

**Q: What does the Ballast Disconnect do?**

A: When you disconnect the ballast using the Ballast Disconnect, it removes the ballast from the line voltage power circuit until the ballast is connected again.

**Q: Where is the Ballast Disconnect located in the fixture?**

A: In the ballast channel attached to the ballast leads.

**Q: Which wires are attached?**

A: The black and white wires.

**Q: How does this work with dimming ballasts?**

A: Only line voltage supply & return wires are wired into the Ballast Disconnect. If your dimming ballast operates using low voltage wires, such as 0-10 V control wiring, the extra wires will remain a live part of the circuit unless you manually remove them from the power supply using another method. If your dimming ballast operates with an additional line voltage wire, such as step-dimming, then all the wires will have a disconnect.

**Q: Are Alera suspended products treated differently than recessed products?**

A: Each type of product, whether recessed or suspended, will be code compliant. However, recessed units do have their own set of nuances. Please contact us if you have questions.

**Q: What about Alera's Quick Connect wiring?**

A: The Ballast Disconnect is located in between the ballast and the quick connect.

**Q: What happens in rows with Alera's Quick Connect system?**

A: The Ballast Disconnect is wired ahead of the Quick Connect system. When the Ballast Disconnect is disconnected from the ballast, the disconnected ballast is removed from the circuit but the rest of the circuit stays active.

**Q: What about dual switching such as Left/Right, Inboard/Outboard, Up/Down and so on?**

A: The ballast disconnect, when disengaged, breaks the electrical connection only for those lamps connected to the ballast being disconnected. All other lamps within a housing or row remain powered and lit.

**Q: How are Emergency Fixtures defined?**

A: Emergency fixtures are housings of any length that include an emergency battery pack installed in the fixture.

**Q: Why are units with battery packs exempt from the code?**

A: Our interpretation as to why this exemption may apply: A properly functioning emergency battery pack stores voltage and would remain "live" without power for a period of time. Disconnecting the ballast would not drain stored power from the battery pack but a maintenance person might assume it did.

**Q: What if there are Emergency Fixtures (fixtures with battery packs) in rows?**

A: Only the housings which contain emergency battery packs will be considered exempt. In the same row, a housing without a battery pack will include a ballast disconnect on each ballast in that housing.

**Q: What about emergency circuits and night light circuits without battery packs?**

A: Ballasts on emergency and night light circuits will include Ballast Disconnects for factory installed ballasts. Additional feed locations are not interpreted as exempt from the 2008 code.

**Q: What if I have fixtures in the field right now and my contractor requests disconnect kits?**

A: Kits can be provided for a modest charge for field installation.

**Q: Where are the instructions?**

A: Instructions are in the box with the fixture. When bulk shipped, the instructions are shipped with the bulk Ballast Disconnects.

**Q: Is it reasonable for contractors to back charge for field installation?**

A: No. Integral Ballast Disconnects are not currently mandatory, and the code does not require the Ballast Disconnect be installed; only provided. However, as stated previously, Alera will make a concentrated effort to minimize bulk shipment of ballast disconnects to comply with the future code. These efforts are outlined on page one of this correspondence.

**Q: I heard a rumor Canada has to provide these ballast disconnects in June of 2007.**

A: That is correct. Actual code requirements state that beginning June 1, 2007, Canadian code (CEC) requires linear fluorescent luminaires over 150V to have a disconnect means integral with the luminaire. Please contact Hubbell Canada if you have a project in Canada. Sales to Canada are under their sole jurisdiction. Alera products ordered by Hubbell Canada will comply with the Canadian code.