

Table 3.1 CIE standard sky types

Type Number	Description of luminance distribution
1	CIE Standard Overcast Sky, steep luminance gradation towards zenith, azimuthal uniformity
2	Overcast, with steep luminance gradation and slight brightening towards the sun
3	Overcast, moderately graded with azimuthal uniformity
4	Overcast, moderately graded and slight brightening towards the sun
5	Sky of uniform luminance
6	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, slight brightening towards the sun
7	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, brighter circumsolar region
8	Partly cloudy sky, no gradation towards zenith, distinct solar corona
9	Partly cloudy, with the obscured sun
10	Partly cloudy, with brighter circumsolar region
11	White-blue sky with distinct solar corona
12	CIE Standard Clear Sky, low luminance turbidity
13	CIE Standard Clear Sky, polluted atmosphere
14	Cloudless turbid sky with broad solar corona
15	White-blue turbid sky with broad solar corona

The standard helps with the distribution of daylight but it gives no information on the actual amount of daylight available at any particular time. There are a number of stations that record the global and diffuse (not including light direct from the sun) horizontal plane illuminance values on an unobstructed site and these data can be used to predict daylight availability.

Whilst data are logged every five minutes or so at most measuring stations it is usually presented as a chart showing monthly averages of hourly values. Figure 3.9 shows a typical chart giving data on daylight availability.