



Maximize XTL Lamp Life

Lumacurve Care Card Series

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Lamp Life:

Incandescent lamp filaments gradually deteriorate. The expected XTL lamp life ranges between 1,000 and 2,000 hours, or roughly 2 to 6 months.

Recommendations:

1. Never change a burned lamp with the power on!

Changing a lamp with the power off, then powering up the sign will ensure a "Soft Start". Replacing a lamp while a sign is energized will shock the lamp filament with a voltage higher than its rating causing damage or diminishing lamp life.

2. Change all sign lamps at once!

Installing a new lamp in a sign with old, but "still good" lamps **will cause the new lamp to burn out prematurely**, perhaps as quickly as a few days; sabotaging lamp life. Changing all the lamps in a sign after one has failed saves both time and money by increasing lamp life and reducing multiple visits to the sign. (Premature, infant failure is the exception to this best practice.)

3. Adjust controller output voltage.

Set the CCR at the low step (4.8A for style 2 circuits, 2.8 for style 3). Identify the white adjustment screw on the top left corner of the controller. Using your RMS meter and the adjustment screw, set the power to the lamps. Ideally the voltage should be 9.7 or 9.75 volts (but 9.5 volts absolute minimum) at the low step for the best lamp life. Now set the CCR at the high step (6.6A) and make sure the voltage is no higher than 10.0 volts. Make adjustments as necessary.

How to Measure Voltage:

With the power on, use a true RMS multi-meter set at Volts DC. Identify the brown and white wire coming from the controller and place the meter probes on the terminal strip set screws for these wires.

4. Clean lamps after handling

Lamp globe must be free of any oils or dirt. Clean lamps with alcohol wipes if necessary.

Other Sources of Problems

1. Confusing XTL and LOVA Lamps. *(These lamps are NOT INTERCHANGEABLE.)*
2. Bad Circuits. *(Deteriorating cable cause losses to ground which adversely affect sign performance and lamp life)*
3. Bad or incorrectly sized isolation transformers
4. Voltage spikes
5. Bad connections. *(Check for loose wires.)*

Additional Tips

- ▶ **Keep good records.** Maintenance records of lamp changes help to document the current and expected lamp life for any sign on a given circuit. An "in-service" date written on the lamp base or lightbar with a sharpie is also a good idea. When a lamp fails, records help determine the lamps has failed prematurely or reached the end of its expected life. "Used" bulbs, of roughly the same number of hours burned, should be used in the same sign.
- ▶ **Use a Lumacurve Lamp Tester.** The tester is an easy and inexpensive tool to determine if a lamp has gone bad or if it still has some useful life. The Lumacurve Lamp Tester is available through Standard Signs, Inc. Call 1-800-258-1997.

Warnings

Warning: *Signs that remain powered with a burned out lamp (without replacement) for an extended period of time will burn out controllers and bridge rectifiers!*

Warning: *Use only Lumacurve OEM lamps. A non-OEM lamp may have different power requirements, changing the lamp's resistance. The controller reacts to the measured resistance and changes the output of power to the lamps. A non-Lumacurve lamp may deviate from the system design and cause premature failure of the lamps.*

Still Having Significant Problems?

Lumacurve Soft Start System

For situations that continue to exhibit lamp life problems, we recommend you inquire about the Lumacurve Soft Start System. We have found occasional situations where the sign lamps are subject to continuous "shock". In some cases it is a dynamic of the regulator and the airport circuit. In other cases it is a pilot controlled system that is on and off repeatedly throughout the night.

The Soft Start System adds electronics after the controller that slowly ramps up the output voltage to the lamps. The result is a gradual brightening of the lamp until it reaches full brightness.

For further information regarding the topics covered in this service bulletin, contact customer service or our technical department.

Call **1-800-258-1997** 8am-5pm EST.