

FRANCE

Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 HID Ballast Requirements: Not Applicable to HID Sign Components

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007, Public Law 110-140, required that after 1 January 2009 metal halide light fixtures must be supplied with energy efficient HID pulse start ballasts.

This requirement only applies to general lighting fixtures and does NOT apply to signs and sign components such as France's Sign Bright SBIP-250 and SBIP-400 Metal Halide Ballast Modules. Signs are not considered, either by the lighting industry or the Federal government, to be "General Lighting Fixtures".

EISA 2007 specifically defines a metal halide light fixture as a device for "general lighting" [reference Title III, Subtitle B, Section 324, (a-definitions) (64-Metal Halide Lamp Fixture; "...a light fixture for general lighting applications...")]. Metal halide light fixtures (for general lighting purposes) had to use high efficiency pulse start ballasts starting 1 January 2009.

Standard Sign Bright SBIP-250 and SBIP-400 Metal Halide Ballast Modules use probe start ballasts; they are UL879 recognized sign components for use in electric signs that meet UL48 listing requirements. Since they are not for use in metal halide light fixtures for general lighting purposes, the requirements of EISA 2007 [specifically Title III, Subtitle B, Section 324 (hh) (A) that defines high efficiency pulse start ballasts] does NOT apply as far as Federal Law is concerned.

Note that use of efficient HID pulse start ballasts for sign applications may be required under state or local ordinances (e.g. California Title 24 requirements). Modified Sign Bright modules are available to meet local code requirements.

In unofficial discussions with the Department of Energy (DOE), personnel in several offices agreed that the wording of EISA 2007 is very specific: The law requiring use of pulse start ballasts applies (only) to HID general lighting fixtures. Under EISA 2007, except for certain (exempted) scientific instruments, other HID lighting devices (i.e. sign components) are not mentioned and, therefore, use of pulse start ballasts do not apply.