




Vincent Sapienza, P.E.  
Commissioner

Persis D. Luke  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Environmental  
Health & Safety  
lukep@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Blvd  
Flushing NY 11368  
T: (718) 595-5266  
F: (718) 595-5546

To: DEP Employees  
From: Persis D. Luke   
Assistant Commissioner, EHS  
Subject: Replacing Incandescent Bulb Droplights with LED Droplights –  
Directive  
Date: September 17, 2018

---

The purpose of this memo is to provide direction for DEP employees regarding replacing incandescent bulb droplights with LED droplights.

Background:

In the course of a recent incident at the Department of Sanitation, a Machinist was burned and needed surgery after an explosion in which an incandescent bulb droplight came in contact with a flammable substance. The heat from the bulb was enough to ignite and explode the flammable substance. OEHS has determined that a similar risk may exist for DEP employees who use similar incandescent bulb droplights at their various work locations.

A safer alternative to the incandescent bulb droplights are light emitting diode (LED) droplights. This is due to the LED light bulbs' ability to maintain a relatively low temperature. LED's do not generate heat as infrared radiation like incandescent bulbs, which means ambient temperature is not affected. Comparatively, the hottest part of an LED is only half the temperature of an incandescent bulb of equivalent brightness. This makes LED lights more suitable and safer for use in areas flammable substances might exist. Not only are LEDs safer, they are also more cost efficient. LEDs have lower power consumption and much longer lifespans than incandescent bulbs.

Procedure:

**Effective October 1, 2018**, LED droplights are to replace incandescent bulb droplights in DEP facilities and operations. If you have any questions, comments, or need information on purchasing high quality LED droplights, please reach out to your Bureau EHS Representative.