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To : Specifiers

RE: Quartz "EM" option for downlights

I want to bring to your attention a concern that I have surrounding the use of the quartz "EM" option together with a remote 12v power supply for use as an emergency egress light.

As you are aware, this option is most often specified in conjunction with a HID lamp. Originally this socket and lamp combo was furnished as part of a quartz (halogen) re-strike option which included a relay to turn on the quartz lamp should the HID lamp arc extinguish. This is important to note because the re-strike option is line voltage – thus the socket that is provided is for use with a 120v lamp. From what I can tell most manufacturers use double contact bayonet base sockets because they feature snap-in mounting which makes for a compact and easily manufactured assembly. Double contacts are used for line and neutral currents respectively. The lamp used with this combination is a 120v - T4 envelope lamp which is available in a number of wattages. This small lamp leaves room for the main HID lamp, and has minimal impact on the fixture photometry.

So, what is the problem with using this socket / lamp combo with a remote 12v power supply? Simply put, there are few, if any, 12v quartz (halogen) double contact bayonet base lamps available (excepting MR style lamps). In fact, the ONLY lamp that I have been able to find is a 35w lamp with a T3 envelope that is available by special order only. Other double contact bayonet base lamps that I have been able to source are simple tungsten lamps which will not generate the lumen output that I believe you would be expecting. In fact, most of these lamps are for use in vehicles (note – make sure that 12.8 volt lamps haven't been installed!)

I hope that this information is useful to you. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to let me know. If any of you are aware of a source for these lamps that I may be missing I would be very grateful for your input!