LIGHTINGEUROPE
THE VOICE OF THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY

plasa

Brussels, 10 April 2024

Statement on Ultra High Performance lamps for projectors and entertainment

Ultra High Performance lamps continue to be allowed under EU regulations

Mercury-added products are regulated by the EU Mercury Regulation (EU2017/857) and the RoHS Directive (2011/65/EU). In the past weeks, there has been confusion in the market due to misleading claims that mercury containing projector and entertainment lamps have been restricted by recent reviews of the above-mentioned EU rules. This statement is to clear up these rumours.

Regulation (EU 2017/857) on mercury
The EU Mercury Regulation implements the United Nations Minamata Convention and restricts the manufacture, export and import of certain mercury-added products, including certain lamps. These are listed in Annex II of the Regulation. This list was extended by the European Commission in October 2023 (EU 2023/2049) and new additional restrictions have been proposed by policy makers in early 2024, focusing on certain low pressure fluorescent lamp types (triband phosphate / halophosphate) and certain HPS (high pressure sodium) lamp types.

During these last revisions of the EU Mercury Regulation and UN Minamata Convention, HID lamps for special purpose applications (e.g., projector lamps) have not been restricted. (Please see Annex I below for an overview of all current phase-out dates per lamp type).

EU RoHS Directive (2011/65/EU)
The EU RoHS Directive regulates the placing on the EU market of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) that contains certain hazardous substances. The law prohibits the use of mercury in lamps unless used in an explicitly exempted application as listed in Annex III and Annex IV of the Directive. These exemptions are granted by the European Commission for a certain time period. However, the listed expiry dates are generally not considered final phase-out dates as these exemptions can be periodically renewed by applying for a renewal of the exemption period. During the evaluation period of such a renewal application, the existing exemption remains valid - even beyond the listed expiry date. If a renewal is not granted, the European Commission must still grant a transition period of 12-18 months to give time to the market for a final phase-out.

Current RoHS exemptions for (Hg) projector lamps:

- RoHS exemption 4(f)-II allows **projector lamps for high brightness projectors (> 2000 ANSI lumen**) until 24 February 2027. As projector manufacturers foresee that mercury projector lamps are still needed after February 2027, the lighting industry is expected to apply for another 5-year renewal in 2025.

- RoHS exemption 4(f)-I includes **projector lamps for low brightness (< 2000 ANSI lumen) and entertainment lamps**. LightingEurope, together with several entertainment associations has already applied for a 5-year renewal of this exemption. **The current exemption will remain valid, also after 24 February 2025, until the European Commission has taken a decision on a new renewal or transition period.**

Contact

For further information on this topic, please contact Elena Scaroni, Secretary General, at elena.scaroni@lightingeurope.org or Sophia Ehmke, Senior Policy Officer, at sophia.ehmke@lightingeurope.org

About LightingEurope

LightingEurope is the voice of the lighting industry, based in Brussels and representing 31 companies and national associations. Together these members account for over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are small or medium-sized. They represent a total European workforce of over 100,000 people and an annual turnover exceeding 20 billion euro. LightingEurope is committed to promoting efficient lighting that benefits human comfort, safety and wellbeing, and the environment. LightingEurope advocates a positive business and regulatory environment to foster fair competition and growth for the European lighting industry. More information is available at www.lightingeurope.org.

About Plasa

PLASA is the lead association and community for those who supply technologies and services to the live events, entertainment, and installation industries. The association supports its members across business, skills and technical, and offers a range of training and certification pathways including the National Rigging Certificate (NRC) and National Event Lifting Training (NELT). Each service is developed to ensure members can set the bar high for quality and safety across each sector. PLASA's commercial divisions play a crucial role in supporting membership services: the market-leading LSi magazine covers the latest projects and products, while PLASA Show and PLASA Focus Leeds continue to be key dates in the global industry calendar. Furthermore, PLASA spearheaded the #WeMakeEvents campaign to amplify the voice of the industry, which has since grown into a widely recognised international movement.

Annex I:

Mercury Regulation (EU 2017/857) Annex II – Up to date Hg lamp phase-out dates:

Part A — Mercury-added products

Mercury-added products	Date from which the export, import and manufacturing of the mercury-added products are prohibited
3. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) CFL.i ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 2,5 mg per lamp burner; (b) CFL.ni ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 3,5 mg per lamp burner.	31.12.2018
3a. Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 2,5 mg per lamp burner.	31.12.2025
4. The following linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp.	31.12.2018
5. High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMVs) for general lighting purposes.	31.12.2018
6. The following mercury-added cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs and EEFLs) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3,5 mg per lamp; (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp.	31.12.2018
6a. Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, that are not included in entry 6.	31.12.2025