

PHOTOELECTRIC SENSORS

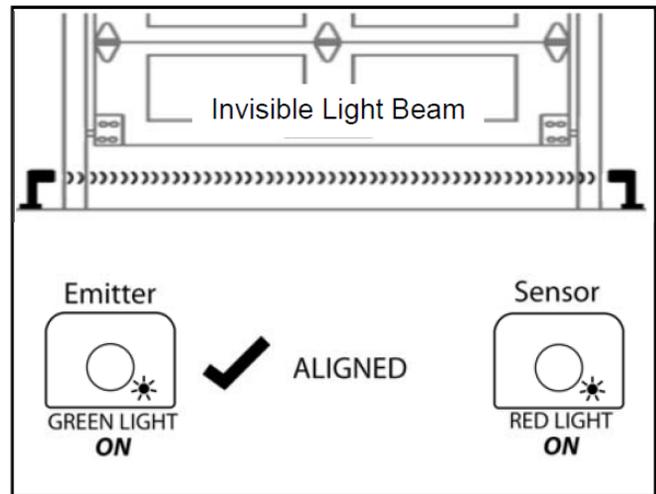
By Roy Bardowell, CDDC

Your garage door's motor operator comes with a set of photoelectric sensors, which are literally a life saver. Your door's photoelectric sensors, will reverse the door to the open position if an obstruction passes through the doorway while the door is closing. This device can save a pet or person from becoming trapped under the closing door. Furthermore, photoelectric sensors will prevent the door from closing when a person or object is in the doorway.



The photoelectric sensors are built to be very reliable, but photoelectric sensors sometimes develop a fault that's easily fixed. If you find your garage door won't close when you command it to, most of the times it will be that the sensors are not properly aligned. The two sensors should be placed about six

inches or less from the ground on each side of the door. Most important they have to be lined up with one another in order to work correctly.



One sensor sends a pulsing beam towards the other so if one is misaligned, the opposite sensor will not count the correct amount of pulses, so the door will not close. We call this the Pulse Code and it is different with every manufacturer of door operators. This means you must always use the set of sensors that are compatible with the operator brand.

When properly aligned, the sensors will work great day after day. Some sensors may have a LED which will light up when the sensors are properly aligned. When there is an alignment issue, one or both of the LED's will flash. This is an easy fix as you can adjust the bracket housing on one or both of the sensors until they are aligned again.

Roy Bardowell, CDDC, served as Operations Manager at Guardian Access & Door Hardware until 2014. He has been in the door and operator industry since 1973 and is known as one of the industry's most experienced operator technicians and trainers. Roy received the IDEA Commitment to Excellence award in 2008 and IDA's Jerry R. Reynolds Volunteer Service Award in 2017. Contact him at roythedoorman@gmail.com