

The Wrench

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Choosing a Lamp Vendor

The detector lamp is a critical component in how well an HPLC detector will operate. Along with the HPLC column it is also one of the most expensive 'consumable' items in an HPLC system with lamps typically being replaced anywhere from 1 to 5 times per year depending on usage. Therefore choosing the right lamp vendor is critical to the success of your analysis but is also important for the overall success of your lab.

At CTS Corp. we continuously monitor an assortment of our lamp products against the OEM lamps. This ensures that we continue to match or beat their performance in terms of lamp intensity, noise, and lifetime. Figure 1 shows a comparison of our version of the Agilent® 1100 shine-thru lamp, Agilent 1100 DAD long life lamp, and the Agilent 1100 VW lamp for noise, wander and drift. This corresponds to CTS part numbers CTS-10473(T), CTS-10827, and CTS-10494 respectively.

Lamp	Type	ASTM Noise [mAU] (Limit: 0.05)	Wander [mAU] (Limit: 0.2)	Drift [mAU/h] (Limit: 5)
CTS-10473(T)	DAD	0.016	0.039	0.281
OEM Lamp	DAD	0.016	0.014	0.155
CTS-10827	DAD	0.021	0.026	0.270
OEM Lamp	DAD	0.013	0.029	0.243
CTS-10494	VWD	0.013	0.016	0.051
OEM Lamp	VWD	0.012	0.012	0.062

Fig. 1

In addition to our comparison testing we work closely with multiple deuterium Lamp manufacturers to provide you with the best possible lamp for each OEM's instrument. Two of the larger lamp producers we deal with are ISO certified manufacturers and each possesses extensive in-house R&D and QA facilities for testing and creating products. Some of the tests typically performed include spectrum check, lamp output, and lifetime, as well as transmission of optical components. Their optics expertise with our

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