



Maricopa County

Planning & Development Department

Department Directive

Department Directive:
DD-2020-04

Supersedes:

Effective: 11/15/20

Initiator: Darren Gerard

Director: Jennifer Pokorski

Purpose: To ensure consistent treatment of outdoor light fixtures with Halogen bulbs.

References: Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance, Article 1112
Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 49 Light Pollution

Policy/Procedure:

The zoning ordinance (MCZO) permits incandescent light fixtures to be unshielded if the Incandescent bulb is 150 watts or fewer.

Halogen bulbs are a type of Incandescent bulb in that they emit light as an incandescence from a heated filament. However, Halogen bulbs are marketed as a separate product from Incandescent bulbs. They have a different composition to the envelope and different interior gas vapor. The light quality is different.

The Zoning Inspector's (ZI) interpretation of the ordinance (and ARS, Title 49 Light Pollution) is that it is silent to Halogen bulbs and thus it is at the determination of the ZI as to whether or not such bulb must be shielded as per MCZO, Art. 1112.2.4.

Shielding refers to fully shielded below the horizontal plane at the bottom of the fixture so that light rays are emitted in a downward fashion.

The ZI's determination is that Halogen bulbs do not have to be shielded if they do not create light trespass onto neighboring properties. This will be determined by standing inside or at the subject lot line and observing whether a shadow is cast onto the neighboring parcel.

The ZI may determine additional methods of determining light trespass are necessary such as measuring lumens, illuminance at lot line, etc.

Attachments: Outdoor Lighting handout (1 page)



Outdoor Lighting in Unincorporated Maricopa County

Shielding: All outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded and directed down below the horizontal plan at the bottom of the fixture (ref.: MCZO, Art. 1112.4.1.1); unless a single incandescent bulb of 150 watts or fewer or low pressure sodium fixtures (ref.: MCZO, Art. 1112.4.2).

Outdoor Building or Landscaping Illumination: Outdoor illumination of buildings and landscaping is prohibited except with a fixture consisting of a single incandescent bulb of 150 watts or fewer or low pressure sodium fixtures (ref.: MCZO, Art. 1112.5.3).

Low Intensity Lighting: A low intensity fixture (less than a maximum candle power of 1,000 candelas) may be unshielded and/or not directed downward below the horizontal plane at the bottom of the fixture if the lighting is equipped with an automatic device which shuts off the fixture between midnight and sunrise (ref.: MCZO, Art. 1112.7.2).

Examples of Shielded Light Fixtures

