

PestWest Electronics Limited

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To whom it may concern,

The necessity to replace UVA tubes in UV fly killing units in order to maintain their efficacy at catching flying insects is a well-established fact.

It is common knowledge within our industry that tubes are most attractive to the target flying insects when less than one year old. This is because the UV light emitted by the tubes at a wavelength of 340-370 nanometres diminishes with use. Light of this wavelength is invisible to the human eye. The blue/violet coloured light which we can see is not at all representative of the actual UV light emission.

We are therefore stating in our instructions for use that UVA tubes must be changed at least once per year and preferably at the beginning of the fly season. This replacement frequency is also largely the one recommended by the Food Safety Standards and external auditors. It relates to UVA tubes losing around 30% of their attraction power after 10 - 12 months of usage, the initial output obviously has a bearing here. Our Quantum® line is produced in Germany and its initial emission level is amongst the highest in the market.

We only advise customers as to the best frequency and time for the tube change. Our advice is general and as such cannot cover all circumstances. We however believe that in most circumstances an annual tube change at the right period of the year is sufficient to maintain an acceptable level of efficacy, providing that high output UVA tubes and superior coatings are used (in the case of shatterproof tubes). As such, a PestWest Quantum® coated tube should lead to the necessity of one annual replacement.

The technical datasheets related to our Quantum UVA fluorescent tubes indicate the average lamp life according to EN 60081 (Annex C). This International Standard specifies the performance requirements for double-capped fluorescent lamps for general lighting service, it is not related to fly control ability. The tests, part of this Standard, include for example daily switching on / off cycles, which do not apply to UVA tubes designed to be operating constantly to optimise fly control. The working hours quoted are therefore not applicable.

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Yours faithfully

Frederic HURSTEL

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