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| TERMINOLOGY | SYMBOL | DEFINITION |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Wavelength | λ | Stated in microns (micrometers, 10^{-6} metre) |
| Wavenumber | σ | Inverse of wavelength, usually specified in cm^{-1} |
| Centre Wavelength | CWL | Wavelength at centre of passband measured at 50% of peak transmittance |
| Cut on / Cut off wavelength | λ_c | Wavelength at which filter begins/ceases to transmit. Usually specified at 5% or 50% absolute transmittance points |
| Transmittance | T | Ratio of transmitted energy to incident energy expressed in percent |
| Peak Transmittance | T_{pk} | Highest transmittance (occurs at peak wavelength) |
| Bandwidth | FWHM, BW, HBW, HW | Width of the passband measured at half the peak transmittance. Expressed in microns or percentage of centre wavelength. |
| Cut on/off slope | - | A measure of the steepness of the transmittance curve $\frac{\lambda_{80} - \lambda_5}{\lambda_5} \times 100\%$ Where $\lambda_{80\%}$ and $\lambda_{5\%}$ correspond to 80% and 5% to absolute transmittance points. |
| Blocking or attenuation | - | Ability to prevent energy at wavelengths outside the passband being transmitted. Expressed as a percentage of incident energy. Typically less than 0.1% (optical density 3.0). |
| Reflection | R | Ratio of reflected energy to incident energy expressed as a percentage |
| Absorptance | A | Ratio of absorbed energy to incident energy expressed as a percentage |
| Effective index | n_* | The apparent index of refraction of a substrate plus coating stack |