

Pinking of T5 and compact fluorescent lamps

Modern T5 and compact fluorescent lamps, and especially amalgam dosed lamps, are more difficult to operate in emergency mode. This is due to the fact that many simple emergency inverters operate with a so called DC output. This DC output causes mercury migration whereby the mercury migrates to one end of the lamp due to electrolysis. The emissive material at the other cathode becomes depleted resulting in little or no light output at that end and the light that appears at the other end is often very pink in colour.

This phenomenon can be overcome by using an inverter with an AC output. This ensures that there is no mercury migration and therefore no pinking but maximum light output from the lamp. Tridonic offer a range of units with both DC output for lamps such as T8 and AC output for T5 and TC lamp types.

The range of EM PRO, EM ST and EM BASIC Ip emergency modules is full AC output, with warm starting and cathode heating and will not cause pinking on T5 and TC lamps. These products will also give increased lamp life when compared to simple type inverters. They also include a boost starting feature which aids the warm up of amalgam lamps to get better output more quickly.

Please note that some TC compact amalgam lamps (TOP for example) are not suitable for emergency use and will run pink with any type of inverter operating at low output.