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NOTE: T5HO lamps are designed to operate on Programmed-Start Electronic ballasts. They are not designed to be driven by magnetic ballasts or by Instant-Start Ballasts, magnetic or electronic.

Some of our competitors use Instant-Start ballasts in their T5/HO fixtures. Why? There are a couple of reasons.

- They cost the OEM fixture manufacturer less to purchase.
- They have less wiring, so the OEM fixture manufacturer spends less on wiring and the labor to wire the fixture.

What is the benefit to you? None, unless you figure a couple of dollars on the initial fixture purchase is worth the following offsets:

- Dramatically shortened lamp life
- Substantial lumen depreciation
- Higher maintenance costs
- Higher Total Harmonic Distortion
- Inability to use on controls such as occupancy sensors (will degrade lamp further)

Fixtures ordered from The Light Edge, Inc. will NEVER contain Instant-Start ballasts. We use the system as it was designed to be used. Our goal is not to be the low priced commodity manufacturer but instead the quality and performance leader.

You may see lamp warranties stating full lamp life on Instant Start ballasts, but you would be well advised to read the fine print. Does this statement sound like full lamp life? ***“...if the lamp fails within two years or 8000 hours of operation, whichever comes first, ... will provide a replacement lamp at no charge. This warranty applies only to lamps that are operated on a burning cycle of 10 hours or more per start....this warranty applies only to purchases from ... or(our) Distributors”.***

The other great claim regarding Instant Start ballasts is they can drive four 54 watt T5/HO lamps and consume ONLY 232 watts. The Light Edge, Inc. four-lamp T5/HO Raptor, utilizing the correct programmed-start ballasts, consumes only 220 watts - 12 watts less than the supposedly more energy efficient Instant Start ballast.

Here's the bottom line: none of the three major lamp/ballast manufacturers currently manufacture or market an Instant Start T5/HO ballast. None of the three major lamp manufacturers recommend or warranty T5/HO lamps for the full 20,000 rating on Instant-Start ballasts.

You can buy them in an attempt to save on the initial purchase, but the resulting life cycle cost will be much higher. If Instant-Start ballasts were a good idea we would install them in our T5/HO fixtures. We simply think that by doing so, we would not be providing the best system for our customers.