POLARIS LIGHT



FREE CHECKLIST FOR UK WORKPLACES

Replacing fluorescent tubes with LED

Official Great Britain dates, three replacement routes, and a survey checklist. No invented savings or prices.

Written for facilities managers and building owners planning a fluorescent replacement. Dates are given only where a UK official source confirms them.

Edition 1, November 2026

Who this is for, and how to use it

Most general-lighting fluorescent tubes can no longer be placed on the market in Great Britain. That is not the same as a duty to switch off fittings you already have, and it is not the same as treating every retrofit tube as a new luminaire.

This checklist sets out the official dates, with sources, then the three common replacement routes. Product facts come from the live Polaris product pages. Every Polaris product carries a 5-year warranty on the fitting. That warranty does not apply to emergency packs or batteries. We have not invented energy-saving percentages or payback figures.

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1. OFFICIAL DATES

The two Great Britain rules, in plain English

These instruments apply in England, Scotland and Wales. We have not verified the position in Northern Ireland, and we do not give NI dates.

From 1 September 2023. The ecodesign rules for lighting products raised the threshold efficacy for 2-foot, 4-foot and 5-foot T8 fluorescent lamps to 120 lm/W. That figure is in Schedule 3, Table 2 of the Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products and Energy Information (Lighting Products) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/1095). Typical fluorescent T8 lamps do not meet that threshold, so those sizes could no longer be placed on the market as compliant light sources from that date. Source: legislation.gov.uk, SI 2021/1095, Schedule 3.

From 1 February 2024. The RoHS mercury exemptions for many general-lighting fluorescent lamps expired. That includes non-integrated compact fluorescent lamps, T5, T8, T12 and long-life linear fluorescent lamps, as listed in Schedule A2 to the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012, as amended (including by SI 2023/658). After the expiry date, those lamps must not be placed on the GB market if they contain mercury above the RoHS limit. Sources: the current Schedule A2 table on legislation.gov.uk; the GOV.UK record of the Secretary of State determinations; and the explanatory note to SI 2023/658, which states that the revoked exemptions expire on 1 February 2024.

Some special categories have later expiry dates in the same RoHS table, including the emergency-lamp entry (24 February 2027). Those later dates are not a reason to leave general lighting on fluorescent tubes.

2. EXISTING FITTINGS

What the rules do not require you to do

> **Installed lamps can still be used**
>
> The rules are about placing lamps on the market in Great Britain. They do not require you to switch off fluorescent fittings that are already installed and safe. You can keep using the lamps you already have. Replacements for general lighting are becoming harder to obtain, because new lamps can no longer be placed on the market under the expired exemptions and the ecodesign thresholds.

We have not made a general claim about the sale of leftover stock, because that depends on when a lamp was first placed on the market.

3. ROUTES

LED tube, ballast bypass, or a new fitting

These three routes are not equivalent.

- **LED replacement tubes** (retrofit) intended to work in the existing fitting, often with the existing control gear still in circuit. Compatibility varies. The original fitting was not designed or warranted as an LED luminaire.
- **A ballast-bypass or rewired conversion**, where the existing body is kept and the control gear is removed or altered. This can be a competent electrical alteration, but the result is still a converted fitting, not a new luminaire with a current product warranty.
- **A new LED luminaire**, designed, tested and supplied as an LED product, with a manufacturer warranty on the fitting.

A rewired fluorescent body can look tidy and still leave you with an old housing, uncertain photometry and no manufacturer warranty for the conversion. For a workplace that needs a known light level, a known emergency duration, or a clean hygiene rating, a new fitting is usually the clearer path. We have not stated that every conversion is unsafe, and we have not invented failure rates.

4. FITTINGS

Polaris products that often replace fluorescent

- **PS-BATTEN.** 1,500 mm LED batten with a built-in microwave sensor. About 7,800 lumens at 60 W (130 to 140 lm/W), IP65. A 3-hour emergency version is available. 5-year warranty on the fitting, not on an emergency pack or battery.
- **PS-PANEL.** Backlit panel for 600 x 600 and 1,200 x 600 exposed ceiling grids, selectable power and colour temperature, UGR below 19, 5-year warranty.
- **PS-PANEL+.** 1,200 x 300 panel at up to 160 lm/W, IP44, optional remote 3-hour emergency pack. 5-year warranty on the fitting.
- **PS-UFO-MAX.** Switchable 100, 150 or 200 W high bay at 190 lm/W. Lumens (19,000, 28,500 and 38,000) are calculated from 190 lm/W. A PIR and daylight sensor is included as standard.
- **PS-CORROSION.** IP69K tubular batten for washdown areas, Tridonic driver, 20, 40 or 60 W at 150 lm/W, 5-year warranty.
- **PS-BULKHEAD.** 18 W IP65 polycarbonate bulkhead, including emergency versions. 5-year warranty on the fitting (emergency batteries excluded).

5. CHECKLIST

Site survey list

- [ ] A floor plan, with ceiling type, mounting height and any trunking, tiles or surface-mounted battens.
- [ ] A count of existing fittings, lamp type (T5, T8, compact fluorescent or other), length and control gear, where that can be read safely.
- [ ] Areas that are general lighting, and any emergency fittings or special-purpose lamps that may sit under a different RoHS expiry date.
- [ ] The light level each area needs, taken from BS EN 12464-1:2021 for the actual task (see the UK lux levels guide for the rows we have published).
- [ ] Whether a retrofit tube, a rewire or a new luminaire is being considered in each area, and who would warrant the result.
- [ ] Hygiene, IP rating, washdown, or glass-free requirements, if any.
- [ ] Existing emergency lighting and battery age, recorded separately from the general-lighting warranty.
- [ ] Access, hours of work, and whether a trial bay is wanted before a full roll-out.

6. SOURCES

Where every date in this checklist comes from

- SI 2021/1095, Schedule 3, Table 2: from 1 September 2023, threshold efficacy 120 lm/W for 2-foot, 4-foot and 5-foot T8 lamps. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/1095/schedule/3
- Schedule A2 to the RoHS Regulations 2012, as amended, including SI 2023/658: mercury exemption expiry 1 February 2024 for the general-lighting fluorescent entries listed in the table, and later dates for some special and emergency entries. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/3032/schedule/A2/paragraph/7
- GOV.UK, RoHS exemption applications: Secretary of State determinations, recording the 1 February 2024 expiry. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restriction-of-hazardous-substances-rohs-determinations-on-exemption-applications/rohs-exemption-applications-secretary-of-state-determinations
- Explanatory note to SI 2023/658. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/658/note/made
- Product facts from the live Polaris product pages, November 2026.

This checklist is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the regulations or for a lighting design of your building. For a survey and a proposal, contact Polaris Light on +44 7847 798816 or hello@polarislight.com.

Polaris Light Ltd, 71-75 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JQ. Company number 09763338. Edition 1, November 2026. Every Polaris product carries a 5-year warranty on the fitting. Emergency packs and batteries are not covered by that warranty.