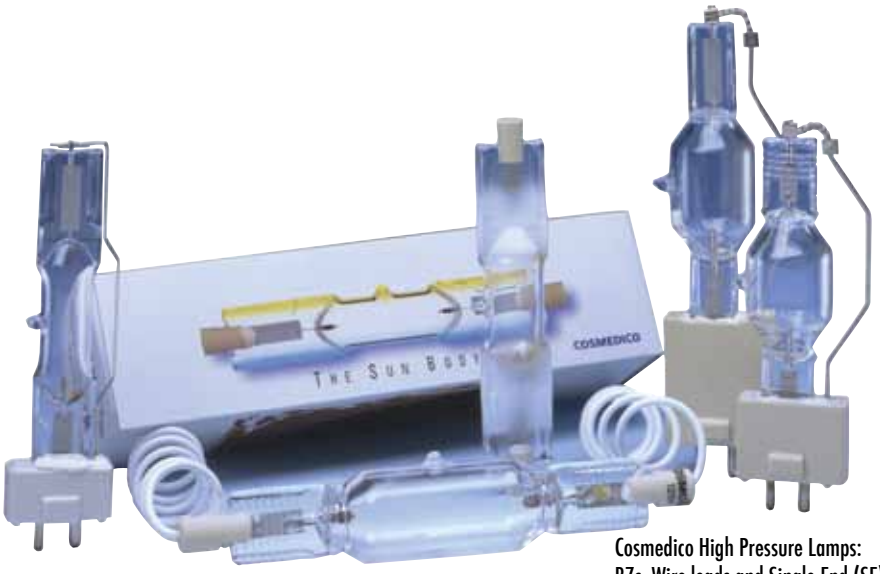
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

WHEN HIGH PRESSURE LAMPS BEGIN TO FAIL

As high pressure lamps approach the end of their physical or electrical life, that point in time where they will no longer light, they tend to misbehave. Often the arc within the quartz tube will become asymmetrical. In this condition, the lamp acts as a giant gas rectifier diode. When we actually wire a diode in circuit with the ballast, the ballast no longer acts as a current limiter, and uncontrolled current passes in line with its DC resistance. When this happens, the all-to- familiar result is that both the ballast and the lamp ignitor 'fry'. Remember, this all can happen as a somewhat natural phenomenon as a high pressure lamp approaches end of life, beforeit fails.



Cosmedico High Pressure Lamps:
R7s, Wire-leads and Single End (SE)

More commonly, high pressure lamps fail in a manner that does not damage the ballast or ignitor. But a failed lamp is a situation that should be corrected immediately. When a non-working lamp is left in its sockets, or even when the bad lamp is removed and the sockets are empty, a normal ignitor has no way of recognizing the fact that the lamp is bad or missing. It only recognizes the fact that ignition or starting of the lamp has not occurred . . . and the ignitor continues to emit a rapid succession of high-voltage pulses for the entire time the bed/booth is turned on. This is never good for the ignitor, and if it manages to survive until a replacement lamp can be installed - the abusive, continuous pulsing will certainly reduce the usable life of the ignitor.

The message here should be obvious – replace your H/P lamps early – before they reach end-of-life. This practice can prevent an expensive and time-consuming repair to your equipment. Of course this also puts fresh lamps in your beds, a sure cus- tomer pleaser!

CosmoPower Ignitors

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

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