

## Observing weather on board - hygrometer

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Equipment on board Hong Kong Voluntary Observing Ship (HKVOS) for measuring temperature and dew point is the hygrometer, which consists of a dry-bulb and a wet-bulb thermometer. Normally, there are two hygrometers on each HKVOS, secured on each side of the ship and screened in a shelter outside the bridge.

To make accurate temperature and dew point observation, the observer opens the door of shelter and takes observation on the windward side of the bridge. As the equipment is exposed to a harsh environment, the water reservoir for the wet-bulb thermometer may be contaminated with mildew and salt residue. To clean the reservoir, the observer should rinse it with clean water and use a clean cloth or paper towel to completely dry it out, before refilling the reservoir with clean water.

The muslin and wick fitted to the wet-bulb thermometer should be changed once a week, and more often in unsettled weather. If ship masters are unable to get it cleaned or need replacement parts, they can contact the Port Meteorological Officer for assistance.



A hygrometer and shelter installed on HKVOS