



TYPES OF LIGHTING LAMPS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

“Andijan Machine Building Institute”, Ph.D

Yolchiyev Mashalbek Erkinovich,

4rd year student of “Andijan Machine Building Institute”

Akhmadaliyev Nodirbek Muhammadzakir ugli

Abstract: This article discusses light and its different types, including natural, artificial, and special lighting. The International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS) provides a short form coding system for lamp efficacies and some types of lamps. Today's types of lighting lamps and their characteristics are highlighted. In addition, the article discusses the technical aspects of lighting, such as color temperature, brightness levels, and energy efficiency. Through this comprehensive analysis, the reader will gain a deeper understanding of the role of light in our daily lives and its impact on our well-being.

Key words: light output , wattage requirements, International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS), *incandescent lamps*, low-voltage tungsten halogen lamps, tubular fluorescent lamps, compact fluorescent lamps, induction lamps, high-pressure mercury lamps

A lamp is an energy converter. Although it may carry out secondary functions, its prime purpose is the transformation of electrical energy into visible electromagnetic radiation. There are many ways to create light. The standard method for creating general lighting is the conversion of electrical energy into light [1-5].

Although the development of technology has made it possible to produce a variety of lamps, the main factors affecting their development have been foreign market forces. For example, the production of filament lamps used at the beginning of this century was possible only after the availability of good vacuum pumps and tungsten wire drawing. However, it was the large-scale generation and distribution of electricity to meet the demand for electric lighting that determined the growth of the market. Electric lighting has many advantages over gas or oil-based lighting, such as steady light that requires little maintenance, and increased safety by avoiding open flames and local combustion products [6-11]. During the post-World War II recovery, the focus was on productivity. The fluorescent tube lamp became the dominant light source because it allowed factories and offices to be illuminated without shadows and relatively without heat, allowing for maximum use of space.



The light output and power requirements for a typical 1500 mm fluorescent tube lamp are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Enhanced Light Output and Wattage Requirements for Some Typical 1500mm Fluorescent Tube Lamps

| Rating (W) | Diameter (mm) | Gas fill | Light output (lumens) |
|------------|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 80 | 38 | argon | 4,800 |
| 65 | 38 | argon | 4,900 |
| 58 | 25 | krypton | 5,100 |
| 50 | 25 | argon | 5,100 (high frequency gear) |

By the 1970s oil prices rose and energy costs became a significant part of operating costs. Fluorescent lamps that produce the same amount of light with less electrical consumption were demanded by the market. Lamp design was refined in several ways. As the century closes there is a growing awareness of global environment issues. Better use of declining raw materials, recycling or safe disposal of products and the continuing concern over energy consumption (particularly energy generated from fossil fuels) are impacting on current lamp designs [12-18].

As a general rule the efficiency of a given type of lamp improves as the power rating increases, because most lamps have some fixed loss. However, different types of lamps have marked variation in efficiency. Lamps of the highest efficiency should be used, provided that the criteria of size, colour and lifetime are also met. Energy savings should not be at the expense of the visual comfort or the performance ability of the occupants. Some typical efficacies are given in table 2.

Table 2. Typical lamp efficacies

| Lamp efficacies | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 100 W filament lamp | 14 lumens/watt |
| 58 W fluorescent tube | 89 lumens/watt |
| 400 W high-pressure sodium | 125 lumens/watt |
| 131 W low-pressure sodium | 198 lumens/watt |

Main lamp types. Over the years, several nomenclature systems have been developed by national and international standards and registers.

In 1993, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) published a new International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS) intended to replace existing national and regional coding systems. The International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS)



provides a standardized way to categorize different types of lamps based on their efficacy and other technical specifications. This system helps consumers and professionals make informed choices when selecting lighting options [19-22]. A list of some ILCOS short form codes for various lamps is given in table 3.

Table 3. International Lamp Coding System (ILCOS) short form coding system for some lamp types

| Type (code) | Common ratings (watts) | Colour rendering | Colour temperature (K) | Life (hours) |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Compact fluorescent lamps (FS) | 5–55 | good | 2,700–5,000 | 5,000–10,000 |
| High-pressure mercury lamps (QE) | 80–750 | fair | 3,300–3,800 | 20,000 |
| High-pressure sodium lamps (S-) | 50–1,000 | poor to good | 2,000–2,500 | 6,000–24,000 |
| Incandescent lamps (I) | 5–500 | good | 2,700 | 1,000–3,000 |
| Induction lamps (XF) | 23–85 | good | 3,000–4,000 | 10,000–60,000 |
| Low-pressure sodium lamps (LS) | 26–180 | monochromatic yellow colour | 1,800 | 16,000 |
| Low-voltage tungsten halogen lamps (HS) | 12–100 | good | 3,000 | 2,000–5,000 |
| Metal halide lamps (M-) | 35–2,000 | good to excellent | 3,000–5,000 | 6,000–20,000 |
| Tubular fluorescent lamps (FD) | 4–100 | fair to good | 2,700–6,500 | 10,000–15,000 |
| Tungsten halogen lamps (HS) | 100–2,000 | good | 3,000 | 2,000–4,000 |

Incandescent lamps. These lamps use a tungsten filament in an inert gas or vacuum with a glass envelope. The inert gas suppresses tungsten evaporation and lessens the envelope blackening. There is a large variety of lamp shapes, which are largely decorative in appearance. Incandescent lamps are still popular for domestic lighting because of their low cost and compact size. However, for commercial and industrial lighting the low efficacy generates very high operating costs, so discharge



lamps are the normal choice. A 100 W lamp has a typical efficacy of 14 lumens/watt compared with 96 lumens/watt for a 36 W fluorescent lamp. Incandescent lamps are simple to dim by reducing the supply voltage, and are still used where dimming is a desired control feature. The tungsten filament is a compact light source, easily focused by reflectors or lenses. Incandescent lamps are useful for display lighting where directional control is needed [23-24].

Low-voltage tungsten halogen lamps. These were originally designed for slide and film projectors. At 12 V the filament for the same wattage as 230 V becomes smaller and thicker. This can be more efficiently focused, and the larger filament mass allows a higher operating temperature, increasing light output. The thick filament is more robust. These benefits were realized as being useful for the commercial display market, and even though it is necessary to have a step-down transformer, these lamps now dominate shop-window lighting.

Tubular fluorescent lamps. These are low pressure mercury lamps and are available as “hot cathode” and “cold cathode” versions. The former is the conventional fluorescent tube for offices and factories; “hot cathode” relates to the starting of the lamp by pre-heating the electrodes to create sufficient ionization of the gas and mercury vapour to establish the discharge. Cold cathode lamps are mainly used for signage and advertising.

Compact fluorescent lamps. The fluorescent tube is not a practical replacement for the incandescent lamp because of its linear shape. Small, narrow-bore tubes can be configured to approximately the same size as the incandescent lamp, but this imposes a much higher electrical loading on the phosphor material. The use of tri-phosphors is essential to achieve acceptable lamp life.

Induction lamps. Lamps using the principle of induction have recently appeared on the market. They are low-pressure mercury lamps with tri-phosphor coating and as light producers are similar to fluorescent lamps. The energy is transferred to the lamp by high-frequency radiation, at approximately 2.5 MHz from an antenna positioned centrally within the lamp. There is no physical connection between the lamp bulb and the coil. Without electrodes or other wire connections the construction of the discharge vessel is simpler and more durable. Lamp life is mainly determined by the reliability of the electronic components and the lumen maintenance of the phosphor coating.

High-pressure mercury lamps. High-pressure discharges are more compact and have higher electrical loads; therefore, they require quartz arc tubes to withstand the pressure and temperature. The arc tube is contained in an outer glass envelope with



a nitrogen or argon-nitrogen atmosphere to reduce oxidation and arcing. The bulb effectively filters the UV radiation from the arc tube.

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