

## Public Announcement

(Updated 24 January 2019, revised from 14 May 2014)

### **Guidance on essential maintenance for fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) luminaires (light fittings) with electromagnetic control gear**

Lighting Council New Zealand fully supports requirements in the Wiring Rules (AS/NZS3000 & AS/NZS 3760) for regular maintenance for the safe and efficient operation of electrical appliances, including fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) luminaires as used in commercial and industrial properties. Guidelines issued to this end are designed to ensure efficient operation and to reduce the risk of failure.

HID type luminaires include metal halide, high pressure sodium and mercury vapour technologies.

All electrical products generate heat, creating a potential fire risk if not properly maintained. In the interests of industry best practice and public safety, the following guidelines state how best to ensure that fluorescent and HID luminaires do not pose an unnecessary risk.

Most fluorescent and HID luminaires (with electromagnetic control gear) supplied and installed in New Zealand over the past 30 years contain replaceable power factor correction capacitors. Regular maintenance, checking and replacement of aged components is essential to ensure they operate safely and efficiently. Lack of regular maintenance or a failure to replace aged or damaged components, especially capacitors, reduces efficiency and performance and may create a risk of failure.

It is recommended that commercial and industrial property owners appropriately service their fluorescent and HID luminaires:

- At least every three years, and whenever fluorescent tubes and HID lamps are replaced. Luminaires need to be checked to ensure that there are no signs of ageing or damage in any components such as capacitors, ballasts, lamp holders and starters.
- Any capacitors, ballasts, lamp holders or starters showing signs of ageing should be replaced immediately.
- Capacitors have a life span of five to ten years. **They must be replaced within the 10 year period.**
- Keep a maintenance record on the components, the dates they have been checked, and the dates that any components have been replaced.
- Any luminaires that are subject to high ambient or external heat will require more regular checking and maintenance. They should be checked at least every six months.

Responsible commercial and industrial property owners and operators should have plans in place for periodic routine maintenance. While regular maintenance of fluorescent and HID light fittings does require a commitment from property owners, this delivers improved performance and better risk management.

For further information on lighting application matters see [www.lightingcouncil.org.nz/bulletins](http://www.lightingcouncil.org.nz/bulletins)