



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Metal Halide Ballast Efficiency Requirements

1. What is EISA and how does it concern me?

- EISA is a federal law (Public Law 110-140, approved on December 19, 2007), that has broad-reaching implications aimed at the reduction of energy consumption, reduced dependence on oil and strategies for addressing global climate change. A portion of this law mandates the efficiency of metal halide ballasts, effectively preventing the sale of 150W - 500W probe start metal halide luminaires.
- EISA regulates the ballast efficiency of metal halide luminaires that are rated to operate from 150W – 500W and are manufactured (or imported) for sale in the United States on or after January 1, 2009.

Ballast Type	Lamp Wattage	Ballast Efficiency
Magnetic Probe Start	150W - 500W	94%
Pulse Start	150W - 500W	88%
Non-Pulse Start Electronic	150W - 250W	90%
Non-Pulse Start Electronic	251W - 500W	92%

- EISA establishes ballast efficiency requirements for specific ballast types; requires fixture cartons, ballasts, point-of-purchase display and catalogs (published after July 1, 2009), include a label as specified by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); and, requires annual reporting by the luminaire manufacturer, as specified by the FTC. Luminaire cartons, ballasts, point-of-purchase displays and catalogs are to be marked with an encircled capital "E".



2. What products, families and brands are affected?

- Lithonia Lighting®, Holophane®, Antique Street Lamps™, American Electric Lighting®, Gotham® and Hydrel®.
- All indoor and outdoor products rated for use with 150W - 500W metal halide lamps and manufactured (or imported) for sale in the United States.

3. What is the effective date?

- EISA is effective on January 1, 2009. After this date, luminaire manufacturers are not allowed to manufacture or import products with ballasts that do not meet the federal ballast efficiency requirements.
- Non-compliant products manufactured or imported prior to January 1, 2009, still may be sold after the effective date.

4. What is pulse start and how does it compare to probe start?

- Probe start technology uses an ignitor inside the lamp to start the lamp. A pulse start system adds a separate ignitor component that is paired with the ballast rather than inside the lamp. These system changes allow a pulse start system to provide improved efficiency and performance.
- Common benefits of pulse start equipment include:
 - Greater efficacy & energy savings
 - Superior color rendition
 - Quicker restrike
 - Improved lumen maintenance
 - Reduced color shift over life
 - Colder starting temperatures
 - Longer lamp life
 - Faster warm-up



5. How does this affect pricing?

- a. Pulse start technology has been available, generally as an option or an upgrade, for some time. Because of its many benefits and the increased costs associated with this technology, pulse start-equipped luminaires cost more to manufacture due to additional components, wiring and increased material costs. The difference in cost is dependent on the wattage and features desired.
- b. Additionally, the new pulse start EISA efficiency standards will further increase material costs.
- c. Please consult your Acuity Brands Lighting sales representative for pricing.

6. How do I specify compliant product?

- a. Acuity Brands Lighting is committed to 100% compliance. All applicable products manufactured or imported for sale in the U.S. after January 1, 2009, will meet EISA requirements.
- b. Some Acuity Brands Lighting companies may require the use of specific ordering information (nomenclature) that represents the pulse start ballast (i.e. SCWA, SC). Please see the specification sheets or product catalog for information regarding ordering information for pulse start ballasts that are EISA compliant.

7. Will probe start replacement parts be available for existing applications?

- a. Yes. EISA is specific to newly manufactured or imported luminaires manufactured before January 1, 2009. Replacement ballasts and lamps will continue to be available for existing applications.

8. Will I be required to retrofit existing installations to comply with EISA's requirements?

- a. No. EISA is specific to newly manufactured or imported luminaires manufactured before January 1, 2009. Existing installations of probe start ballasted product will not require a retrofit.

9. What happens to non-compliant product currently stocked by distribution?

- a. EISA sets a manufacturing or import cutoff date for compliance and allows for product manufactured or imported before January 1, 2009, to be sold after the deadline, therefore returns are not necessary.

10. What are my competitors doing?

- a. The law requires **all** luminaire manufacturers selling metal halide products into the U.S. to comply with EISA Section 324.

11. Will all luminaire manufacturers be required to comply with EISA?

- a. Yes. All U.S. manufacturers and importers are required to comply with EISA. Acuity Brands Lighting supports government efforts to conserve energy and specifically supports the metal halide requirements included in EISA. We encourage all of our business partners and other manufacturers to assist with documenting and reporting non-compliant products.

12. How is California different? What about other states that have (or plan) to enact similar legislation?

- a. California is currently regulated by Title 20 and is excluded from the federal requirements (EISA) through 2011.
- b. EISA harmonizes and supersedes metal halide ballast efficiency laws for the balance of the 49 states.

13. How does this affect Mexico, Canada and International Sales?

- a. Non-EISA compliant product still can be sold to markets outside the United States. Specifically, probe start or non-compliant pulse start products may be able to be installed outside the U.S. Please consult your local or national laws or codes for additional information.

14. Where do I go for further information?

- a. Visit the Acuity Brands Lighting EISA Resource Center at www.AcuityBrandsLighting.com/EISA.

15. Are any luminaires that contain metal halide ballasts exempt from EISA?

- a. Luminaires that contain metal halide ballasts less than 150W or greater than 500W are excluded from EISA.
- b. Regulated lag ballasts are exempt from EISA.
- c. Luminaires that use electronic ballasts rated for 480 volts.
- d. Luminaires that meet **all** the following criteria:
 - rated only for 150W lamps
 - AND rated for wet location use as defined by National Electric Code 2002 Section 410.4(A)
 - AND contain a ballast rated to operate at an ambient air temperature above 50°C as specified by UL 1029-2001.