

For a GLS lamp this might be a fraction of a second, while for low pressure sodium this could be as much as 20 minutes. For some applications such as road lighting the run-up time is not important. However, for occasionally used rooms in a home it is very important.

3.4.8 Restrike time

When some gas discharge lamps go out due to an interruption in the mains supply it is not possible to restart them until the lamp has cooled down. This may take several minutes. The use of lamps with a long restrike time may cause problems in some installations due to the possibility of a small power outage causing a long blackout.

3.4.9 Other factors

There are also many other factors that impact upon the use of lamps in a particular application. These factors include the following.

Lamp size: some lamps are too large for certain applications, whilst some small lamps may produce too high a luminance for others.

Burning position: not all lamps may be used in all orientations, for some discharge lamps, lamp manufacturers produce diagrams similar to Figure 3.32 to show which burning positions are permitted. The figure shows that the lamp in question must only be used in the horizontal position $\pm 20^\circ$.

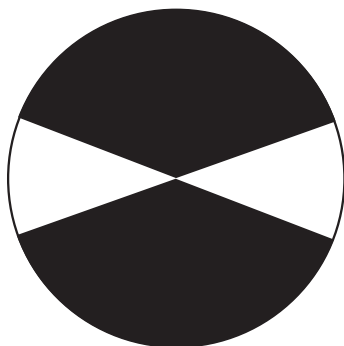


Figure 3.32 A typical restricted burning position symbol

Dimming: it is not possible to dim all lamp types and some types may be only dimmed down to given percentage of their output. Dimming for some lamps may require the use of special control gear.

Ambient temperature: not all lamps will run at a given temperature. For example some compact fluorescent lamps are not suitable for outdoor use as they will not start if they are too cold.

Disposal of lamps: lamps may contain hazardous substances such as lead, sodium and mercury. This may mean with particular lamps particular procedures have to be followed when disposing of the lamps. Under the WEEE Directive of the European Commission it is the responsibility of the lamp manufacturer to provide the means of recycling used lamps. See <http://www.recolite.co.uk> for more information about the recycling of lamps in the UK

3.4.10 Summary of lamp characteristics

Table 3.5 gives a summary of the key characteristics of the main lamp families.