

DISCHARGE LAMP WITH AN AUXILIARY IGNITION ELEMENT**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a discharge lamp, in particular a high pressure discharge lamp, with at least one discharge vessel and at least one ignition assisting element, preferably an ignition assisting wire or an electrically conducting coating of the discharge vessel, which element can be electrically connected to a power feed to the discharge lamp and which extends at least in some sections along the discharge vessel, wherein a device is provided for interrupting the electrical connection between at least one partial section of the ignition assisting element and the power feed in the operating state of the discharge lamp. Additionally disclosed are an ignition assisting device and a method for operating a discharge lamp of this kind.

Fig. 1