MLO Quick Reference Guide

The Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) is a guide for environmentally responsible outdoor lighting in North America and is the result of extensive efforts by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA).

Lighting Zones

LZ0	LZ1	LZ2	LZ3	LZ4
Underdeveloped areas of open space, wilderness park, areas near observatories or areas where protection of a dark environment is critical.	Areas that desire low ambient light levels. Single and two family residential. Rural town centers, commercial areas, business parks with limited night time activity.	Areas with moderate ambient lighting levels. Multifamily residential, hotels, neighborhood business districts, churches, schools, hospitals.	Areas with moderately high lighting levels. Commercial corridors, town centers, mixed use, industrial. Shipping and rail yards. Car dealers, gas stations. High night time activity.	Very high ambient lighting levels. Special cases. Extremely unusual installations. High density entertainment districts and heavy use industrial.

Maximum Allowable Backlight, Uplight and Glare (BUG) Ratings

For bug rating definitions, see BUG Rating Quick Reference Guide on back side.

Backlight	L.Z0	LZ1	LZ2	LZ3	LZ4
Greater than 2 mounting heights from property line.	B1	B 3	B4	B5	85
1 to less than 2 mounting heights from property line and ideally oriented.	B1	B 2	B3	84	B4
0.5 to 1 mounting heights from property line and ideally oriented.	B0	B1	B2	B 3	B3
Less than 0.5 mounting height to property line and properly oriented.	B0	B0	B0	B1	B2
Uplight	LZ0	LZ1	LZ2	L3Z	LZ4
Allowed uplighting rating	UO	U1	U2	U3	U4
Allowed percentage light emission above 90 degrees for street or area lighting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Glare	LZ0	LZ1	LZ2	LZ	LZ4
Allowed Glare Rating.	G0	G1	G2	G3	G4
Any luminaire not ideally oriented with 1 to less than 2 mounting heights to any property line of concern.	G0	G0	G1	G1	G2
Any luminaire not ideally oriented with 0.5 to less than 1 mounting heights to any property line of concern.	GO	G0	G0	G1	G1
Any luminaire not ideally oriented with less than 0.5 mounting heights to any property line of concern.	G0	G0	G0	G0	G1

To be considered 'ideally oriented', the luminaire must be mounted with the backlight portion of the light output oriented perpendicular and towards the property line of concern.

For complete information regarding use of this data, go to www.darksky.org/mlo

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BUG Rating Quick Reference Guide

Uplight Rating



Backlight Rating	Maximum Zonal Lumens						
		B0	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
	BH	110	500	1000	2500	5000	>5000
	BM	220	1000	2500	5000	8500	>8500
	BL	110	500	1000	2500	5000	>5000



Maximum Zonal Lumens						
	U0	U1	U2	U3	U4	U5
UH	0	10	100	500	1000	>1000
UL	0	10	100	500	1000	>1000
FVH	10	75	150			>150

		EVH	lary Hgh	90°
		FH	Hgh	80°
		FM Mid	\bigvee_{60°	5
	FL Low	30°	*****	
((na)° dir)			

Glare Rating		Maxin	num Zoi	hal Lum	iens		
Type 1, Type II, Type III, Type IV	G0	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	
	FVH 10	250	375	500	750	>750	
	BVH 10	250	375	500	750	>750	
	FH 660	1800	5000	7500	12000	>12000	
	BH 110	500	1000	2500	5000	>5000	
	Maximum Zonal Lumens						
Type V, V Square	G0	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	
				600			
	BNH 10					750	
	FH 660	1800	5000	7500	12000	>12000	

For complete information regarding use of this data, see IESNA TM-15 and Addenda #1.

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The luminaire rating for any one rating is determined by the highest rating in each table. Example: BH zone is rated B1 BM zone is rated B2 BL zone is rated B1 Luminaire backlight rating is B2

1800 5000

BH 660



7500 12000 >12000

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