

MGC Lamps Ltd is a supplier of Medical Consumables primarily to the National Health Service . Established for 40 years we supply (amongst other things) Mercury lamps used by many UK Hospitals in their Microscopes , typically HBO and HBO IC lamps.

We understand that the European Commission is looking at phasing out products that contain Mercury .However we are keen to point out that Osram HBO Lamps (HBO 50W/AC L1 , HBO 100W/2, HBO 103W/2) contain very small amounts of Mercury , also more importantly there are thousands of operative Microscopes in UK Hospitals that embody these lamps. Manufacturers such as LEICA , ZEISS , NIKON , OLYMPUS have supplied NHS Hospitals with Microscopes that use Osram HBO lamps for over 30 years . If the EC were to phase out these Specialist HBO Discharge lamps it would cost the NHS thousands of pounds as they would have to “scrap” perfectly workable Microscopes for lack of spare parts. These Microscopes cannot be adapted in any way , they require a Mercury Lamp light source so once the HBO Discharge lamps are phased out , the equipment is effectively redundant.

The only option for Hospitals is to buy Microscopes that embody an LED Light Source , these are good for some low level applications but for “blood samples “ etc.. an HBO light source is required .

We would ask you to reconsider the ban of these Specialist Lamps used by the NHS . Osram have spent years reducing the amount of Mercury in their HBO range . There is no substitute than can be used in the manufacture of these items.

As an approved supplier to the NHS , for MGC Lamps the phasing out of Specialist Mercury HBO lamps would have a major detrimental affect on our business . In the current climate , we need to support the NHS by offering continuity of supply and cost savings on their consumables rather than “forcing them” to scrap perfectly workable equipment because of RoHS legislation .

Answer provided as is by John Greig on behalf of MGC Lamps Ltd on the 26th of May 2021.