

4.3 Equal and Approved

One problem that frequently affects lighting designs is the substitution with a cheaper luminaire of the one specified in the original design. Such substitutions are usually made if a project undergoes a value engineering process. Sometimes, substitutions are justified, sometimes they are not.

The key in determining if a substitution is justified, is a review carried out by the original designer and/or a fully qualified and experienced third-party to determine if the substitute luminaire is the same as the originally specified luminaire and approved according to the relevant standards, i.e. if it is equal and approved. The factors to be considered in the review are the photometric characteristics, the construction and the aesthetics of the substitute luminaire. In addition, attention should be paid to the electrical characteristics, conformity to the relevant standards and the impact on maintenance. Further details of these elements of the review can be found in the '*DMA Roadway & Public Realm Lighting Specifications*'.