

Comments on Inception Impact Assessment on review of eco-design requirements for lighting products

LightingEurope, representing the lighting industry in Europe, would like to thank the European Commission for the opportunity to contribute to the Impact Assessment on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling legislative review for light sources.

We understand that the Commission's proposals will introduce important changes compared to the current legislation. LightingEurope calls on the Commission to undertake a detailed Impact Assessment for two particular aspects in the draft proposals, based on the feedback received during the Consultation Forum of 7 December 2018: the phasing-out of some lighting technologies (mainly non-LEDs) and the introduction of Circular Economy requirements, as both will have a strong impact on industry and end-users.

LightingEurope calls on regulators to adopt a pragmatic and realistic transition timetable to substitute technologies and products and to include Circular Economy requirements in legislation for lighting products.

Regarding the possible phase-out of technologies

As recognised by the European Commission, several lighting technologies are about to be phased out naturally by market forces, without any further regulatory requirements, resulting in energy savings and phase-out of conventional products in the coming years.

When evaluating the impact of a possible phase-out of a technology, in addition to what is considered by the IA Inception Roadmap, the following **Economic, Social and Environmental** impacts need to be taken into account:

- **Insufficient capital available to cover for the cost of purchasing and installing new LED technologies:** a changeover to LED lighting should be planned well in advance, in order to properly inform and educate future customers. A changeover should also fit in budgeting and replacement cycles of the owners and end-users.
- **Increased precautionary purchases of old technologies:** some industries may turn to 'stockpiling' as a 'quick and easy' solution to address the unplanned ban of certain products, in order to guarantee the proper and safe operation of their installations. This will completely neutralise the desired effect of energy and CO₂ savings and reduction of the amount of unwanted substances in the market and in the waste stream.
- **Negative impact on a number of industrial manufacturing activities in Europe:** as recognised by both DG Energy and DG Environment consultants, there are no full replacements for all mercury-containing discharge lamps. In particular, some special purpose lamps are used in a number of industrial and commercial applications (e.g. micro-lithography in semiconductor production, entertainment lighting etc.). The future of these industries would be seriously affected should a ban come into effect.

- **Significant amounts of unnecessary waste:** an early ban of technologies will result in a significant amount of unnecessary waste, as currently installed luminaires that still have a service life ahead of them, may prematurely enter the waste stream due to lack of “one to one” substitute.
- **Job losses:** within the lighting industry, a premature ban will result in significant job losses, as the industry will not have the time needed to transition some of the facilities and staff to new jobs and new products.

Regarding the introduction of Circular Economy requirements

The proposed EU rules cover a vast array of lighting products and applications. The Impact Assessment should take the following features of the lighting industry into account when evaluating the potential impact of possible Circular Economy requirements:

- **Structure of Europe’s luminaires manufacturing market:** we estimate that about 90 % of the companies are SMEs. The impact of new requirements on these companies and their capacity to redesign products and comply with the new requirements within the given timeframe should be taken into account.
- **Structure of the lighting market:** the majority of lighting products in Europe are sold to professionals and used in non-residential applications.
- **Lighting products are used in many, often very different, applications and Circular Economy requirements will have a different impact and potential value per application:** for certain applications, lighting products are subject to additional specific performance and safety requirements that go beyond those stated in EU rules – these application requirements are set out in industry standards or application-specific regulations and procurement guidelines. An Impact Assessment is required to demonstrate that any additional removability requirement would provide value for the product and for the end-user, and that value should be evaluated against the re-design cost and any potential impact on safety and performance.
- **Timetable for application of new Circular Economy requirements:** the Impact Assessment should address the time required for manufacturers across the world to understand the new requirements, redesign products, verify their safety and performance against regulatory and other requirements before they can place their products on the European market. The publication of the final regulatory text, expected in November 2018 at the earliest, will be the first official call on the global lighting industry to redesign products and work towards compliance.

LightingEurope proposes the introduction of Circular Economy requirements that are in line with those developed in CEN/CENELEC JTC10 and require removability for the purpose of verification by market surveillance authorities and recycling at end-of-life.

We call on the Commission to undertake a detailed Impact Assessment that also addresses the above points in time for the proposed review of the eco-design rules in 2022, before introducing any further Circular Economy requirements.

Contact

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LightingEurope is the industry association that represents the lighting industry in Europe. We are the voice of more than 1,000 lighting companies that employ more than 100,000 Europeans and create an annual European turnover of over € 20 billion. Our daily mission is to advocate and defend the lighting industry in Brussels, while reconciling it with ongoing EU policy aims. In doing so, we are dedicated to promoting efficient lighting practices for the benefit of the global environment, human comfort, and the health and safety of consumers. More information is available on: www.lightingeurope.org.