DALI - Commissioning

All DALI devices need to be commissioned for the first time before they will work correctly. This requires specialised equipment, such as the Artistic Licence Dali-Scope (see opposite).

Commissioning involves giving every DALI device a unique short address. This enables two-way communication between the controller and devices.

DALI devices contain a random number generator that enables them to be individually discovered during commissioning. After the commissioning tool performs the discovery stage, it sequentially assigns individual short addresses to each device on the DALI subnet.

At the end of the process, the device short-addresses can be reprogrammed if required to achieve a more logical order. (The commissioning tool will normally identify the ballast to be reprogrammed by switching it on or off).

If new devices are added to an existing network, short addresses already in use will be avoided.

The commissioning process is separate to the configuration of the devices and only needs to be done once.

DALI commissioning tools

Similarly to RDM, a specialised programming tool is required to commission DALI devices. There are not many on the market as commissioning is usually done by a commissioning company. However as DALI becomes more widely used, more programming tools are becoming available.

Dali-Scope

Dali-Scope is small hand-held DALI commissioning tool designed by Artistic Licence.

It is capable of performing auto-discovery, commissioning, programming, channel, group and scene assignments, test and analysis functions.

Tridonic USB DALI Interface/Programmer

This tool provides all the functions required for DALI commissioning and programming. It also has a detailed Data Monitor that can be useful to track down issues with DALI controllers. Requires a PC.

DALI Commissioning Flowchart

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