



## Environmental information for fluorescent lamps

### • Product description

Fluorescent lamps are low-pressure discharge lamps that operate on the following principle: After ignition, mercury vapour in the glass tube emits UV radiation. This radiation is converted by the phosphors on the inside of the glass tube into visible light, in a light colour that depends on the phosphors used. Control gear ensures the correct luminous flux is emitted.

The phosphors used are fully annealed inert substances that pose no risk to health even if they are released as a result of a lamp breakage.

When the lamps are in the cold state, in other words at room temperature, the mercury (between 3 and 8 mg depending on the type) is generally present in the form of small metallic droplets in the discharge vessel (bulb). When the lamp is switched on the mercury vaporises as the temperature of the bulb rises, and the mercury vapour needed for the discharge fills the entire bulb. Mercury is released if the lamp breaks.

### • Health risks

Inhaling mercury or mercury compounds in vapour or powder form can lead to health problems. Mercury can also be absorbed through the skin.

### • Protection against lamp breakages

To avoid health risks we recommend the following procedure in the event of a lamp breaking:

- Remove all the bits, preferably with a vacuum cleaner
- Carefully ventilate the room
- Remove all broken lamp components from the luminaire before reusing the luminaire

### • Disposal of used fluorescent lamps

Since fluorescent lamps contain noxious substances (mercury) they have to be disposed of in Europe as special waste under

EWC Code 20 01 21\* "Fluorescent tubes and other waste containing mercury".

Fluorescent lamps are affected in EU by the scope of WEEE and can be disposed free of charge from private households and small consumers at all communal disposal facilities. More information under [www.osram.com/about\\_us/environment/weee/index.html](http://www.osram.com/about_us/environment/weee/index.html) and your national OSRAM partner.

In other countries the relevant national regulations must be followed.

### • OSRAM contact address

If you need further information please contact your OSRAM sales partner or Environmental Affairs & Technical Safety in Munich:

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