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EMERGENCY BALLAST SIZE ISSUES

I have recently seen a number of projects where EMB'S have been specified in conjunction with multiple ballasts for dual level switching. Technically this is easy but PHYSICALLY this presents some potential problems so I wanted to bring the following to your attention.

The typical EMB spec that I see is for a unit in the 1400 lumen range. Following are representative sizes for both T8 and T5 EMB units:

1400 LUMEN T8 : 13.5" LONG X 2.5" WIDE X 1.5" DEEP

1400 LUMEN T5 : 21.5" LONG X 1.25" WIDE X 1.25" DEEP

In comparison, here are the dimensions of typical instant start and program start ballasts:

T8 BALLAST : 9.5" LONG X 1.75" WIDE X 1.25" DEEP (INSTANT & PROGRAM START)

T5 BALLAST : 9.5" LONG X 1.25" WIDE X 1" DEEP (INSTANT START)

T5 BALLAST : 17" LONG X 1.25" WIDE X 1" DEEP (PROGRAM START)

T5 HO BALLAST : 17" LONG X 1.25" WIDE X 1" DEEP (PROGRAM START ONLY)

Right away you can see the issue that occurs with T5 ballasted fixtures and EMB'S - especially when dual ballasts are called for. Also, bear in mind that with T5 lamps the ballast chamber is typically very narrow - much narrower than T8 lamped fixtures. For T5 fixtures the ballasts are typically mounted end to end and not side by side. One solution is to mount the EMB on the top of the fixture but this is not always possible such as when the fixture is mounted in a gypboard ceiling. If you have any questions about fitment with lines I represent don't hesitate to ask - it is better to know beforehand rather than after the order has been placed!