TECHNICAL BULLETIN
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Directional Orientation

All locking-type photocontrols have a North mark on the top of the housing above the window. Fifty years ago the photo multiplier tubes that were used in controls were very sensitive. Any excessive heat absorbed by the tube through direct exposure to sunlight had a tendency to vary the light level sensitivity. With the solution to this problem came the beginning of a spec for North orientation. It was also felt that a more uniform light change took place by monitoring northern light (in the North Hemisphere & southern light in the Southern Hemisphere) than any other direction.

The photocontrol sensing elements of today are not harmed by direct sunlight. However, different effects do come about with the different orientations. Facing east will create a higher turn on light level in the evening and an earlier turn off in the morning. Facing west will create the opposite effect — low turn on in the evening and higher turn off light levels in the morning. In terms of orientation, it is important to note the impact of the local lighting conditions (at night) where the photocontrol is being used. Facing other light fixtures or bright reflected lights off walls, can create a low light level turn on of the fixture or in unusual situations, a cycler. Light turns on and creates enough local light to turn itself off.

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Each location should be looked at to yield the greatest amount of light when and where desired. All locking-type receptacles can be re-oriented by loosening the mounting screws and rotating the socket. The socket also has a north indicator molded in so it is simple to use this north mark to set the photocell in any direction desired.