TECHNICAL BULLETIN

MIGHT ELECTRONIC STARTERS CAUSE BREAKERS TO TRIP?

If a lamp has a running current of X, the current drawn by the same lamp in its preheat (starting) mode is always greater than X. . . . normally 1.3 to 1.5 times X.

So, if a 30 lamp bed has a running current of 1 amp per lamp, the operating current of the bed will be 30 x 1 amp or about 30 amps.

When this bed is equipped with glo- Tec bottle starters (old technology), starting of the lamps is a very random event that occurs over a time period that might be as long as 4 to 6 seconds. This means that the bed rarely sees anything close to 30 x 1.5 (45 amps) inrush during starting . . . but on rare occasions it may! For a bed equipped with a fast acting (magnetic) breaker, this might cause the breaker serving the bed to trip. This is an infrequent condition - but it does happen.

If this same bed were equipped with electronic starters (new technology), all preheat contacts are closed immediately upon start-up for a period of about 1 second. This means that for about 1 second, there would usually be a current inrush of +/- 45 amps. This bed, when equipped with electronic starters, is much more likely to trip a fast acting breaker.

Thus, if the bed is equipped with or served by fast acting, magnetic breakers, these breakers must be carefully sized to consider the sizeable momentary in rush.

For more information - and a complete listing of all Cosmedico products - please log on to www.cosmedico.com.

Electronic Starter

Glo-Bottle Starters

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