

LAMP LIFE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. If it is stated that the life of a particular lamp type is so many hours, then how is that calculated and what does it mean?

A. In regard to life expectation of any lamp it is important to understand the definition of lamp life rating as used by the lighting industry generally - ie "average rated life".

"To determine the "average rated life" of a lamp, a large quantity of the lamps are operated under controlled conditions for an extended period of time. The life rate is determined by the time in hours that it takes half of the test lamps to stop operating.

Because the test is performed under controlled conditions, the "average rated life" of a lamp does not tell you how long a lamp or group of lamps will last in a particular application.

It indicates only how long a particular lamp is expected to last on average relative to other lamp types."

So, a lamp rated at 8000 hours lamp life compared to a lamp rated at 1000 hours will last, on average, eight times longer - bearing in mind that it is most probable that half of the lamps will fail at some stage before the 8000 hours.

