

Pulse Start vs Metal Halide

Regarding the possibility of interchanging Pulse Start lamps and standard Metal Halide lamps one should first be aware of the differences in the lamp itself:

1. A Pulse Start lamp and ballast have the lamp starting probe (ignitor) with the ballast. A Pulse Start lamp most likely won't start on a MH ballast. If it does, it will be inconsistent. Lumen output could also be diminished and re-strike time considerably lengthened.
2. A Standard MH lamp and ballast has the lamp starting probe in the lamp. A MH lamp will start on a PS ballast, but the ballast will be hard on the lamp. This will negatively impact lumen performance, lamp life will be reduced, and could pose a safety risk (lamp rupture). Colour shift could also be more pronounced.

Due to the above listed reasons it is recommended that Pulse Start MH lamps and standard MH lamps are not interchanged.

Some luminaires are certified as enclosed luminaires and do not require an open fixture rated lamp (ex. KEENE 843), thus the lampholders are identical between PS and MH and care must be taken to ensure the proper lamp is installed. The CSA or CUL label on the ballast housing must state the appropriate lamp required for re-lamping.