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Are ALL LED lighting products the same?

Top 10 Questions to Ask Your LED Supplier

In today's confusing marketplace, finding the best LED system is a lot like comparing apples and oranges. Making an informed decision means knowing what questions to ask. To help you get started, we've put together a list of the top 10 questions you should ask your LED supplier.

1. Is your company registered as a Department of Energy (DOE) Quality Advocate? And, have you taken the Quality Pledge for Solid State Lighting (SSL) Products?

Priority LED is registered as a Solid State Lighting Quality Advocate. Our pledge is a commitment to customers that our LED products perform as claimed and that we will support continuous improvement in SSL product quality. The CEO of our LED systems business has taken the quality pledge and you can find our company listing at http://www.lighting-facts.com/

2. Whose LED's do you use in your products? Have your products gone through an Intellectual Property (IP) clearance?

Priority LED respects the valid Intellectual Property rights of others. Priority LED uses various manufacturers and brands of LED chips that manufacture the highest quality products and reputable brand in the industry. We are happy to share with our customers which LED chips are in which product offering.

3. What is the LED manufacturer's LED performance rating and what is the rating of your LED system or final product?

Priority LED does not base product performance ratings solely on data from the LED manufacturer. Instead, we conduct both in-house and third party laboratory testing of the LED, sub-system and complete LED system to determine actual product performance, taking into account thermal, optical and driver losses. We are happy to share with our customers test data relative to product performance claims.

4. What precautions do you take to ensure that the LED selected for your product will meet the performance requirements for which it's rated? Can you share your data showing the LED selection/testing process?

Prior to selecting a LED for our product, we perform long-term qualification testing at multiple temperatures and operating currents where we look for trends in color shift, light output depreciation and power consumption. We then compare our test data against the LED manufacturer's claims to validate performance. If the LED test data meets our minimum standards for performance, the LED may be approved for product use. Yes. Upon request, we can share our test data with customers.

5. Does your product use LED’s that have been LM80 tested to demonstrate L70 life after 6000 hours of test? If yes, can you share your LM80 data and life model that was used to demonstrate the L70 life?

Priority LED strives to offer the highest quality LED products in the industry, and this ultimately starts with the LED chips themselves. We strive to use LED’s that are tested to the LM80 requirements if available. Having the LED’s tested by third parties and the LM80 life data complements our comprehensive in-house testing of the LED’s. The combination of the tests significantly increases the confidence level in providing a rated life claim for our LED systems. Yes. Upon request, we can share LM80 test data with customers if available. Please note, not all LED manufacturers currently provide LM80 tested LED’s or are willing to share their test data.

6. Does your LED product meet the LM79 requirements? If yes, can you provide the LM79 test report from an accredited NVLAP test lab?

Priority LED test our products constantly and have our products tested our LED products to LM79 standards and provide the reports upon request.

7. Do you "design in reliability" or do you just "test for reliability" to demonstrate the long-term performance of your product? Can you share your product development reliability process?
Priority LED products have a "design in" a specified level of reliability into our products that takes into account various stress conditions the product will see over its lifetime in a real world application. Our rigorous testing protocol helps us validate that the product will perform as designed over its rated life. Testing is a useful tool to help validate product robustness, but "design for reliability" helps ensure that the product will perform as expected over time. The products are constantly tested in real world applications and monitored as well as the laboratory testing to find the balance in what is expected and is actually going to be experienced.

8. What type of testing do you perform to validate your product life and safe operation? Can you share the test results?

To help validate product life, all new Priority LED components must undergo high-temp testing at 140°F for at least 10% of its rated life to show that the product meets or exceeds its life claim. That means a product with a rated life of 50,000 hours will be subjected to a minimum 5,000 hours of continuous testing. In addition, we also conduct high-temp, high-humidity accelerated life testing for up to 1,000 hours at 140°F / 90%RH. We also perform robustness testing to identify the weakest links and to ensure the product will fail in a safe manner. Yes. Upon request, we can share our test data with customers.

9. What actions take place in the factory to ensure your product will work properly when installed by the customer? All Priority LED products are manufactured in strict accordance to a detailed set of assembly instructions that includes incoming component inspection/testing and multiple production line quality checks to help ensure the final product is built to our exacting standards. In addition to this, every product is tested before leaving the facility for 48 hours ensuring that all components are working according to their specifications.

10. How do you ensure the product will continue to meet the specification?

To help ensure long-term performance, we continue to test Priority LED products for years after initial launch. At predefined intervals, we pull samples out of production and send to our NVLAP certified facility for LM79 testing. We test products that have been installed in actual test sites comparing the results to the initial installation light levels and color.