

Dear DLC Members and Stakeholders:

The DesignLights Consortium™ is pleased to release the draft Technical Requirements Table V4.0 for comment. Comments should be submitted in writing to info@designlights.org. **Comments on this draft proposal will be accepted through March 18, 2016.**

Informational webinars will be held to review the proposed new technical requirements at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Friday, February 26, and repeated at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, March 1.

To register for the webinar on February 26 at 1 PM ET, please click here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1875193264625252355>

To register for the webinar on March 1 at 3 PM ET, please click here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3140770730614049539>

Overview of Key Changes

DLC periodically revises requirements in an effort to keep pace with changes in the market and support the energy savings goals and other needs of the DLC membership. The revisions that were proposed, debated, and finalized in the 2014 and 2015 revision cycles focused on restructuring the technical requirements table, establishing requirements for the DLC Premium classification, and enabling a pathway for products to be qualified under new Specialty Use designations. The last major revision to the baseline efficacy levels for the DLC Standard classification was announced in April 2013, and took final effect on January 1, 2014.

The solid-state lighting market has grown and product performance has improved significantly in the nearly 3 years since these efficacy levels have undergone revision. The V4.0 revision focuses primarily on product efficacy. Given the length of time between revisions and the explosive growth of the market, the proposed efficacy increases strive to be ambitious, and would eliminate an estimated 40-60% of products currently listed on the QPL.

Intended Development and Implementation Timeline

DLC's intention is to finalize the V4.0 requirements in late March to early April. As per the normal process, there will be an open comment period, followed by a conference call with commenters who have provided meaningful and useful feedback, and subsequent discussions with the DLC membership to discuss changes that should be made to this draft based on the feedback received.

Consistent with previous specification revisions, the transition to the new requirements would include two distinct grace periods. First, new product submissions would continue to be accepted under the current (V3.1) set of requirements for roughly 2 months after the new (V4.0) requirements are finalized. Therefore, starting in early-to-mid June, all new product applications at that point to be accepted under only the new (V4.0) Technical Requirements.

Second, the DLC would offer a 270-day grace period before products not meeting the new (V4.0) requirements would be removed from the QPL. Publication of the final V4.0 requirements in early April would allow this transition date to be targeted for January 1, 2017. Products not meeting the new (V4.0) requirements will be removed on that date, though they will still be searchable using the "Include De-Listed Products" feature of the DLC search page.

Specific Comments Solicited

While the stakeholder community is encouraged to provide any and all comments they wish on the proposed draft requirements, DLC requests comments on several areas in particular, including:

- Impact on current and planned product offerings. It is believed that many of the products on the QPL are likely no longer in production. While DLC can speculate about which products are no longer available, or which products may have improved performance since original qualification, based on the date of original qualification, specific information regarding the impact of the proposed requirements on your current

product lines is of keen interest. When considering these comments, please take into account the transition timeline noted above, and the fact that products not meeting the new requirements will not be disqualified from the QPL until January 2017.

- Incremental product cost increases. Cost-effectiveness and the impact of an incentive on the purchasing decision is a key consideration for DLC members in determining incentive levels. However, DLC lacks good data regarding the current and future costs of products, regardless of performance level. If you are concerned that the cost to manufacture products to meet the new specification would make the price points too high for cost-effective energy savings, specific details on the cost implications at various performance levels are crucially important. All comments received on this issue will be treated as strictly confidential.
- Impact of proposed efficacy levels on product quality, including optical control. DLC understands that there are tradeoffs that could more easily allow higher efficacy products, and that efficacy alone, while an important metric, is not the sole indicator of quality. However, previous experience has shown that higher quality products also tend to be high efficacy products, as manufacturers seeking to make quality products generally also work make highly efficient ones. If your organization is concerned that the proposed levels will lead to poor quality product, specific details or examples illustrating this in your written comments are most useful. Additionally, if there are alternative criteria you believe could help ensure quality within or beyond the current parameters DLC evaluates, please provide these suggestions in your comments. For example, optical quality is often difficult to assess (or even define) at the luminaire level based on available comparison data such as far-field goniophotometry and zonal lumen ratios. If you believe the zonal lumen density requirements could be altered or additional metrics added to enhance the evaluation of optical quality, these suggestions will be considered.
- Color quality. With the release of TM-30, there has been significant discussion about moving from the current CRI metric to the metrics in TM-30. While DLC believes it is premature to require specific performance related to TM-30 metrics at this time, we are considering creating provisions for reporting of these metrics. If you have thoughts or concerns about the new TM-30 standard, please include those in your comments. Also please note that while comments are appreciated and compelling new information will be considered, at this time DLC is not actively considering changes to the CCT limits in the Technical Requirements, based on the priorities of the DLC membership.
- Finally, please note that DLC will not add new categories of eligible products as part of this process. Discussions on new categories such as LED replacements for pin-base CFLs, medium base replacements for HID lamps, hazardous location lighting, backlighting for signage, higher lumen area lighting, additional form factors of linear lamps, horticultural lighting, and others are taking place through the specification development process, operating in parallel and with more activity to be discussed with the stakeholder community during Q2. Provisions to address new innovative product features such as color tuning, luminaires designed to operate on DC-microgrids (including PoE products), and others is under discussion through the policy development process, with more discussion to take place in Q2 and at the DLC Stakeholder Meeting in early August. While comments on these topics are welcome, they will be rolled into those processes at the appropriate time.

If you have any questions, please direct them to info@designlights.org.

Best,
The DLC Team

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