



# Lighting Controls: Types, Terms & Methods

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A plain-English reference of lighting control terms, types and methods — and how they relate to California Title 24 acceptance testing.

## Occupancy sensor

A control that automatically turns lights on when it detects presence and off (or down) when the space is vacant.

## Vacancy sensor

Similar to an occupancy sensor but manual-on / automatic-off — the occupant switches lights on, and the sensor turns them off when the space empties.

## Daylight harvesting TITLE 24

Using photosensors to automatically dim or switch electric lighting in response to the amount of available daylight, reducing energy use near windows and skylights.

## Photosensor (photocell)

A device that measures ambient light level and feeds that reading to daylighting controls so they can respond to real conditions.

## Time-clock / scheduling control

Turns lighting on and off based on a programmed time schedule — for example, off after business hours.

## Multi-level / step dimming

Controls that let lighting operate at more than one light level — stepped or continuous dimming — rather than simple on/off.

## Institutional tuning (high-end trim)

Setting a maximum light output below 100% to save energy while still meeting design light levels.

## Demand responsive control TITLE 24

Automatically reduces lighting power in response to a utility demand-response signal during peak periods.

## Automatic shut-off control TITLE 24

A control that turns off lighting automatically during unoccupied periods, via schedule or occupancy.

## Manual area control

A readily accessible manual switch or dimmer that controls the lighting in a given area.

## Acceptance testing

Field verification that installed lighting controls operate correctly per Title 24 — performed and documented by a certified Acceptance Test Technician (ATT).