

Glossary

Ampere (amp) A measure of electrical current.

ANSI American National Standards Institute. All ANSI coded lamps meet mechanical, electrical and photometric characteristics. They insure interchangeability among similarly coded lamps from different manufacturers.

Ballast An auxiliary piece of equipment designed to start and to properly control the flow of power to gas discharge light sources.

Base Refers to a lamp's method of electrical connection to a lamp socket.

Beam Spread or Angle For reflector type lamps. The total angle of the directed beam (in degrees) to where the intensity of the beam falls to 50% of the maximum value.

Blacklight Refers to a light source which emits mainly the ultra-violet (UV) spectrum. Used to make UV active objects glow. Blacklight radiates UV around 320 to 400 nanometers.

Center Beam Candlepower (CBCP) For reflector type lamps. The intensity (candelas) at the center or maximum intensity of the beam.

Chromaticity See Color Temperature.

Color Rendering Index (CRI) The ability of the lamp to render object colors in a normal, natural way. Ranges from 0 - 100. A CRI of 100 displays all colors exactly as they appear under the source. The lower the CRI, the poorer the colors are rendered.

Color Temperature Warmth or Coolness of the lamp, measured in Kelvin (K). The higher the temperature the cooler the appearance of the light. The higher the temperature the greater the blue component in the spectrum and the smaller the red component.

Compact Fluorescent General term applied to families of smaller diameter fluorescent lamps.

DIA Diameter of bulb at widest point.

Dimming Operation of the lamp at less than rated power with reduced light output.

Discharge Short for HID. Light source using a pressurized gas filled capsule.

Elliptical Reflector (ER) An incandescent lamp with an elliptically-shaped reflector. This shape produces a focal point directly in front of the lamp which reduces light absorption in some types of fixtures.

EPACT Energy Policy Act, energy legislation passed minimum energy efficacy requirements for many commonly used incandescent and fluorescent lamp types.

Filament Usually a thin wire or coil of wire made of tungsten through which electric current is passed to produce heat/light.

Fluorescent A high efficiency lamp utilizing an electric discharge through low pressure mercury vapor to produce ultra-violet energy. UV excites the phosphor lining which transforms into visible light.

Footcandle (FC) Illuminance on a surface. One lumen per square foot equal a footcandle.

Halogen A high pressure incandescent lamp containing halogen gases such as iodine or bromine which allow the filaments to be operated at higher temperatures and higher efficiencies.

HID High intensity discharge. A general term for mercury, metal halide and high/low pressure sodium lamps. Lamps contain compact arc tubes which enclose various gases and metal salts operating at relatively high pressures and temperatures.

Incandescent Incandescent light is generated by heating a thin filament wire in vacuum by an electric current passing through it.

Kilowatt (kW) A measure of electrical power equal to 1000 watts.

LCL Distance between the center of the arc tube or filament and the Light Center Length reference plane.

LIF Code Lighting Federation of London, a standardization code used in Europe. Like the American ANSI codes.

Life Rated in hours. Average rated life is a median value of life expectancy—the total operating time at which under normal conditions, 50% of any large group of initially installed lamps are expected to be still burning.

Lumen Total light output of source.

Luminous Flux Measured in lumens. The total radiated power emitted by a light source in every direction.

Luminous Intensity Measured in candela. The light measured in a particular direction only.

Lux The ratio between the luminous flux and the area to be illuminated.

MOL Maximum overall length including base or pins.

PAR An acronym for Parabolic Aluminized Reflector. A PAR lamp may use either an incandescent filament, halogen filament tube, or HID arc tube.

Power Factor A measure of power quality. The ratio of total watts to total volt-ampere.

Proximity Reflector Small internal reflector near filament used to collect light output.

Quartz Type of pure silica material which is clear and can withstand a higher melting point than standard glass.

Shift Refers to the changing color temperature of a lamp during its entire life. Lamps tend to lose color temperature over life.

Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation Radiant energy in the range of about 100-380 nanometers (nm).

Universal Burn (BU) May be operated in any position.

Voltage A measurement of the electromotive force in an electrical circuit or device expressed in volts.

Watts A unit of electrical power. Wattage is the energy used or power consumed by lamp.

