Case Study:

Safelite AutoGlass – Wichita, Kansas

Auto Glass Manufacturer Sees Improved Light Quality, Cuts Energy Bill With Williams GL System

Job Specific Information:

- 300 Williams GL 4-lamp 54-watt T5HO luminaires with wireguards replaced 225 400-watt high pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures
- Mounting Height: 13' above the floor
- Spacing: 15' on center
- Footcandle Level: Increased 300% from 38 to over 100fc average maintained
- Energy Costs: Reduced 33%

A company-wide cost control initiative at Safelite's Wichita complex, which manufactures over one million automotive windshields each year, gave Engineering Manager Aaron Tjaden a window of opportunity to save money and upgrade the existing lighting within the facility.

"At first the company wasn't planning on relighting the whole plant," said Tjaden, "But once we started talking about what we could save by using the Williams GL fixtures, the idea was a lot easier to sell."

The sales pitch was compelling. By replacing the existing combination of 400-watt high pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures with Williams GL luminaires, Safelite immediately cut lighting energy use by 33%–even with a 3-for-2 increase in the number of fixtures. That sharp reduction in power costs, Tjaden said, will help the new Williams luminaires pay for themselves in under two years.

An added bonus for Safelite was dramatically improved lighting. The Williams GL fixtures, each with four 54-watt T5HO fluorescent lamps, increased maintained light levels to as high as 118 footcandles on the manufacturing floor–a 300% improvement over the previous lighting technology.

"With our old lighting, you almost had to stand right under the lamp to get any real lighting value," said Tjaden. "The GL helps us provide a safer work environment because of its instant start capability and cleaner, whiter light, which distributes much more evenly on the floor."

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