

FAQs

Below are the answers to a few questions we anticipate you will have about this change:

What is the change in the 2005 NEC? The 2005 National Electric Code NFPA Code 70 Article 410.73 (F)(5) will mandate indoor metal halide luminaires with open rated optics to have a means that will permit the luminaire to operate only with an ANSI Type-O lamp. This change will require a protected lamp and socket for all new installations of open rated metal halide luminaires. An enclosed rated luminaire is also permissible for Type-E and Type-S metal halide lamps.

When will the 2005 NEC take effect? January 1, 2005 but, adoption of the 2005 NEC can vary from state to state. Based on adoption of the 2002 NEC changes several states could adopt the 2005 code immediately with approximately half the states adopting in the first year.

How will I know if my location has adopted the 2005 NEC? The best way is to ask the electrical inspector that has jurisdiction for the installation location. Lithonia Lighting's web site www.lithonia.com has web links posted for nearly every state. There is a link to NECA's (National Electrical Contractors Assoc.) web site and a link to download their guide "State Electrical Regulations", which contains mailing addresses, phone numbers and web links for each state.

How is Lithonia Lighting responding to this change? We have built up inventory for immediate shipment and can manufacture luminaires with protected lamp sockets without increasing standard lead-times. We also have inventory of protected lamps that can be ordered and shipped for each fixture.

How do you order a protected socket for an open optic? A protected socket has been part of our standard product offering for a number of years. The ordering nomenclature will not change and is designated by **MP** after the wattage in the "Wattage" field. The TH, TPG, SH and SPG product series will all comply with this code change when the wattage is specified with "**MP**". A standard mogul base lamp is provided when only "**M**" is specified.

Example: THC 400**MP** A15 TB (protected mogul socket)
 THC 400**M** A15 TB (standard mogul base socket)

Should I order Type-O lamps with my luminaires? Absolutely. We have a substantial inventory, which allows us to meet the needs of those that require Type-O by code and those that want Type-O lamps in states that don't adopt the new code immediately.

How can I tell if a luminaire has a protected socket? The standard mogul base sockets are white and protected mogul base sockets are pink.

What about existing installations? The lamp manufacturers will continue to produce the current Type S lamp, which currently is suitable for open rated luminaires under certain conditions. Open rated indoor metal halide luminaires with non-protected sockets and ANSI Type-S lamps remain a safe and effective lighting alternative for many applications when lamp manufacturer's operating instructions and warnings are followed. However, the customer also must be made aware that, as stated by NEMA, "...when warnings and instructions are not heeded, the operation of an open luminaire with a Type-S lamp may potentially present an elevated risk of fire (in some applications) that would not exist with lighting systems employing either an enclosed luminaire or an open luminaire with a Type-O lamp". Refer to each lamp manufacturer's instructions for specific conditions

Will a Type-O lamp work in a non-protected socket? Yes. Type-O lamps can be used for replacement in existing luminaires. In fact, it is a safety and lighting improvement solution because the Type-O lamp shroud enhances safety and typically improves performance over a standard metal halide lamp. Protected 400W metal halide lamps will typically deliver 10% more initial and mean lumens than a standard M400 lamp. An energy saving solution can be provided with a protected 360W metal halide lamp, which reduce power by 10% and delivers the same initial and mean lumen values as a 400W metal halide lamp. These lamps are available from most lamp manufacturers with similar performance. Either way, our customers can improve their light levels or save energy while improving their arc tube containment capabilities.

Can I still use open metal halide luminaires with non-protected sockets to match the existing fixtures in a state that has adopted 2005 NEC? No. Installing a new open rated metal halide luminaire with a non-protected socket in a state that has adopted the NEC will be in violation of the NEC.

Are there solutions other than Type-O lamps and protected sockets? Yes. The 2005 NEC also permits use of Type-E or Type-S lamps with a containment barrier that encloses the lamp. This requirement is met with any of our enclosed optics rated to meet UL lamp rupture containment specifications, which include TXR, TPGE and TE series. The A16GL optic meets UL rupture containment standards for code requirements. Example: THS 400M A16GL TB (A16GL optic).