ALL LED TUBES ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

Some people are fooled into thinking that simply because an LED tube meets the life and efficiency requirements to be approved for rebates by Design Light Corsortium that all perform equally.   Nothing is farther from the truth.

The fact is that there are numerous types of LED tubes (direct wired, ballast compatible and external driver types) that all meet the minimum lumens/watt and L79 data to be approved for rebates.   It is essential that when considering a led tube replacement that you answer the following questions:

Has the manufacturer had a recall on their LED tubes?   Many of the major manufacturers have had a recall due to shocking or fire hazards.   When selecting a led tube, you should consider some important facts:

#1   Some current will be 120 and others will be 277 volt running thru the LED tubes.
With a direct wired option, you no longer have a ballast to regular the current and power running thru the socket and potentially the installer if the led tube is not seated properly.   Better manufacturers will offer a safety switch to prevent accidental arching of the led tubes and the person installing them.

#2 Some recalls have been due to overheating of the tubes resulting in a fire risk. Ideally the led manufacturer will have a solution to prevent this such as silicone fill surrounding the driver to eliminate this hazard.

Is this led tube direct wire type, ballast compatible or both?

The advantage to a system that can be both ballast compatible AND direct wired is that it installs easily without having to remove the ballast. Then, when the ballast fails, you can use the SAME tube as a direct wire replacement.

Does does this direct wire led tube work?   One lead or both leads?   Also will it work on both shunted and non shunted sockets?

What is the warranty period and who is providing it?   With warranty period ranging from 3-5-7 years, you want to insure that the company selling the lamp or the ultimate manufacture will still be in business to cover any potential failures.