

Photocontrol Switching Time Delay

Any photocontrol that does not have a time delay can be turned on (in the daytime) and, more importantly, off instantaneously at night time. This could be triggered by headlights or a bright lightning strike.

Turning the lighting fixture off at night could present a dangerous roadway situation. This is particularly true of mercury vapor, which

could be out for up to 5 minutes, and metal halide for up to 30 minutes before they cool down, re-strike and return to full light output.

With greater use of the electronic photocontrol, a time delay of 2-5 seconds (more than adequate) is designed into the sensing circuit for the off function to prevent the situation as described above. However, there is no time delay for the

on function, so the lighting fixtures can be easily glove tested during the daytime.

A most important point when writing photocontrol specifications is to require the following:

Photocontrol must have 2-5 second time delay on the "off side" only to prevent accidental turn-off of the luminaire at night time.

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