

Dear DesignLights™ Consortium Stakeholders: Lighting Manufacturers, Lighting Designers, DLC Members, Advisors, etc.,

The DLC is seeking your input on review and revision of our Technical Requirements specifications. Please review the attached draft Table v2.0, and the explanations below and return your comments by next **Tuesday, September 25**.

This is the second of three current reviews and revisions of DLC categories and specifications.

- New Categories Development (completed 9/5/12 and public webinar held on 9/12/12). DLC added 11 new categories of commercial LED luminaires.
- **Review of specification values for photometric and color properties of existing categories (Today's message).**
- Review of specification values for product efficacy. Expect to see this in January.

For this review, DLC requests feedback from the stakeholder community, whether specifically on the topics outlined below or on other issues, by **Tuesday, September 25**. Consistent with DLC's industry input practice, following the closing of the comment period, DLC will evaluate all received feedback and we will convene a meeting of interested stakeholders to discuss the issues.

Below is a brief outline of our annual review of the technical requirements in existing specification categories. As described above DLC will conduct the review as a two-step process:

Review of specification values for photometric and color properties of existing categories (Today's message).

DLC has received specific feedback on the specification requirements in a number of categories. In addition, the evolving market and design practices in solid-state lighting have necessitated that DLC evaluate the appropriateness of our requirements across the board. Are the requirements we currently have in place sufficient to ensure performance to customers? Are we striking the right balance between required minimum performance and allowing for flexibility in product innovation and lighting design?

Review of specification values for product efficacy. (Expect to see this in January.)

As the goal of the DLC is ultimately to help member efficiency programs achieve their energy savings targets, increases in efficacy are of the utmost importance to keep the DLC specifications relevant and useful. Similarly, as LED luminaire performance improves, opportunities to identify the high performing products are likely best served by progressing efficacy requirements. However, DLC is sensitive to market development: there is no desire to increase efficacy levels if it means a corresponding lack of availability of qualified products. With this in mind, DLC intends to review carefully impacts of increases in required minimum efficacy, and will propose new efficacy levels early next year.

As per DLC practice, both of these steps will be open for stakeholder comment, and products that fall off the list due to not meeting new criteria levels will be given a several-month grace period before removal.

Proposed Technical Requirements Table 2.0

Attached you will find a draft technical requirements table that includes all draft non-efficacy values for this specification revision. DLC seeks comment from all stakeholders on the appropriateness of the levels proposed. A few specific considerations:

1. Color:

- DLC proposes to raise CRI for outdoor products to 65. High-quality color characteristics in outdoor lighting is seen as desirable by many of our members, and our internal analysis shows that this would have negligible impacts on the QPL. *DLC Seeks Comments on this approach, and on the proposed new requirements.*
- DLC proposes to harmonize indoor categories to CCTs of <5000K and CRIs of 80, and outdoor categories to CCTs of <5700K and CRIs of 65. This is in an effort to simplify the specifications. Where these proposals have not been incorporated into the 2.0 Requirements Table, it is due to the excessive negative impact these requirements would have on the existing number of qualified products. *DLC Seeks Comments on this approach, and on the proposed new requirements.*

2. Light Output:

- DLC proposes to lower the light output requirements on Linear Panels 2x2 and 2x4 troffers, as well as on High Bay/Low Bay luminaires and High Bay Aisle lighting. This is done in an effort to allow more creativity in lighting design practices. While DLC remains wary of consumers used to incumbent technologies not getting sufficient light, there is also a recognition that continued benchmarking to incumbent technologies may inhibit innovation. *DLC Seeks Comments on this approach, and on the proposed new minimum requirements.*

3. Light Distribution

- DLC has received a number of complaints and comments regarding the zonal lumen distribution and spacing criteria requirements in several categories. *DLC would like specific feedback on the appropriateness of, or alternatives to, the existing requirements for light distribution, especially in the wall-wash and linear panel/troffer categories.*

4. Retrofit Kits

- While DLC proposes to consider changes to the light output and distribution requirements to the fully-integrated luminaires as described above, it does NOT propose changes to these requirements for retrofit kits. This is done with the belief that retrofit kits are, by nature, designed to go into existing housings, using an existing lighting design. Therefore, there is a belief that retrofit kit performance should continue use the existing benchmarking of incumbent technologies. *DLC Seeks Comments on this approach, and on the proposed minimum requirements.*

5. Refrigerated Case Lighting

- DLC currently allows higher-CRI products to qualify at lower lumen output and efficacy levels than lower-CRI products. This currently only applies to horizontal refrigerated case products. *DLC seeks comment on whether this bi-level specification is appropriate and useful in the marketplace, and whether it should be eliminated or extended to vertical refrigerated-case products.*

Thank you in advance for your assistance in refining and improving the DLC process. We are determined to make the DLC Qualified Products List and Technical Requirements a solid value to all sides of the commercial LED lighting community.

If you have any questions, please contact me or email us at info@designlights.org.

Regards,

The DLC Team