

LED Spare Parts Inventory: Explained

New LED board installed in the last few years? Receive boxes and boxes of spare parts? Interestingly enough it is not uncommon and generally an accepted industry standard that new LED installations include spare parts. But why is this important?

Retaining a compliment of spare parts in a facility with LED is good business practice. The majority of components that make up an LED display come from overseas. Ordering one part at a time would be time consuming and expensive. Having the stock of parts onsite will expedite any necessitated repairs and allow tighter controls of the RMA process.

When parts are put into service from inventory it typically means that a failed part is being added to the collection. Ensure to note on the bad part the date it was removed and the reason for failure. Do not allow the failed parts to stock pile, immediately notifying your service partner of the need to complete an RMA. Repair of failed components can fluctuate based upon service availability, component accessibility and shipping times.

LED Modules

LED modules that are in inventory are likely the most valuable asset to the LED display. This is because LED modules purchased as a spare part were manufactured with the main displays and consist of the same batch of diodes resulting in the best color match. For this reason, it is always important to have these modules repaired to retain the original parts, if possible.

LED modules manufactured after the install will likely be built from a different batch of diodes thereby producing an inconsistent product. Modules can be color matched with modifications to onboard processing to a certain extent depending upon the initial variance. However, this typically comes at an expense of time and additional fees for the process.

Power Supplies

Power supply units (PSU) will likely be in abundance in spare parts inventories, and there will often be more than one type. Different parts of the LED display require different levels of direct current (DC) voltage. The most common supply voltages are 3.3V and 5V. It is important to verify the failed PSU is being exchanged for a model of the same voltage and overall wattage/ampereage.

Data Cards

Spare part inventories may also include a subset of data cards for transmitting (TX) or receiving (RX) data to/from the LED display. This is critical as the cards in inventory will have the same firmware on the original data cards as installed. It is important to verify with your service partner that you are receiving replacement data cards with the same firmware version.

Miscellaneous Cabling

Other cables, such as CAT5/6, BNC or ribbon cables, may be included in the inventory. These parts should not be expected to fail often, but it is always best to have replacements on hand in the rare circumstance they are required. If the LED display utilizes ribbon cards it is imperative to retain this stock as they are the least common component to find from retailers on the market.

Southpaw Service manages onsite spare part inventories for clients to reduce the need for onsite personnel to conduct inventory audits or manage RMAs directly. If you would like assistance in managing your inventory please contact Southpaw Service for assistance at (469) 299-4111 or service@southpawlive.com.