QUADSCORE
INSURANCE SERVICES
BEST PRACTICES

CULTIVATION LIGHTING

CULTIVATION LIGHTING
RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDE

High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lightbulbs are commonly used in cannabis cultivation. Unfortunately, these bulbs are prone to failure if not meticulously maintained, causing around 80% of fire claims at cannabis cultivation sites.

TYPES OF CULTIVATION LIGHTING

- First Generation - Incandescent
- Second Generation - Fluorescent
- Third Generation - High Intensity Discharge
  - High Pressure Sodium (HPS)
  - Metal Halide (MH)
  - Ceramic Metal Halide (CMH)
- Fourth Generation - Light Emitting Diode (LED)

Our best advice for cannabis cultivators is to switch to safer, modern LED lighting. However, if HID lights are present, QuadScore recommends the below tips to help protect your cultivation operation.

HID LIGHTING - RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

- Mandate bulb replacement at end of manufacturer's warranty (typically 1 year max)
- Contract with an electrician for monthly inspections & replacements of HID bulbs
- Install protective bulb covers or shields to limit damage potential of bulb explosions
- Use steel or molded fiberglass cultivation trays & equipment instead of plastics

ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS

BEFORE INSTALLATION:

- Ensure that the bulb, ballast, and fixture are compatible.
- Check that supply voltage matches bulb/fixture rating.
- Confirm that the HID fixture is FM Global approved and meets the ANSI/UL 1598 safety standard.
- Ensure that smoke detectors and fire suppression systems are functional inside all cultivation rooms.

WHEN HANDLING HID LIGHTS:

- Disconnect power to lighting fixtures before performing any maintenance or replacement activity.
- Only handle bulbs while wearing protective gloves.
- Never touch bulbs/fixtures while the light is on.
- Allow lamps to cool before handling after usage.

MAINTENANCE OF HID LIGHTS:

- Avoid spraying bulbs with water or chemicals.
- Clean bulbs after each harvest with a dry microfiber cloth.
- Discontinue the use of a fixture if the power cord or bulb is damaged in any way.
- Do not expose the fixture to condensing humidity, heavy mist, or direct spray.
- Do not expose the bulb to direct sunlight or other heat sources that could affect performance.
- Perform regular visual inspections of lighting fixtures to detect defects and replace as needed.

Questions? Contact QuadScore Risk Services today.

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