PHOTOCELL (U-S-PDD) TROUBLESHOOTING

Unlike our Motion Sensors' (U-PSDMS) built-in photocell, the standard photocell (U-S-PDD) is sensitive to all lights, not just natural sunlight.

Applicational vs. Functional Issues

Functional Issues

- If the fixture is always off (even at night), cover the photocell with a black electric tape
  - If the fixture turns on, there is an application issue (refer to below).
  - If the fixture remains off, the photocell is not functioning properly. Please contact us if this is the case.
- If the fixture is always on (even during the day), shine a light at the photocell
  - If the fixture turns off, there is an application issue (refer to below)
  - If the fixture remains on, the photocell is not functioning properly. Please contact us if this is the case.

Applicational Issues

Reflective Light

- Weather Conditions
  - Snow, dirt, etc. can cover the photocell, resulting in the fixture staying on during the day because it is unable to detect sunlight.
- Multiple Light Fixtures
  - Fixture A turns on when it detects the absence of sunlight at night, but the photocell from fixtures nearby senses the light emitting from Fixture A and does not turn on as a result.
  - Altech provides a photocell shielding cap for all orders with photocells involved. This cap shields light emitting from certain directions (other light fixtures in close proximity) to ensure the fixture turns on at night.
- White/Metallic Building
  - White or metallic buildings may reflect light onto the photocell, tricking it into thinking it is daytime and keep the fixture turned off.
  - Altech provides a photocell shielding cap for all orders with photocells involved. This cap shields light emitting from certain directions (light reflecting off surfaces) to ensure the fixture turns on at night.
- Strobing/blinking Fixtures
  - When the fixture turns on at night, the light from the fixture reflects off the surface of the building and towards the photocell. Sensing light, the fixture turns off. The photocell then detects the absence of light and turns the fixture on, only for this pattern to repeat over and over again, causing the fixture to strobe.
  - Altech provides a photocell shielding cap for all orders with photocells involved. This cap shields light emitting from certain directions (light reflecting off building surfaces) to ensure the fixture turns on at night.

Fixture Location

- Please ensure fixtures with photocell installed are placed in locations where it can detect sunlight. If the fixture is placed under shaded areas, the photocell will continue to think it is nighttime and the fixture will remain on.

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