

## EPACT 2005 - Mercury Vapor Ballasts

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 has provisions that address ballasts for mercury vapor lamps. Effective January 1, 2008, mercury vapor ballasts can no longer be manufactured or imported. This includes importing lighting fixtures that incorporate ballasts for mercury vapor lamps.

The intent of this law is to eliminate the use of less efficient mercury vapor lighting. Although the ballasts will be outlawed, mercury vapor lamps can still be used with existing lighting equipment that is still functioning. Metal halide and fluorescent lighting systems provide more efficient alternatives to mercury vapor which will reduce the load and improve lighting quality and color for end-users.

Dual rated ballasts that list mercury lamps and metal halide lamps will be changed so that the mercury lamps are no longer listed for use with these products. Use of a mercury lamp on a ballast not listed for mercury lamps will violate the UL listing and Universal's ballast warranty. When a mercury vapor ballast fails, there are two options for the end-user:

- Replace the entire fixture with a new fixture.
- Change out the ballast and lamp with a new ballast and lamp system such as a high pressure sodium, metal halide or pulse start metal halide lamp and ballast system.
  - Replacement with a pulse start metal halide or high pressure sodium lamp and ballast system will require that the lamp socket be pulse rated and the wiring changed per the ballast wiring diagram.
  - Replacement with a probe-start metal halide will not require re-wiring of the fixture but does not have the efficiency of a pulse start metal halide system.
  - Confirmation from the fixture manufacturer that the fixture is still UL listed with an alternate system is also necessary.

For further assistance or ordering information please contact Universal lighting technologies @ 1-800-BALLAST or visit our website at [www.unvlt.com](http://www.unvlt.com)