

Brussels, 28th September, 2016

Press Release

LightingEurope recommends to use the correct metrics for flicker and stroboscopic effect

When talking about the quality of lighting installation, also flicker and stroboscopic effects have to be considered. LightingEurope recommends to only use the metrics of “short-term flicker severity” and “stroboscopic visibility measure” to objectively evaluate the human perception of temporal light artefacts.

Two well-known phenomena are perceived by humans when light output of a product varies with time: flicker and stroboscopic effect. Lighting products that exhibit these phenomena are considered not good quality lighting. What do these terms actually mean? ‘Flicker’ refers to unacceptable light variations that are directly perceived by the average observer. A ‘stroboscopic effect’ may become visible for an observer when a moving or rotating object is illuminated.

In the lighting market, various metrics are used to quantify the flicker and stroboscopic effects of products. Examples are the ‘modulation depth’ (MD) and ‘flicker index’ (FI) but it has been shown, that both metrics are not able to objectively score the effect as actually perceived by humans. LightingEurope therefore recommends to only use available CIE and IEC-standardized metrics, the ‘short-term flicker severity’ (Pst) and the ‘stroboscopic visibility measure’ (SVM).

“I call upon the market to support the existing and forthcoming CIE and IEC publications, definitions and metrology for flicker and stroboscopic effect. Only with this common understanding we will avoid confusion and increase good quality lighting in the European market”, says Diederik de Stoppelaar, Secretary General of LightingEurope.

Further information can be found in the corresponding position paper at <https://goo.gl/NZXeui>

About Lighting Europe

LightingEurope is an industry association of 33 European lighting manufacturers, national associations, and companies producing materials. LightingEurope members represent over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are SMEs; a total workforce of over 100,000 people in Europe; and an annual turnover estimated to exceed 20 billion Euros. LightingEurope is dedicated to promoting efficient lighting practices for the benefit of the global environment, human comfort, and the health and safety of consumers. More information about LightingEurope is available on our website www.lightingeurope.org.

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