

A light output/light source discussion

Viewer Effective Light Output (VELO)

Effective signaling depends on both perception and understanding of the signal being transmitted. In the case of audible signals it is important to select a tone (e.g. bell, horn, siren) that not only conveys meaning but is also distinguishable from ambient (or background) sounds. Loudness is also an important factor – enough to be perceived over ambient dB but not too much that either distortion or listener damage occur.

These same type of factors affect visible signal selection. Ambient or background light may affect the choice of light source (e.g. steady, flashing, rotating, or strobe) while message type may dictate color choice (e.g. red for stop or danger).

Viewer perception (specifically the ability of the viewer to effectively see and comprehend the visual signal) is perhaps the most important feature of any visual signal.

Edwards' AdaptaBeacons have thus been designed to maximize viewer perceptibility. This focus on Viewer Effective Light Output (VELO) is most noticeable in the Edwards lens design. The unique double fresnel lens results in four illumination characteristics that significantly enhance viewer perception.

- 1. The refractive feature of the inner fresnels causes the lens to fill; resulting in a rectangular column of light. This increases the "dwell" time of illumination thus significantly enhancing retinal retention.
- 2. Light sources are positioned in the focal point of the lens thus enabling the lens-magnifying ring to effectively project the visual signal.
- 3. The refractive external fresnels function also to diffuse the light. This enhances visibility for viewers located adjacent to the beacon.
- 4. By ensuring that the lens is filled with light any "hot" spots are eliminated. This is particularly important to viewer perception when strobe light sources are involved. While hotspots generate high light output numbers, they generally result in decreased viewer perception (as viewers squint or turn away in order to avoid the flash). Additionally, the glare tends to wash out lens color resulting in a "white" flash thus minimizing the color-coded message.

Light Output Data

All manufacturers light output information (Edwards included) needs to be evaluated against many criteria including: distance at which light is to be viewed, lens color, amount of lens pigmentation, viewer perceptibility, and in the case of strobes, VELO.

Currently there are no standardized agency testing criteria for measuring light output of general (non-fire alarm) visual signals. For this reason Edwards has opted to specify strobe tube output in joules, resultant effective candela, and peak candela ratings. See Table 1 for Edwards Strobe Light Output Data.

Strobe Tube Life Data

Strobe tube manufacturers all supply tube life data. Edwards has opted, when using this information, to report effective tube life to only a 25% decrease in light output. (Obviously the greater the decrease the longer will be the stated tube life). See Table 1 for Edwards Strobe Tube Life Data.

Table 1. Edwards Strobe Tube Light Output and Life

	Strobe Tube	Tube Life		Effective	Peak
Cat. No.	Cat. No.	(hrs)*	Joules	Candela**	Candela
57EDF Series	92-ST	3,000	23	1265	2,300,000
89STR Series	Not Replaceable	1,000	3	150	300,000
89SMSTR Series	Not Replaceable	1,000	3	150	300,000
90 Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
91B Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
92EX Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
92EXB Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
92EXC Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
92-N5 Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
92-R5 & -S1 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
92PLC Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
92PLC-DF Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
93 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
93DF Series	92-ST	3,000	11	605	1,100,000
94 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
94DF Series	92-ST	3,000	11	605	1,100,000
94DDV2 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
94DV2 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
95 Series	92-LST	5,000	14	770	1,400,000
96B Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
96DV2 Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
97 Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DF Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEX Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEXB Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEXC Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEXC-GW	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEXBC-GW	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97DEXCC-GW	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97EX Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97EXB Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
97EXC Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
98B Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
99B Series	91B-ST	3,000	10	550	1,000,000
101 Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
102 Series	Not Replaceable	3,000	3	165	300,000
104ST Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
105ST Series	91B-ST	3,000	3	165	300,000
105HIST Series	92-ST	3,000	8	440	800,000
867STR Series	Not Replaceable	1,000	3	150	300,000
868STR Series	Not Replaceable	1,000	3	150	300,000
869STR Series	Not Replaceable	1,000	3	150	300,000

*Calculated at operating power to 75% efficiency. **Also known as candela seconds. Refer to Technical Reference Appendix for calculation base.

Edwards Incandescent and Halogen Bulb Light Output

For halogen bulbs, the manufacturer's lumen rating is specified. (This measures effective light output in all directions). See Table 2 for bulb light output ratings.

Halogen and Incandescent Bulb Life

Light source life is also an area of some confusion as there are no current industry standards for measurement. At the same time ambient conditions (e.g. voltage & vibration) and duty cycles can significantly effect bulb life. Improper handling can also dramatically decrease both bulb and tube life.

When reporting bulb life Edwards is using manufacturer supplied data (which assumes a 100% constant duty cycle) and then interpolating the effects of the average flash rate (again assuming a constant duty cycle). See Table 2 for bulb Life ratings.

			Mfrs.		
			Lumen	Calculated	Projected
Cat No	Bulb No	Bulb Rating	Rating	Lamp Life*	Lamp Life**
48FIN-F1	Industry Trade 94	15\\\/	189	700	1 520
48FIN-G1-20W/H	501 MP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
Series	or Industry Trade 1692	2000 Halogen	220	20,000	20,000
Control		15W	110	1.000	6.350
48FIN-G5-20WH	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20.000	25,000
Series	or Industry Trade 1692	Lott Halogon		_0,000	_0,000
		15W	110	1,000	6,350
48FIN-N5-25WH	50LMP-25WH	25W Halogen	175	20,000	25,000
Series	or Industry Trade 25T8DC	C C			·
		25W	235	1,000	1,000
48SIN-E1	Industry Trade 94	15W	189	700	1,520
48SIN-G1-20WH	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	20,000
Series	or Industry Trade 1692				
		15W	110	1,000	6,350
48SIN-G5-20WH	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	20,000
Series	or Industry Trade 1692				
		15W	110	1,000	6,350
48SIN-N5-25WH	50LMP-25WH	25W Halogen	175	20,000	20,000
Series	or Industry Trade 2518DC	0514/	005	4 000	4 000
40 NE 4014/11 Carias		25W	235	1,000	1,000
49-IN5-40WH Series	50LIMP-40WH	40W Halogen	265	20,000	25,000
49-R5 Series	P-041917-0039	2514/	222	200	100
		2011	232	200	120
50 C5 20WH Sorios	50LMD 20W/H	20W/ Hologon	226	20.000	25.000
50-05-20WH Series	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	220	20,000	25,000
50-R5 Series	P-0/1917-0039	How halogen	200	20,000	20,000
30-Ito Belles	or Industry Trade	25\\/	232	200	120
	25T8/240V/DC/CI	2011	202	200	120
50SIN-N5-40WH	50LMP-40WH	40W Halogen	265	20.000	25,000
51-F1 Series	Industry Trade 94	15W	189	700	1.520
51-G1 Series	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3,180
51-G5-20W Series	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3.180
					-,
51-N5-40W Series	50LMP-40W (6 ea) or	40W	266	1,500	3,920
	P-041695-0118 (1ea)				
51SIN-G1 Series	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3,180
51SIN-N5-40W Series	50LMP-40W (6 ea) or	40W	266	1,500	3,920
50 115 0	P-041695-0118 (1ea)				
52-N5 Series	50LMP-40WH	40W Halogen	265	20,000	25,000
52-G5 Series	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
52-R5 Series	P-041917-0039	0514/	000	000	400
	or industry I rade	2500	232	200	120
E2EX NE 40W/ Sorias	2010/240/DC/CL	40\\/	266	1 500	2 0 2 0
SZEX-INS-40W Series	D 0/1605 0118 (100)	4000	200	1,500	3,920
52EXB-N5-40W	F = 041095 = 0116 (1ea)	40\\/	266	1 500	3 020
Series	P-041695-0118 (1ea)	4000	200	1,500	5,920
52EXC-N5-40W	50LMP-40W (6 ea) or	40\\/	266	1 500	3 920
Series	P-041695-0118 (1ea)	7000	200	1,000	0,020
53-E1 Series	Industry Trade 1076	25W	402	200	430
53-G1 Series	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3,180
53DR-GW	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3,180
53DC-GW	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3,180
53DEX-G1 Series	Industry Trado 1629	25\\/	402	500	3 180
	moustry made 1000	2000	704	500	5,100

Table 2. Edwards Incandescent and Halogen Bulb Light Output and Life

53DEXB-G1 Series	Industry Trade 1638	25\//	/02	500	3 180
53DEXC-G1 Series	Industry Trade 1638	25W	402	500	3 180
		2011	Mfrs	000	0,100
			l umen	Calculated	Projected
Cat No	Bulb No	Bulb Pating	Dating	Lamp Lifo*	Lamp Lifo**
	buib No.				
53EX-ET Series	Industry Trade 1076	2500	402	200	430
	Industry Trade 1036	25W	402	300	3,100
53EAD-ET Series	Industry Trade 1076	2500	402	200	430
53EXD-G1 Selles	Industry Trade 1036	25W	402	300	3,100
53EXC-ET Series	Industry Trade 1076	2500	402	200	430
53EXC-G1 Selles		2500	402	1,000	3,100
So-INS-TOOVER Series	1000/01/00/1200	Halogon	1000	1,000	2,010
101EIN E1 Sorios	Industry Trado 04	15/	190	700	1 520
			52	12,000	1,520
			32	12,000	25,000
	JOLIVIF-12VVH-D		190	20,000	25,000
			52	12 000	1,520
TOTSING-GT Selles	Journey Trado	9W Halugen	52	12,000	15,000
101SINH N5 Sorios		12W/ Halagon	70	20.000	25.000
1013INI -NS Selles	or Industry Trade	12W Halogen	70	20,000	25,000
102LS-EIN-G1	Industry Trade 303	10\//	66	10.000	10.000
102L3-1 IN-G1			52	12,000	15,000
102L3-1 INT-01	50LMP-10W/	10\\/	66	2 500	2 500
102L3-11N-N5	50LMP-12WH	12W/Halogen	70	2,300	2,500
102L3-1 INT-IN3	Industry Trade 303	10\\\/	66	20,000	20,000
			52	12,000	10,000
			52	12,000	15,000
			70	2,500	2,500
			70 52	20,000	25,000
104FINH-GT Selles	or Industry Trade 1602	9W Halugen	52	12,000	15,000
	of industry frade 1092	15\//	110	1 000	6 350
10/FINH-G5 Series	501 MP-9W/H-D	napoleH ///0	52	12 000	15,000
1041 101-03 Selles	or Industry Trade 1692	3W halogen	52	12,000	13,000
		15W	110	1 000	6.350
104FINH-N5 Series	50I MP-12W/H-D	12W Halogen	70	20,000	25,000
	or Industry Trade 15T7DC	1211 Halogon		20,000	20,000
	o	15W	99	1.000	1.630
104SINH-G1 Series	50LMP-9WH-D	9W Halogen	52	12.000	15.000
	or Industry Trade 1692		_	,	-,
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	15W	110	1,000	6,350
104SINH-G5 Series	50LMP-9WH-D	9W Halogen	52	12,000	15,000
	or Industry Trade 1692	Ū			
	-	15W	110	1,000	6,350
104SINH-N5 Series	50LMP-12WH-D	12W Halogen	70	20,000	25,000
	or Industry Trade 15T7DC	-			
		15W	99	1,000	1,630
105FINH-G1 Series	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
105FINH-G5 Series	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
105FINH-N5 Series	50LMP-25WH	25W Halogen	175	20,000	20,000
105SINH-G1 Series	50LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
105SINH-G5 Series	50-LMP-20WH	20W Halogen	226	20,000	25,000
105SINH-N5 Series	50LMP-25WH	25W Halogen	175	20,000	20,000

*Calculated by the manufacturer at continuous operation at operating voltage.

**Projected at 65FPM and 50% duty cycle.

Edwards LED Light Output

For LEDs, the manufacturer's lumen rating per LED is used as the basis for calculations. However it should be noted that with LEDs light output ratings are relatively meaningless as LED viewing angle and lens optics have a more significant effect on viewer perceptibility.

Table 3. Edwards LED Light Output and Life

Cat. No.	LED Color	LED Life (hrs)	Lumen Rating
101FLED-G1	Red	100,000	28
101FLED-G1	Amber	100,000	38
101FLED-G1	Blue	100,000	35
101FLED-G1	Green	100,000	102
101FLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
101FLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
101FLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
101FLED-N5	Green	100,000	102
101SLED-G1	Red	100.000	28
101SLED-G1	Amber	100,000	38
101SLED-G1	Blue	100,000	35
101SLED-G1	Green	100.000	102
101SLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
101SLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
101SLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
101SLED-N5	Green	100,000	102
102ELED-G1	Red	100,000	135
102FLED-G1	Amber	100,000	346
102FLED-G1	Blue	100,000	135
102FLED-G1	Green	100,000	135
102FLED-N5	Red	100,000	135
102FLED-N5	Amber	100,000	346
102FLED-N5	Blue	100,000	135
102FLED-N5	Green	100,000	135
102SLED-G1	Red	100,000	135
102SLED-G1	Amber	100,000	346
102SLED-G1	Blue	100,000	135
102SLED-G1	Green	100,000	135
102SLED-N5	Red	100,000	135
102SLED-N5	Amber	100,000	346
102SLED-N5	Blue	100,000	135
102SLED-N5	Green	100,000	135
48FLED-G1	Red	100,000	28
48FLED-G1	Amber	100.000	38
48FLED-G1	Blue	100.000	35
48FLED-G1	Green	100.000	102
48FLED-N5	Red	100.000	28
48FLED-N5	Amber	100.000	38
48FLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
48FLED-N5	Green	100.000	102
48SLED-G1	Red	100.000	28
48SLED-G1	Amber	100.000	38
48SLED-G1	Blue	100.000	35
48SLED-G1	Green	100.000	102
48SLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
48SLED-N5	Amber	100.000	38
48SLED-N5	Blue	100.000	35
48SLED-N5	Green	100.000	102
103-RBA-G1	Red	100.000	120
	Blue	100.000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103-RGA-G1	Red	100,000	120
	Green	100,000	90

Amber 100,000 307		Amber	100,000	307
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Cat. No.	LED Color	LED Life (hrs)	Lumen Rating
103-RBA-N5	Red	100,000	120
	Blue	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103-RGA-N5	Red	100,000	120
	Green	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103I-RBA-G1	Red	100,000	120
	Blue	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103I-RGA-G1	Red	100,000	120
	Green	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103I-RBA-N5	Red	100,000	120
	Blue	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
103I-RGA-N5	Red	100,000	120
	Green	100,000	90
	Amber	100,000	307
104FLED-G1	Red	100,000	28
104FLED-G1	Amber	100,000	38
104FLED-G1	Blue	100,000	35
104FLED-G1	Green	100,000	31
104FLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
104FLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
104FLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
104FLED-N5	Green	100,000	31
104SLED-G1	Red	100,000	28
104SLED-G1	Amber	100,000	38
104SLED-G1	Blue	100,000	35
104SLED-G1	Green	100,000	31
104SLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
104SLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
104SLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
104SLED-N5	Green	100.000	31
105FLED-G1	Red	100.000	28
105FLED-G1	Amber	100.000	38
105FLED-G1	Blue	100.000	35
105FLED-G1	Green	100.000	102
105FLED-N5	Red	100,000	28
105FLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
105FLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
105FLED-N5	Green	100,000	102
105SLED-G1	Red	100,000	28
105SLFD-G1	Amber	100,000	38
105SLFD-G1	Blue	100,000	35
105SLFD-G1	Green	100,000	102
105SLED 01	Red	100,000	28
105SLED-N5	Amber	100,000	38
105SLED-N5	Blue	100,000	35
105SLED-N5	Green	100.000	102
		,	

<u>Technical Reference Information</u> <u>Light Output Descriptions</u>

When comparing two different warning lights, the first question usually asked is how bright are these lights and how do they compare to one another? This can be a complicated question when one is comparing very different light sources such as rotating incandescent lights and xenon strobe lights. Three different commonly used specified "intensity" ratings are discussed below.

- PEAK CANDELA or PEAK CANDLEPOWER This quantifies the maximum light intensity generated by a flashing light during its light pulse. It indicates nothing about how bright the light appears to the human eye. Peak candela alone cannot be used to directly compare two warning lights. In addition there is no set multiplication factor for converting peak candela, a unit of luminous intensity, to either candela seconds or effective candela, both units of luminous energy.
- 2. CANDELA SECONDS or CANDLEPOWER SECONDS This quantifies the actual light energy contained in a pulse of light. Candela seconds is used by SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) and by most State Highway Patrol Divisions to specify the minimum requirements of light output from a flashing light because flash energy has been shown to be a relatively accurate and fair way of comparing radically different types of lights such as incandescent rotators and xenon strobe lights.
- 3. EFFECTIVE CANDELA or EFFECTIVE CANDLEPOWER Effective candela is based on candela seconds and attempts to equate the brightness of a flashing light source to the brightness of a steady burning source. If a flashing light has an effective candela rating of 100 then it will be visible at the same distance as a 100 candela steady burn source. The National Bureau of Standards, the FAA, and the Illuminating Engineering Society use effective candela in specifying intensities of flashing light sources because this rating is the most meaningful when it becomes necessary to predict the visible range of flashing lights verses steady burn light sources.

Since one unit of "this" doesn't really equal two units of "that", the lighting manufacturing industry in general assimilates for easy laymen terms the following:

50 Candela assimilates to 100,000 Peak Candlepower which assimilates to 1 Joule

Just remember, a Joule is a measurement of electric energy, while Candlepower is a measurement of apparent brightness. Therefore, these comparisons are only approximate.

As shown in the diagram on the right, a strobe will have a much higher peak candela rating than a halogen rotator. However, the overall effective intensity is determined by the area under the curve. In comparing the two lights, the halogen rotator would have a higher perceived brightness of the two lights.



Strobe vs. Halogen Rotator Intensities

<u>Technical Reference Information</u> <u>Output Flash Brightness</u>

Approximate Effective Candela Rating per Joule:

Lens Color	Strobe Output	Halogen Output
Clear	45-55 Candela/Joule	45-55 Candela/Joule
Amber	30-40 Candela/Joule	32-43 Candela/Joule
Blue	17-23 Candela/Joule	7-10 Candela/Joule
Green	15-20 Candela/Joule	7-15 Candela/Joule
Red	7-10 Candela/Joule	10-15 Candela/Joule

Please note that the actual light output of a typical strobe warning light will depend upon a number of factors. These factors can vary the light output by a factor of 10 or more for a given number of Joules per flash. Joules is a measurement of electric energy, while Candela is a measurement of apparent brightness. Some of the factors involved are:

- -Color of lens
- -Size and efficiency of lens
- -Physical shape of strobe lamp and arrangement within the lens (optical coupling)
- -Efficiency of the strobe lamp itself

Determining Effective Candela:

Candela/Joule Rating										
		10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Flash	3 Joules	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150
Power	10 Joules	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500
	15 Joules	150	225	300	375	450	525	600	675	750

Example: For a 10 Joule light in an Amber lens:

10 Joules x 40 Candela/Joule = 400 Effective Candela since 50 Candela assimilates to 100,000 Peak Candlepower = 400 Effective Candela x 100,000/50 = 800,000 Peak Candela