

The Fabulous
Lighting Maven
Unexpectedly Illuminating

ACTION-ORIENTED PEARLS OF WISDOM FOR INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS AND CONTRACTORS
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Dear Reader:

Not all lighting fixtures are designed and built to do all things .. no surprise there. There are a number of fixture types that are what might be called 'Specialty Fixtures', as they are manufactured for a particular type of work, typically in a harsher environment, frequently involving dust, dirt or water.

These have various resistances to "ingress", that being what it takes for that those solids or liquids to actually penetrate a fixture rendering it inoperable.

Think about your phone as an analogy. It is designed for some protection from the elements, but not a great deal – you wouldn't want to submerge it in water. The various degrees of protection comprise a rating system developed by the [International Electrotechnical Commission](#).

INGRESS PROTECTION LIGHTING

Linak publishes a wonderful explanation of this system on their website, with robust descriptions for each of the ratings, found here: [What is an Ingress Protection Rating and What Does it Mean?](#) The Facilities Manager who has particulates, chemicals or water flying around in his/her plant will want to be familiar with these, as not only physics are involved, but money as well.

Typically, a higher-rated fixture is more expensive, so in the interest of maximizing ROI for a lighting system purchase, you would want to purchase 'enough' protection, but not 'too much'.

Our contracting does a lot of work in food processing facilities, where there is a nightly washdown process involving high-speed steam jets of chemical spray. At minimum this environment requires lighting fixtures with an IP66 rating, and frequently IP69. The difference is this:

IP66

- Protected from total dust ingress
- Protected from high pressure water jets from any direction

IP69K

- Protected from total dust ingress
- Protected from steam-jet cleaning

From Linak's narrative, "In case the application requires wash-downs with high-pressure water jets and high temperatures, IP69K is the recommended protection class. This is a common demand where (the device) is not necessarily shielded or protected. Here (the device) is exposed to dirt ... and frequent high-pressure washing, typically at the end of a workday ...



U.S. Power is an industrial energy services company that specializes in the reduction of energy consumption across a broad array of manufacturing and food processing facilities located in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. In addition, the company publishes a useful curation of lighting-oriented information from the marketplace, and consolidates it into this concise, twice per month letter known as The Fabulous Lighting Maven, distributed to Facilities Managers throughout the nation.

While the company prides itself in its diversity, it owns and operates a niche lighting contracting firm as well, known as U.S. Power Vision, LLC. With a core business in and around industrial LED lighting, it keeps itself and its clients at the cutting edge of illuminating technologies, all aimed at providing – from the eyes to the fingertips – exceptional illumination, superb control and intuitive simplicity.

YOUR MORNING GRIN

By the time you reach the finish line, something will have separated the good from the great.

Our involvement.

Ron Motsch
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*Building and Managing a Suite of
The Most Productive and Admired
LED Lighting Systems on Earth*

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