

CCTV Video Broadcast Standards (NTSC/PAL/SECAM)

CIF, QCIF, 2CIF, 4CIF. Are industry terms used by professionals to refer to a specific image resolution or size in pixels. Following is a list comprised of the most common terms and the image resolution they refer to.

1 million pixels or over is considered 'megapixel'. In the case of megapixel cameras, you can see below that the 1.3 Megapixel camera does not exactly mean 1.3 Megapixel. It is the same with the others. For example, a 2 megapixel camera actually captures 1,920,000 pixels per frame and a 3 megapixel camera captures 3,145,728 pixels per frame.

CCTV Video Resolutions:

Term	Pixels (W x H)	Notes
QCIF	176 x 120	Quarter CIF (half the height and width as CIF)
CIF	352 x 240	
2CIF	704 x 240	2 times CIF width
4CIF	704 x 480	2 times CIF width and 2 times CIF height
D1	720 x 480	aka "Full D1"
720p HD	1280 x 720	720p High Definition
960p HD	1280 x 960	960p High Definition (Sony HD standard)
1.3 MP	1280 x 1024	aka "1 Megapixel" or "1MP"
2 MP	1600 x 1200	2 Megapixel
1080p HD	1920 x 1080	1080p High Definition
3 MP	2048 x 1536	3 Megapixel
5 MP	2592 x 1944	5 Megapixel

There are Many Uses for these terms in describing resolution including the Viewing screen display, Camera image size captured & transmitted or Recorded size to the recording device.

Many manufacturers may rate their products with numbers not exactly matching the ones above. That is due to the many different ways these measurements may be taken. Generally speaking the numbers above are used as the standard relating to image resolution. Manufacturers advertised resolution should fall somewhere within this chart.