# Does your photometric data portray your company and products in the best possible light?

In a world where any competitive edge is beyond value, just having some photometric data is no longer enough, the data you publish must show your products and company in the best possible light. Apart from obvious things like the data being up to date, your data should be correctly formatted and available for all the design programs your clients might want to use.

What could possibly be wrong with my data?

A lot of the data we see is raw test data even when the tested luminaire has some degree of symmetry. If data is not processed to apply the appropriate symmetry it will produce slightly odd looking results when used in a lighting program. Whilst this might not in be critical terms of the lighting design results, it does not make your data look and feel as good as it could.
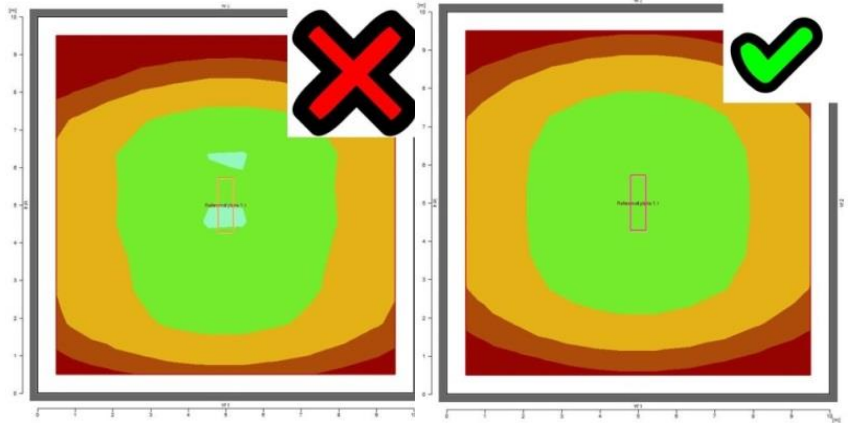
A lot of data is now being measured and presented in accordance with American national standards (IESNA) used by American lighting design programs such as AGI32. European lighting design programs such as Relux, Lighting Reality and Dialux all use a European native file format (LDT) but will import IES data. This sounds good, but due to fundamental differences between the American and European measurement systems it is not possible to automatically convert from one to the other correctly. A major difference between the American and European systems is the definition of dimensions, for example length in the American system is sometimes length and other times width in the European system! Another difference is the definition of the angles measured, for example 0° Azimuth in the American system is sometimes 0° and other times 90° in the European system. Taking these two inconsistencies shows how easy it is to end up with a data file where the photometric distribution does not align correctly with the physical dimensions.
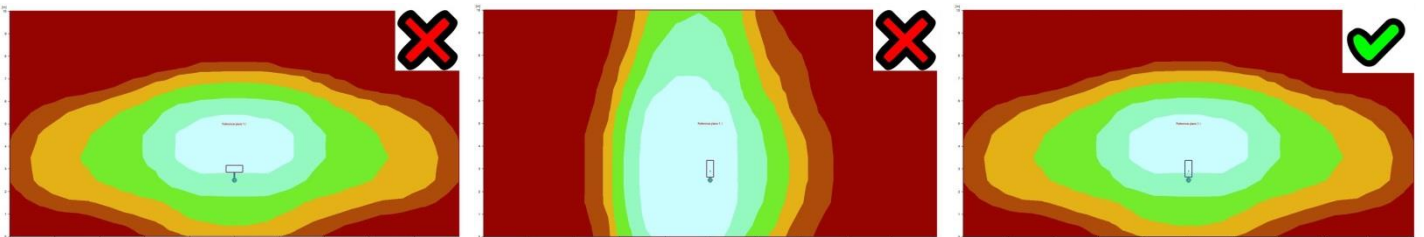
There are other differences between IES and LDT formats, IES files have only one set of dimensions; the size of the luminous area. LDT files have 2 sets of dimensions, the luminous area and the overall physical size of the luminaire. In converting from IES to LDT this extra data has to be added. This may not seem important but imagine a small downlight incorporated into a 600 x 600 panel. As a correctly formatted LDT file this would neatly fit into a reflected ceiling grid each luminaire occupying one tile whereas a badly converted IES file would have a small circular luminaire floating anywhere on the ceiling. Most lighting design programs produce a data sheet showing the information contained in the file, the data sheet would show incorrect dimensions in the case of a poorly converted IES file. This may not be critical but is not showing your product in the best possible light.

What Can I do to improve the appearance of my data ?

42 Partners have for many years been the gold standard for presentation of photometric data, our test reports and data files were effectively the industry standard. Although no longer testing, we still continue to develop our own software for producing reports and data files. Developments in our capabilities mean that we can supply information in new formats such as Revit family data, we will continue to improve this service to take account of any new developments requiring photometric data in other formats. 42 Partners can reprocess any photometric data, add any extra information required. You can have data that enables you to market your products with full confidence that they are presented in the best possible light.