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Product Comparison

ARC Keeper® Versus Quartz Restrike in Metal Halide Environments

Engineers specify a variety of lighting systems to serve as emergency lighting in HID environments. These include quartz restrike lamps, wall packs and fluorescent strip fixtures. The most common HID emergency lighting system now in use is the quartz restrike lamp. The **ARC Keeper® 400-Watt Metal Halide Backup Ballast** holds clear advantages over the quartz restrike lamp in HID metal halide environments.

Short-Duration Power Interruptions

With an HID/quartz system, *minor glitches or short-duration power failures* cause the metal halide lamp arc to extinguish. The quartz lamp then operates from restored normal power until the metal halide lamp cools and restrikes. Restrike usually takes between five and 15 minutes.

With the ARC Keeper, there is no need for restrike. The ARC Keeper prevents the momentary power loss from disturbing the metal halide lamp arc. Instead of extinguishing during loss of line, the lamp arc drops to approximately 25% power and then returns to 100% upon restoration of normal power.

Power Failures

In the case of a *true power failure*, an area relying upon a quartz system for emergency lighting is in darkness until the generator responds. Under generator power, the quartz lamp operates until the metal halide lamp restrikes. Unfortunately, when normal power is restored, the metal halide lamp will again experience loss of arc because of the change in power supply, necessitating another restrike period.

If the same power failure scenario is repeated with the ARC Keeper, the outcome is much different. The metal halide lamp arc is supported during the power failure and generator startup. Once the generator is online, the metal halide lamp will operate at full power. When normal power is restored, the ARC Keeper will again hold the metal halide lamp arc, preventing the arc from extinguishing during the switch from generator to normal power.

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