

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are SPONETA, a manufacturer of Table Tennis Tables. Our production in Schlotheim / Germany employs 200 people.

We need mercury vapor lamps as UV-Lamps to harden the coating of playing surface of table tennis tables. The right hardening process is only possible by using mercury vapor lamps. Tests with the alternative LED-Lamps were on a broad front unsuccessful.

We need 8 till 10 pieces mercury vapor lamps per year. The mercury is trapped in the glass flask and cannot escape. Used lamps go back to the supplier.

In the future the costs of electric energy is driving us towards LED development. But these developments of lamp producer and coating producer needs time to make it safe for an industrial process.

A ban on mercury vapor lamps would mean a prohibition of producing. In comparison to our current surface have competitors the much more harmful playing surface based on nitro coating.

UV lamps are still needed for the following reasons:

- The alternative LED lamps have so far not caught on on a broad front
- Tests with LED lamps have so far been unsuccessful - there is a risk of an uncured coating system
- UV-coatings with an wrong / uncured surface is poison for the customer
- nitro coatings is a technical step backwards and also poison for the customer like uncured coating system

Answer provided as is by Hannes Jessing from SPONETA on the 22nd of April 2021.