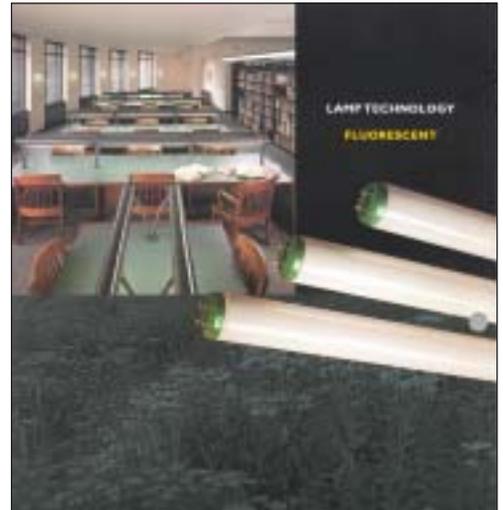




Are you a high volume user of fluorescent lamps?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated by using non-toxic fluorescent light tubes. Media area is hazardous waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** No change to current operations.
- **Increase productivity.** No change to current operations.
- **Save money.** Reduce hazardous waste disposal costs and regulatory liabilities.



Low Mercury Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Many operations at Navy installations rely on fluorescent tubes for lighting. These fluorescent tubes contain mercury, and their disposal is regulated as a hazardous waste. The presence of mercury is essential for fluorescent lamp operation. Electricity passes through mercury in order to produce the ultraviolet energy that is converted to visible light by the phosphor coating. Alternative fluorescent tubes are now available which contain approximately 70% less mercury when compared to standard light tubes. This technology enables the low mercury fluorescent light bulb to pass the U.S. EPA Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) for non-hazardous waste. The TCLP test is the analytical procedure the EPA specifies must be performed to determine if mercury-containing waste (or other specified toxic chemical waste) is a hazardous waste. Low mercury fluorescent light bulbs may be disposed of as solid waste. Low mercury fluorescent light bulbs are available from the Defense Industrial Supply Center of the Defense Logistics Agency in a variety of models.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Use low mercury fluorescent light bulbs.

How does this equipment work?

Alternative fluorescent light bulbs are now available that contain 70% less mercury but have the same shape, life span, and performance characteristics as traditional fluorescent lamps.

How will this equipment save you money?

It will reduce hazardous waste management and disposal costs. Spent low mercury fluorescent light bulbs can be disposed of as ordinary waste. Procurement cost of low mercury content tubes can be comparable to that of traditional fluorescent tubes.

How can this technology eliminate or reduce pollution?

This pollution prevention method replaces standard fluorescent light tubes with lower mercury content products. Implementation will result in the following pollution reduction:

- Reduces the amount of mercury-containing fluorescent tubes that must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Which shops can benefit most from this technology?

Low mercury fluorescent light tubes can be used in all Navy facilities or operations using fluorescent lighting.

How can this technology reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

Use of low mercury fluorescent light bulbs reduces environmental hazards from release of mercury from waste tubes. Use will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- Reduction in hazardous waste helps facility meet the requirement of waste minimization under RCRA, 40 CFR 262.41 (a) (6).
- May help facilities reduce their generator status and lessen the tasks required to comply under RCRA, 40 CFR 262 (i.e., recordkeeping, reporting, inspections, transportation, accumulation time and emergency measures).

Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Order assistance from the Defense Industrial Supply Center can be obtained by calling 1-800-DLA-BULB. Information on types of lamps available can be found on the DLA Web site (<http://www.dscr.dla.mil/Marketing/alto.html>)

Program POC:

(805) 982-5318, DSN 551-5318

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