

# OSRAM Foreign Date Codes 1953-1979

This 3-cipher system consists of three letters and was in use at several of Osram's non-German factories and suppliers. It appears to be a variant of Osram's German code system employed during 1953 – 1979.

The first letter indicates the factory or supplier.

The second letter denotes the year of production.

The third letter identifies the month of production.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Letter – Factory Identification

This may be either a lower or upper case letter, according to the table below:

Osram Milan, Italy	f
Osram Bari, Italy	f or z
Osram Madrid, Spain	V or e
Osram Winterthur, Switzerland	W
Radium	C
Sylvania	L
Philips	N
Thorn	P
Narva / BGW	U

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter – Year Code

This is generally a small letter for the first half of the year, or a capital letter for the second half. Sometimes always capital letters are observed. Note that some year letters were used more than once – in such cases the precise year can only be identified by studying the lamp construction, or from a knowledge of the years during which the different plants were operational.

e	1953, 1974	r	1960	h	1967
g	1954, 1975	u	1961	a	1968
p	1955, 1976	c	1962	w	1969
k	1956, 1977	n	1963	x	1970
f	1957, 1978	b	1964	z	1971
s	1958, 1979	d	1965	y	1972
m	1959	t	1966	v	1973

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter – Month Code

The 3<sup>rd</sup> letter is always a capital letter, and denotes the month of production according to two distinct systems. One system applies the letters A through M (excluding I) to indicate the months January through December. The other applies the letters R through W to indicate the first six months of the year, and then again for the second six months of the year, the first or second half of the year being indicated by the Year letter being printed as a lower or upper case character.

A or R	January	G or R	July
B or S	February	H or S	August
C or T	March	J or T	September
D or U	April	K or U	October
E or V	May	L or V	November
F or W	June	M or W	December

Examples: fzS = 1971 February Milan (Bari did not open until 1972)  
fFW = 1978 December Bari  
UZY = 1971 March Narva