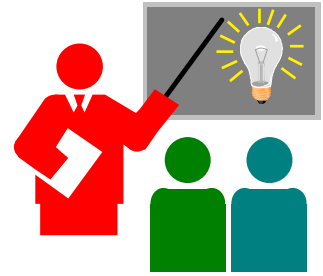




**® Illumination
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Technical Note: **120**

Question:

Why is it that I am able to communicate with one lightsource using the RS-485 protocol, but when I add an additional lightsource the communication fails? I've checked dip switches cables and software repeatedly and found them all to be good. Is there a problem with the second unit?



Answer:

When power is applied, all the lightsources perform a handshaking sequence with the host computer through their microcontroller. However, if the communications cable is connected to a lightsource after the power has been applied that lightsource has missed its chance to handshake and with the host computer and is ignored. If a lightsource is ignored by the host no communication is possible. To resolve the problem remove power from all the lightsources. Make all the cable connections, and verify that each source has a unique address, and restore power to each unit. When all units that are being used already connected to the host computer, the handshaking sequence can initialize properly and communication can begin.

All communication connections should be made before power is applied, even in the case of a single lightsource.

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