

Mixed use of optical module brands



Summary of Content

Optical modules from different brands can be mixed if they comply with the same standards, protocols, and optical specifications, but careful attention is required to avoid link failures or performance issues.

Compatibility Considerations

Standards Compliance: Optical transceivers must adhere to the same Multi-Source Agreement (MSA) standards, such as SFF-8472, to ensure interoperability. Modules following these standards generally maintain consistent electrical and optical behavior, allowing mixed-brand deployment . **Protocol Alignment:** Both ends of the link must use the same Ethernet protocol. Mismatched protocols can cause link failure. Forward Error Correction (FEC) protocols, such as RS-FEC, must also match to prevent silent packet drops or high bit error rates . **Optical Specifications:**

- **Fiber Type:** Multimode modules must use multimode fiber, and single-mode modules must use single-mode fiber. Different connector types (e.g., SC vs. LC) can be used if adapters are applied .
- **Wavelength:** The transmit and receive wavelengths must match. For example, a 1310nm module cannot communicate with an 850nm module. Incorrect wavelengths can cause signal loss, especially over long distances .

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