

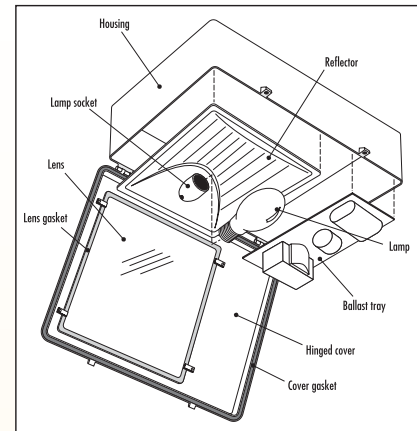
NLPIP Specifier Report: Parking Lot and Area Luminaires

A well-lighted parking lot or outdoor area can provide many benefits to businesses and communities. Specifying the appropriate luminaires is essential to ensure safety, attract patrons, and reduce light pollution. A new publication from the National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP) addresses these issues.

Specifier Report: Parking Lot and Area Luminaires updates lighting specifiers about luminaire types, components, classifications, considerations, performance, and applications.

Objective product evaluations

NLPIP collected data from 34 manufacturers of parking lot and area luminaires and independently evaluated 23 luminaires for this report, limiting the selection to luminaires that utilize 250-watt metal halide lamps and claim to have Type III IES classification light distribution.



An exploded view of typical components found in parking lot and area luminaires.

Major findings

Distribution

Of the 23 luminaires tested, 14 were Type III, as advertised. The remaining nine luminaires labeled as Type III produced other distributions.

Downward Efficiency

Photometric data provided by manufacturers agreed with testing laboratory results for only 14 of the 23 luminaires.

Labeling

Many luminaires had missing or incomplete product information.

Cutoff Classification

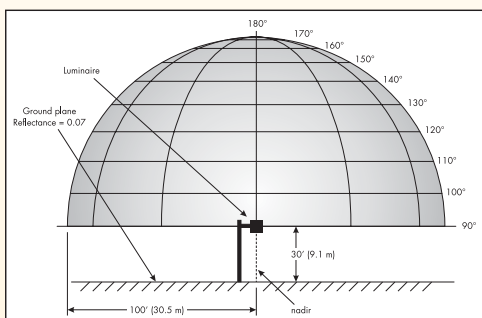
Cutoff classification data from manufacturer's claim, manufacturer's photometric files, and independent test reports agreed on only four luminaires.

Glare

Cutoff classifications limit light intensity above a certain angle but do not predict the amount of light emitted above 80°.

Direct and Reflected Uplight

Cutoff classifications do not predict the amount of light emitted above 90°. Reflected light contributes more to uplight than direct uplight.



The uplight dome collects and measures light emitted upward by the luminaire and light reflected from the ground.

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A free copy of the report is available at www.lrc.rpi.edu/programs/NLPIP/publications.asp.

Lighting
Research Center