



Autoscope

Vision – SW Version 2.2.0.67 or earlier

Date: 12 February 2018

Document Number: SB0002

In accordance with Econolite's emphasis on safety as its top priority, this Safety Awareness Notice is to advise you of a contrast loss detection concern with Autoscope Vision under certain weather-related conditions, which may lead to poor detection performance and long wait times for vehicles.

Summary of Product Awareness

The Autoscope cameras have a failsafe mechanism that seeks a loss of video image contrast and applies a phase recall on the phases until the image contrast is restored. This ensures service to vehicles in times of dense fog, snow, or other conditions where roadway visibility is hindered. We have received a report of the Autoscope Vision cameras triggering this recall either too slowly when fog is increasing or releasing the recall too prematurely when fog is lifting. This can result in an intermittent timeframe where the sensor believes it has sufficient image contrast to perform video detection, but cannot sufficiently see the vehicles for detection.

Econolite's controller firmware and central systems both have a detector diagnostics feature that monitors detection activity independent from the sensor. If the controller does not receive phase calls within a user-programmable period, it will place the phases on recall. This is a secondary failsafe mechanism to ensure phase service in the event that a detector fails for any reason. All sensor types are prone to various failure modes and this feature is recommended as a safe best-practice for all sensor types.

Recommended Action

To avoid any potential latent triggering of contrast loss failure within the Autoscope sensor, Econolite recommends that agencies enable detector diagnostics programmed at either the controller or central system level. We, however, know that many agencies do not always enable these diagnostics. We are sending out this safety notice to agencies to ensure that they are aware of this discovery and mitigate any risk to their detection performance.



Autoscope

Vision – SW Version 2.2.0.67 or earlier

Date: 12 February 2018

Document Number: SB0002

The following actions are recommended:

1. The agency should enable detector diagnostics at the local controller or central system with provisions to monitor for minimum calls within a reasonable diagnostic period.
2. Econolite will be releasing a firmware update to the Vision cameras by February 15th, 2018, which will address this issue. It is recommended that agencies apply this firmware update to regions that are likely to experience dense fog, snow, or rain that typically results in contrast loss.
3. Econolite recommends that agencies keep the detector diagnostics enabled, even after the vision firmware update, as a means of applying best safety practices.

Econolite is committed to the safest possible operation of our systems and seek to inform you of any safety issues we come across among our broad deployment base. This issue likely has remote impact to most users, but we are sending out this notice to ensure those with these weather conditions apply these remedial recommendations.

For additional assistance, please:

- Send an email to support@econolite.com
Note: Make sure the subject line in the email reads “RE: Vision Safety Notice”
 - Phone our support line at (800) 225-6480.
- OR
- Contact your local Account Manager or Distributor.