

The case for LI dedicated low energy.

There are many compact fluorescent lamps on the market with a variety of caps. A few products offer dedicated solutions and many offer retrofit options. The primary dedicated solutions are 4 pin and 2 pin with separate ballast or GU24 and LI with self-ballasted options.

The retrofit options include B22, B15, E27, E14 and GU10. Replacing incandescent products with retrofit fluorescent lamps is easy and creates no problems in safety terms. The lamps are lower wattages and run much cooler. The main issue is one of aesthetics. The fluorescent lamps are bigger with exposed tubes and often stick out of the fixture. The smaller covered lamps generally have lower wattages and have ugly plastic sections, which are visible when fitted.

In order to improve the aesthetics it is necessary to design the fittings specifically for these types of lamps and provide solutions that hide the appearance. When such fixtures are designed using lamps with non-dedicated caps there is a serious risk that the consumer may use replacement incandescent tungsten or halogen lamps that run much hotter and could lead to fires or safety concerns.

No major company should consider taking this safety risk and the European safety standards authority are very concerned about this problem. It would be unethical for someone like Ikea or B&Q to do so. There is a big argument for a dedicated cap from this safety point, as well as the eco aspect of switchback.

With respect to dedicated caps the pin based BJB system is very big and difficult to disguise. It also has separate ballast, which will ultimately fail, and the whole fitting will then have to be replaced.

The self-ballasted options have different markets. Lamps in the larger fittings can easily be replaced with GU24, but for smaller light fixtures, LI is the only product that can give the

necessary design options and wins on size every time. The tube lamp is particularly cost effective as it needs no glass and thus reduces the cost of the fitting considerably.

LI systems will initially sell in China for about USD 4.00 – less than half the cost of the BJB combination and within a short period will come down to a competitive USD 3.00. Lamp shapes, colour rendering, wattages and voltage variations will be produced to meet the requirements of the global market.

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