IP and IK *ratings* explained for luminaires

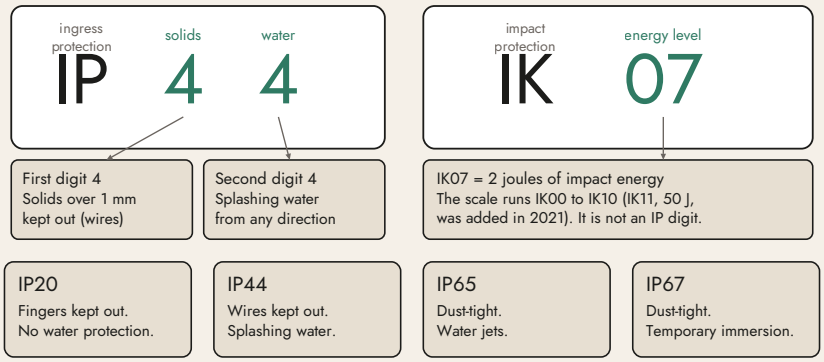
How to read the IP and IK codes on a luminaire, what each place on a hospitality project does to a fitting, and wording to ask for the rating per fitting. Digits are from public explainers: confirm them against IEC 60529 and IEC 62262.

Compliance guidance. Digit tables are from public explainers that agree with one another, and the IEC and BSI listings for IEC 60529 and IEC 62262 were read on 5 November 2026; the standards themselves were not. Confirm every digit and test value against the current edition. The location table gives starting points for the electrical engineer and lighting designer, not requirements. For bathrooms follow BS 7671 Section 701. Guidance, not electrical advice.

AT A GLANCE

Code	Reads as	Does not tell you	Where you meet it
IP20	Objects over 12.5 mm (a finger) kept out. No water protection.	Anything about damp or dust.	Decorative fittings for dry interiors (usual, unconfirmed).
IPX4	Splashing water from any direction. Solids not rated.	Dust, jets, immersion.	The least for bathroom zones 1 and 2 (public guidance to BS 7671).
IP65	Dust-tight. Water jets (6.3 mm nozzle).	Immersion, salt, chemicals.	Exposed terraces and hose-down areas.
IP67	Dust-tight. Temporary immersion, up to 1 m for 30 minutes.	Jets: IP67 does not imply IP65 or IP66.	Fittings that may be briefly submerged.
IPX7	Temporary immersion, up to 1 m for 30 minutes. Solids not rated.	Dust, jets.	The least for bathroom zone 0 (public guidance).
IK07 to IK10	An enclosure that withstands 2 joules (IK07) up to 20 joules (IK10) of impact energy.	Glass safety.	Fittings within reach or in knock-prone areas (practice).

Digits from public explainers cross-checked against the IEC and BSI listings; the standards were not read. The last column is practice, except where it names the bathroom guidance.



How to read IP44 and IK07, with four common codes. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio: the digits are from public explainers, so confirm them against IEC 60529 and IEC 62262.

WHICH RATING WHERE: STARTING POINTS (PRACTICE, CONFIRM WITH THE ENGINEER)

Place	Starting point (practice)	IK
Dry interior	[IP20]	Not stated
Bathroom	Zone 0 IPX7; zones 1, 2 IPX4 (TL-LIG-17). Outside: [IP44]	As dry interior
Spa, steam room, pool hall	Ask the engineer: [IP65+]	[IK07+]
Kitchen, back of house	[IP54 to IP65]	[IK08 to IK10]
Terrace, covered / open	[IP44 to IP54] / [IP65]	[IK07 to IK10]
Coastal	[IP65+] and marine-suitable metal and finish	As above

Decorative glass chandeliers are typically IP20, for dry interiors only. The IP code does not cover salt, chemicals or corrosion.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

IP AND IK STATEMENT

The supplier states for each luminaire type, on the data sheet and the rating plate, the IP rating [IP20 / IP44 / IP65] under BS EN 60529 [edition] and, where a fitting can be knocked, the IK rating under BS EN 62262 [edition and amendment], with the configuration tested (shade fitted, gland and canopy as supplied, mounting) and what would change it.

LOCATION MINIMA

Luminaires in [location] are rated at least IP[ ] and IK[ ], as the luminaire schedule. The supplier confirms the rating applies as installed, lists any site step that would void it, and states the rating and position of any separate driver.

FITTINGS NOT RATED FOR DAMP

Fittings rated IP20, or with no IP rating stated, are installed only in dry interiors, outside bathroom zones 0, 1 and 2. The supplier states in writing the environment each fitting is made for.

CORROSION

An IP rating does not cover corrosion. For [coastal / spa / pool-hall] locations the supplier states the base metal, finish and exposure suitable, apart from the IP rating.

TERMS USED

IP rating

A two-digit code for how well an enclosure keeps solids (first digit) and water (second digit) out. An X means not rated, not zero.

IK rating

A scale from IK00 to IK10 (IK11 since 2021) for the impact energy an enclosure withstands, in joules.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- IEC 60529:1989+AMD1:1999+AMD2:2013 CSV (IP Code), edition 2.2, and BS EN 60529:1992+A2:2013: listings only: IEC 29 Aug 2013 (stability date 2027); BSI Current, published 28 Feb 2019. Text not read.
- IEC 62262:2002 with Amendment 1:2021 (IK code), and BS EN 62262:2002+A1:2021: listings only: IEC edition 1.0 (2002), amendment 3 Sep 2021 (IK11); BSI Current, published 31 Oct 2021, 2002 edition withdrawn. Text not read.
- Public explainers for the digit and energy tables; BS 7671 Section 701 for bathrooms (see the bathroom zones sheet): explainers cross-checked 5 Nov 2026; neither standard read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/ip-and-ik-ratings-explained. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.