



THE

**W**AMEDROPPER

## MEMBRANE SWITCHES WITH FIBER OPTIC BACK LIGHTING

Douglas Corporation's customers have the option to back light their membrane switches using existing fiber optic technology. We currently manufacture a number of switches that do require back lighting.

Our source for fiber optics is an Ohio company called Lumitex Inc. To our knowledge, they are the preferred and primary source of fiber optic lighting in this country. In recent years, they have made advances that have lowered costs to make this form of back lighted switch a more viable option than in the past. As the cost has come down, so has the bulk and thickness of the layer we add to the switch. . . resulting in a better tactile feel. Additionally, the cost has been reduced for the LED's used for the light source even while brightness has improved. The primary cost factor of fiber optics is relative to the actual area within the membrane switch that requires back lighting. You could estimate that a switch might increase in cost approximately 25% by adding back lighting. Although significant, fiber optics can still prove to be a cost savings when compared to alternative back lighting options such as electro luminescent.



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