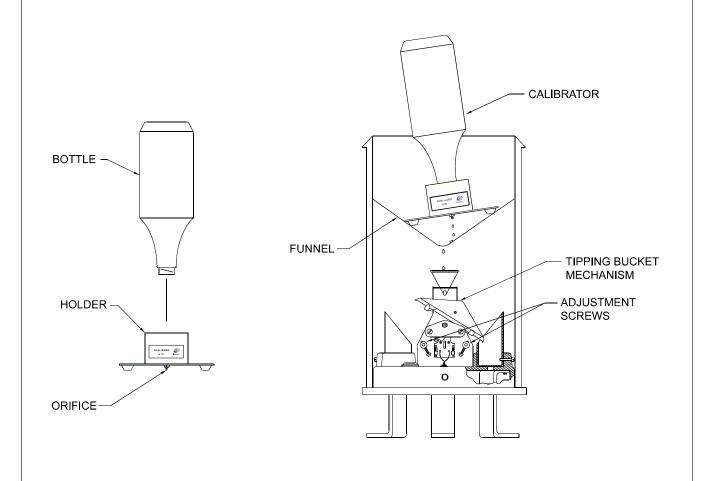
cc per tip = $52.98 \text{ in.}^2 \text{ x .} 01 \text{ in.}$ cc per tip = 0.5298 in.^3 .5298 in.³ = 8.682 cc

(1 in. = 2.54 cm)

The Model 60103 Precipitation Gauge Calibrator simplifies field checks of tipping bucket rain gauges by regulating the flow of water into the gauge during calibration. The calibrator consists of a plastic water bottle, a stand for holding the bottle and directing the flow into the funnel, and an orifice.

During calibration, a measured amount of water equal to 100 tips of the bucket assembly is directed into the gauge at a constant rate of 2 inches per hour. A laboratory balance should be used to measure the water. If the counter attached to the gauge records more or less than 100 tips, recalibration of the gauge should be considered.

This calibration method provides the greatest accuracy and repeatability since measurement is based on an average over 100 tips. The rugged nature of the calibrator also makes it more practical than fragile pipettes or graduated cylinders for field use.



(Figure 4-2) Model 60103 Rain Gauge Calibrator

5 Maintenance

5.1

General

5.2

AWOS Periodic Maintenance

5.2.1

Tools and Equipment Required

5.2.2

Monthly Maintenance

5.2.3

Quarterly Maintenance

5.2.4

Annual Maintenance Normal maintenance is limited to cleaning debris out of the orifice. When the sensor is installed as part of an AWOS system,

Periodic maintenance of AWOS sensors is divided into three categories: monthly maintenance, quarterly maintenance, and

The following tools and equipment are required for performing periodic AWOS maintenance:

• 1/4" wrench

Remove the screen from the funnel of the rain gauge and gently tap the screen to free any dirt or debris. Replace the screen.

Quarterly maintenance of the Model 6011 is identical to the monthly maintenance procedure: Remove the screen from the

During annual maintenance, perform the following procedures in addition to those outlined for monthly and quarterly maintenance.

- 1 The output of the rain gauge is a switch closure, each closure being equivalent to a known volume of collected rainfall (0.01"). The funnel, screen, and buckets shall be cleared of debris before this procedure as described in the monthly tasks.
- 2 Remove the outer cover by removing two 1/4" bolts. Check for sensor level using the bubble level provided on the base. Adjust if necessary.

special maintenance procedures are required. Refer to the following section for details.

annual maintenance. The listed maintenance routines are performed according to that schedule.

funnel of the rain gauge and gently tap the screen to free any dirt or debris. Replace the screen.

- 3 Inspect the interior of the gage for physical lightning damage.
- 4 Note the precipitation quantity on the DCP's LCD display. Toggle the bucket assembly one cycle (2 tips). Again read the precipitation quantity on the LCD display. It must be 2 counts greater than before.
- 5 Replace the outer cover, bolts, and screen.

6 Warranty

6.1

Standard Warranty

Unless specified otherwise, All Weather Inc. (the Company) warrants its products to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for one year from date of shipment, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The obligation of the Company under this warranty is limited to repairing or replacing items or parts which have been returned to the Company and which upon examination are disclosed, to the Company's satisfaction, to have been defective in material or workmanship at time of manufacture.
- b. The claimant shall pay the cost of shipping any part or instrument to the Company. If the Company determines the part to be defective in material or workmanship, the Company shall prepay the cost of shipping the repaired instrument to the claimant. Under no circumstances will the Company reimburse claimant for cost incurred in removing and/or reinstalling replacement parts.
- c. This warranty shall not apply to any Company products which have been subjected to misuse, negligence, or accident.
- d. This warranty and the Company's obligation thereunder is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, consequential damages, and all other obligations or liabilities.

No other person or organization is authorized to give any other warranty or to assume any additional obligation on the Company's behalf, unless made in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the Company.

6.2 AWOS Warranty

This equipment has been manufactured and will perform in accordance with requirements of FAA Advisory Circular 150/5220-16B. Any defect in design, materials, or workmanship which may occur during proper and normal use during a period of 1 year from date of installation or a maximum of 2 years from shipment will be corrected by repair or replacement by All Weather Inc.

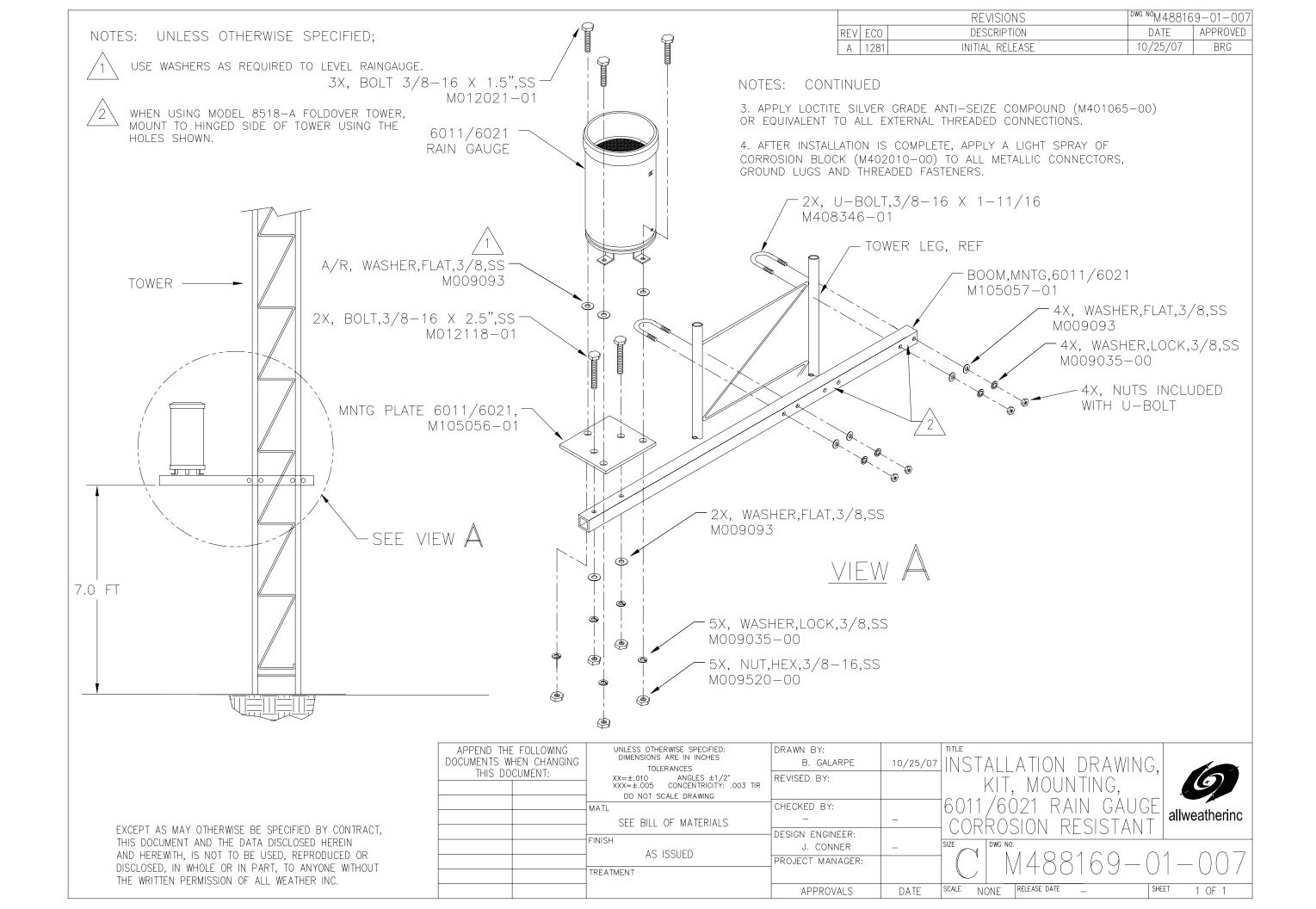
7 Specifications

Tipping Bucket Type Sensitivity 6011-A 0.01" (0.25 mm) 6011-B .1 mm Resolution 0.01" (0.25 mm) 6011-A 6011-B .1 mm Orifice opening 8" dia. (20 cm) Calibrated accuracy $\pm 0.5\%$ at 0.5"/hr. Repeatability $\pm 3\%$ Insect protection Mesh screens Capacity Unlimited 100 ms switch closure Output Switch type Form A reed 8" dia. x 18" H (203 mm dia. x 457 mm H) Size Weight/Shipping 8 1bs./15 lbs. (3.6 kg/6.8 kg)

8 Drawings



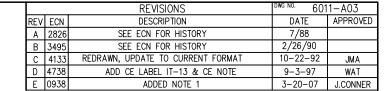
The following pages include reference drawings to aid in maintenance and use of this instrument.

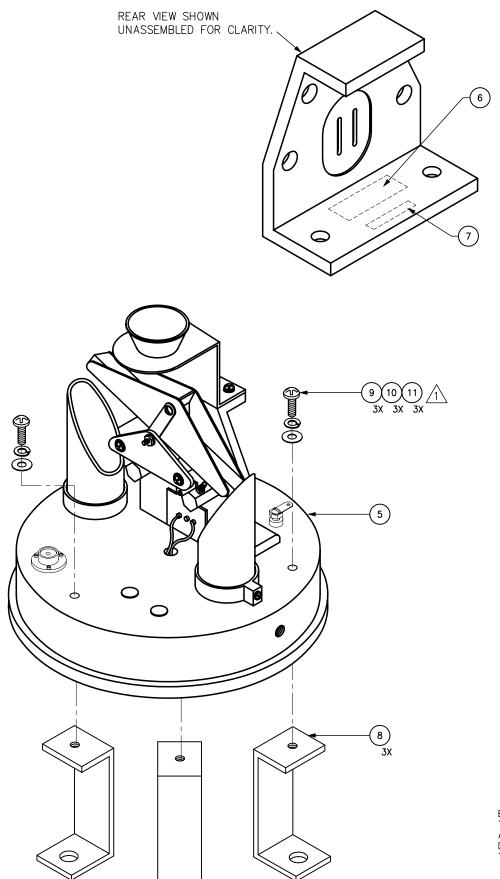


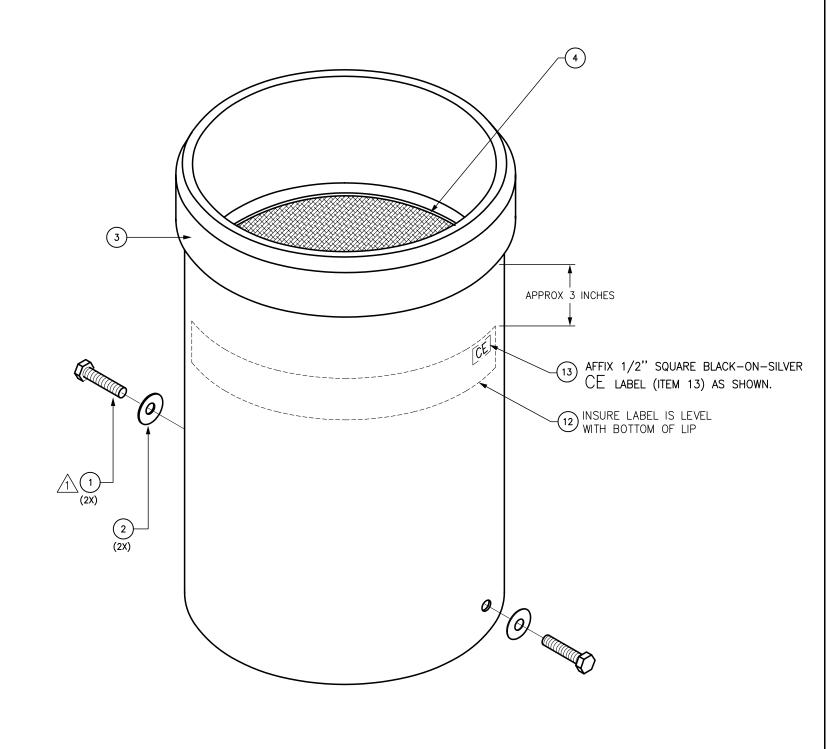
NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:

COAT SCREW THREADS WITH ANTI-SEIZE COMPOUND, LOCTITE SILVER GRADE

ANTI-SEIZE OR EQUIV.







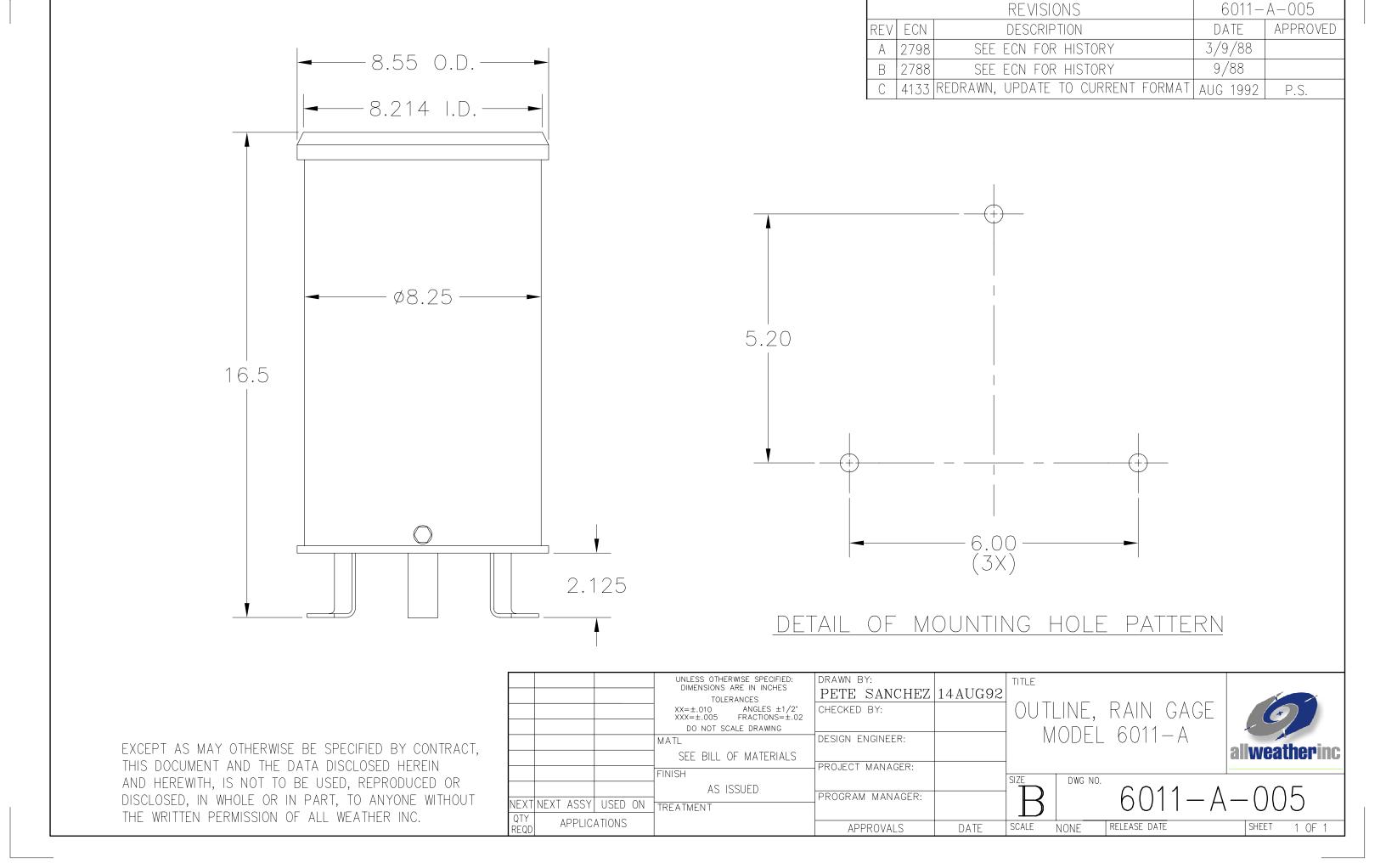
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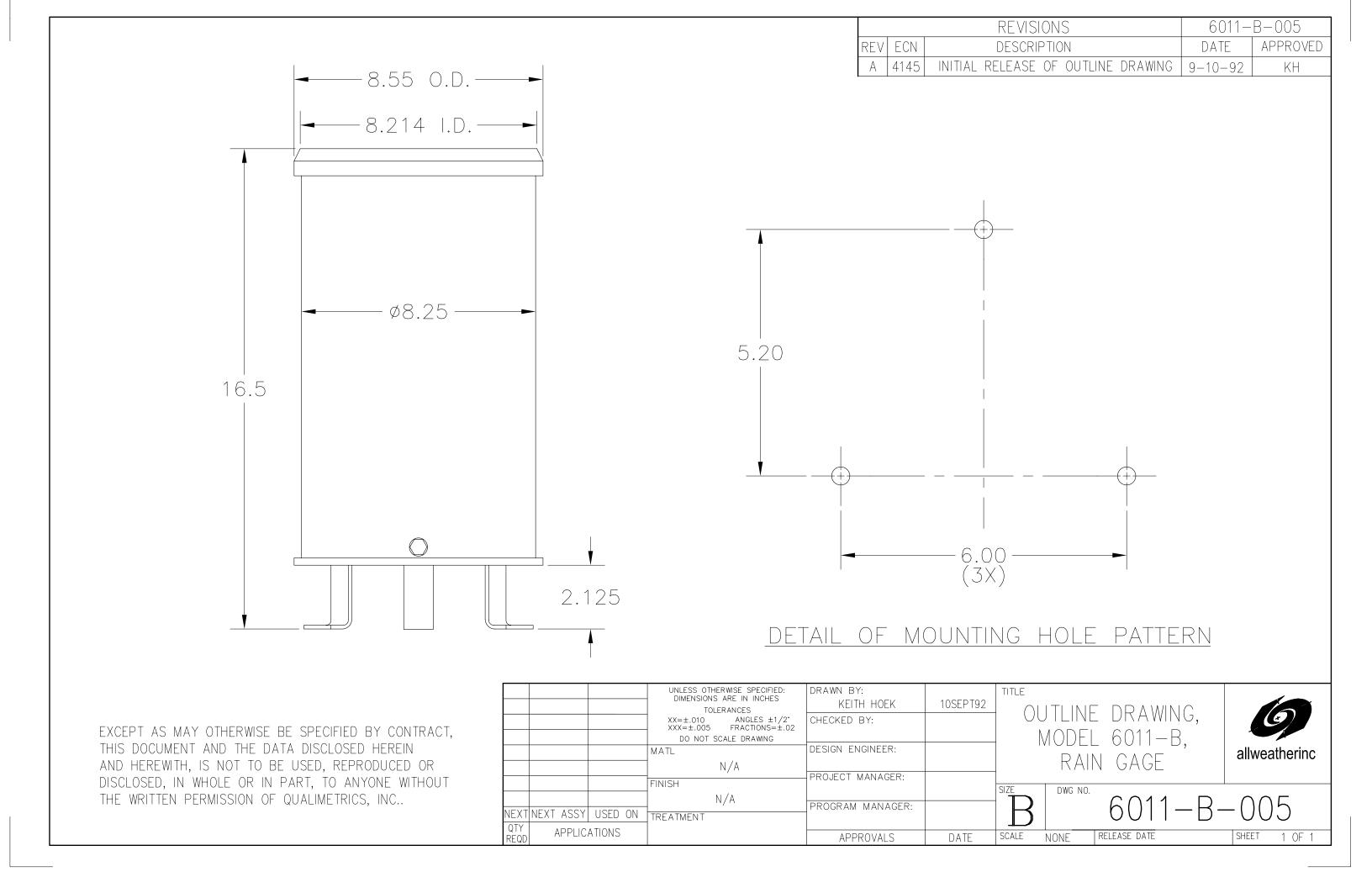
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ASSEMBLY DWG, TIPPING BUCKET RAIN GAGE



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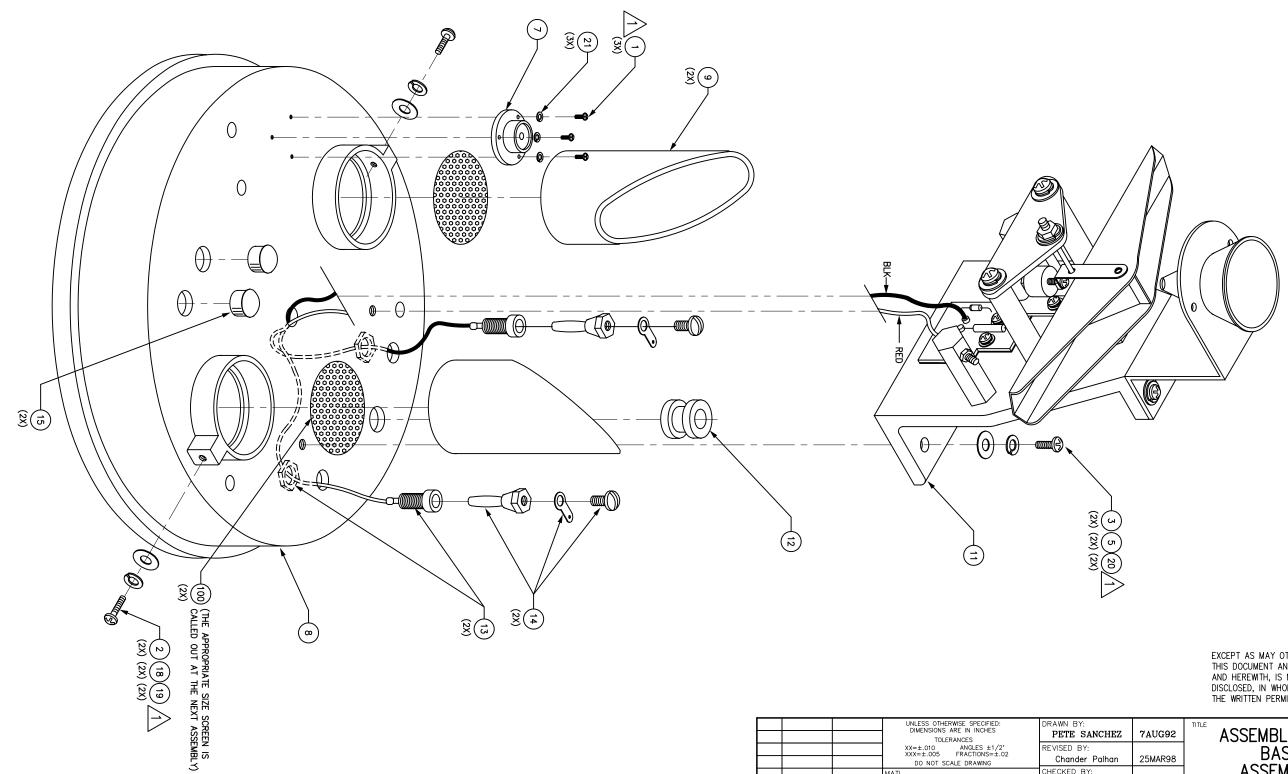




NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:

COAT SCREW THREADS WITH ANTI-SEIZE COMPOUND, LOCTITE SILVER GRADE ANTI-SEIZE OR EQUIV.

REVISIONS			DWG NO. M102690-003		
REV	ECN	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED	
Α	2826	INITIAL RELEASE	9/88		
В	3495	SEE ECN FOR HISTORY	2/90	RB	
С	4133	CHANGE TO REFLECT AS BUILT	10/92	JMA	
D	4771	ADD LOCK WASHERS			
Ε	5227	ITEM 100 WAS ITEM 10	1-26-05	J.CONNER	
F	0938	ADDED NOTE 1	3-20-07	J.CONNER	



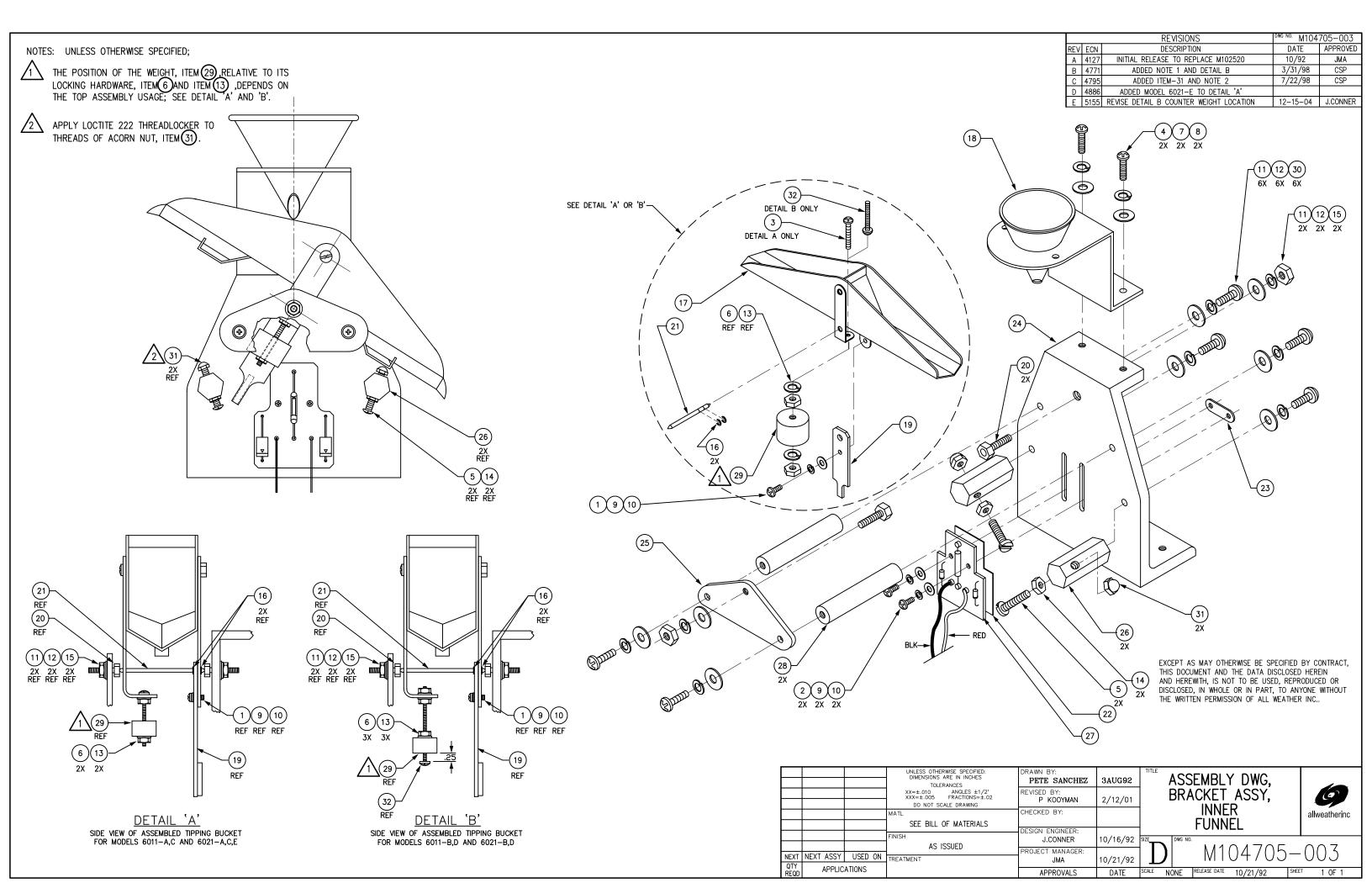
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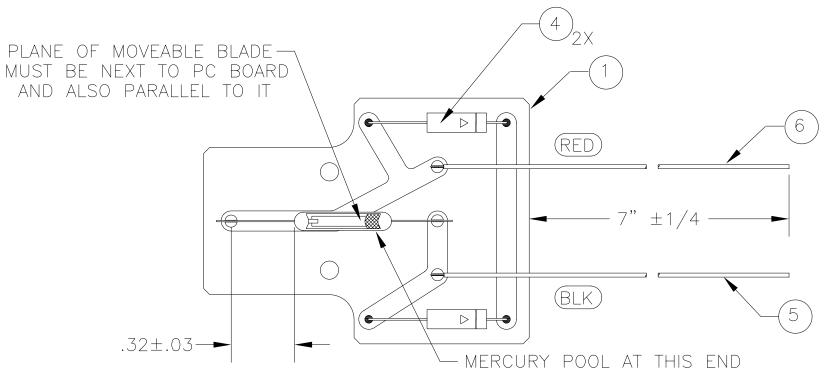


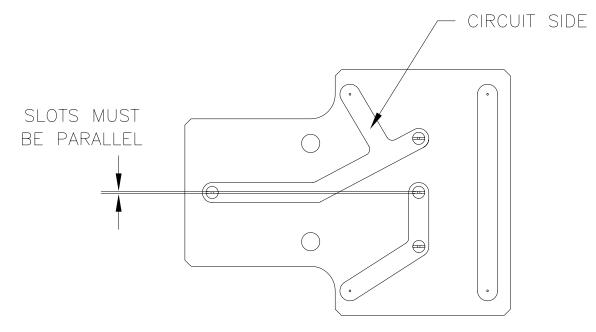
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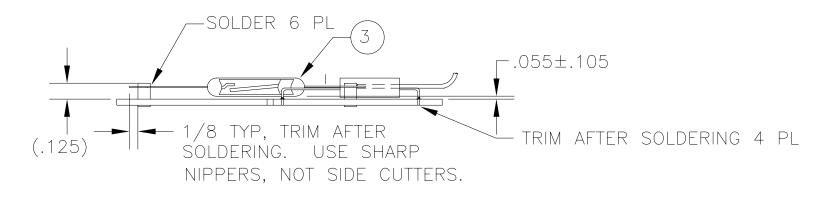


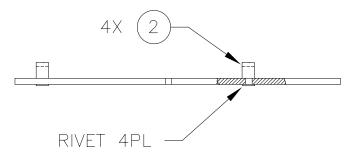
NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED; AFTER TESTING, SPRAY BOTH SIDES (2 COATS) HUMISEAL, POLYURETHANE OR EQUIVALENT.

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Н	4771	ADDED ITEM 1, 5, 6 AND ROTATED TERMINALS	3/31/98	CSP
J	0101	.055±.015 WAS .030, ADD ±.03 TO .32 & () TO .125	5-5-05	J.CONNER

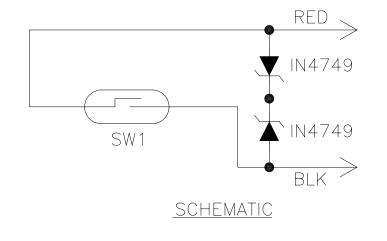








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CHECKED BY: PMK	3-27-98	
DESIGN ENGINEER: J.CONNER	160CT92	SIZE
PROJECT MANAGER: JMA	210CT92	

DATE

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APPROVALS

ASSEMBLY, MODULE,



1 OF 1

SHEET

DWG NO. RELEASE DATE 10/21/92



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6011-A-001 Rev. L ECO 1454 March, 2008