

BU – Base Up Lamp (ie. Can only be used in a Base Up (socket pointed down) position.

CFL – Compact Fluorescent Lamp.

Colour Temperature – The colour of light. Example 2000°K is Yellowish. 5000°K is a cold white colour.

Control Gear – The Electrical parts collectively which operate discharge lamps.

CRI – Colour Rendering Index measures the ability to distinguish different colours. Measured in Ra from 0 - 100. The higher the Ra, the easier it is to see the difference.

CWA Constant Wattage Autotransformer – A type of metal halide control gear which requires no Ignitor and is generally very reliable. Only lamps designed to operate with CWA gear should be used on such luminaires. Standard metal halide lamps (eg. Osram) run on reactor control gear and should not be used with CWA equipment.

Discharge – covers both Fluorescent and HID Lamps.

Emergency ‘Maintained’ – the same lamp is used for normal output and for Emergency output. This is typical in Fluorescent lamps. When in emergency mode, the light output will be significantly lower, typically below 8% of normal levels.

Emergency ‘Non-Maintained’ – a separate dedicated lamp is used for Emergency mode. This is a typical option with HID lamps.

Encapsulated – Sinking the Ballast in a Sand & Resin compound to dissipate heat, extend component life and minimise noise emissions. A disadvantage is that the Ballast cannot be removed from its Enclosure once it has been encapsulated.

EON – System of lamp relays. Additional lamps are added to a Luminaire, but there is still only 1 set of Gear. Each time the Luminaire is switched on, a different lamp ignites. The advantages are longer relamping periods and quicker re-strike times.

EPA – Effective Projected Area – of a Luminaire is used to calculate suitable Pole strengths in various wind conditions.

Gear – See Control Gear above.

HID – High Intensity Discharge Lamps. Includes Lamps such as HPS, Metal Halide or Mercury.

HIE – As Metal Halide lamp, but with Elliptical shape.

HIT – As Metal Halide lamp, but with Tubular shape.

HOR – Horizontal – In a Lamp context, it can only be used in a Horizontal position.

HPS – High Pressure Sodium – A Yellowish Light, very efficient, good reliability and good lamp life.

HSE – As HPS Lamp above, but with Ellipsoidal shape.

HSE/I – As HSE Lamp above, but with internal Ignitor.

HST – As HPS Lamp above, but with Tubular shape.

Ignitor – One of the components in HID control gear. The Ignitor’s function is to start (ignite) the lamp. In most cases, they must be located within 1m of the lamp otherwise a ‘Long Distance Ignitor’ is required.

IES – Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

Internal – Within the luminaire.

Integral – Connected to the luminaire.

IP Rating – Ingress Protection rating. A measurement of how well sealed a Luminaire is. The first digit after IP refers to dust protection, the second digit refers to water protection. Full details given separately – see Menu for Tech Info.

K – Degrees Kelvin. See Colour Temperature.

Lamp – Bulb

Lamp Life – Usually the time in hours in which 50% of a large Batch of Lamps can be expected to survive. It is based on Laboratory conditions that do not prevail in practise, so it can only be taken as a guide. Lamp Life for LEDs is taken to be the time when light levels drop to 70% of initial lumen output.

LED – Light Emitting Diode – is a semi-conductor light source. They can have the advantage lower energy consumption, longer lifetime, improved robustness, smaller size, faster switching, etc. They are relatively expensive and require more precise current and heat management than traditional light sources.

Litematic – An instant start, auxiliary tungsten relay lamp. Optional on most HID Luminaires to compensate for slow start up time.

Lumen – Measurement of the Output of light from a Lamp.

Luminaire – Apparatus or fitting that holds a Lamp.

Lux – Measurement of the light received at a point (1 Lux = 1 Lumen per square meter).

Mercury – A type of HID Lamp or Luminaire characterised by poor quality white light, low cost, good reliability and long lamp life.

Metal Halide – A type of HID Lamp or Luminaire characterised by good quality white light and higher cost. Reliability and lamp life are dependant on wattage and exact type of lamp and gear used.

MH – Either Metal Halide (Lamp type) or Mounting Height depending on the context.

Par – Parabolic Aluminised Reflector. A Lamp with an in-built reflector at one end.

Photocell – A device which switches off a lamp during day time.

PMH – Pulse Metal Halide – a high output version of Metal Halide.

Ra – See CRI above.

Reactor Gear – Standard control gear in most European HID Luminaires. Usually consists of a Ballast, capacitor and very often an Ignitor.

Starter – The Ignitor within Fluorescent control gear.

T5 – New generation of Linear Fluorescent lamps. Shorter and with less Diameter (16mm) compared to standard (T8) lamps.

T8 – An older type of Linear Fluorescent generally on the market. Diameter of these lamps is 26mm.

TC-L/TC-D/TC-T – Types of compact Fluorescent lamps.

Transformer – Electrical component used to change 230v electrical supply to other voltages (usually 12v) which some lamps require to operate.