

For More Information Contact  
Marianne DiMascio at  
339-933-8140 or  
mdimascio@appliance-standards.org

www.appliance-standards.org



## APPLIANCE STANDARDS FACT SHEET

### Light Bulb Efficiency Standards

June 2016



Efficiency standards for light bulbs will cumulatively save 1.5 trillion kilowatt hours of energy or more than enough to meet the electricity needs of every US home for one year.



#### Light bulb standards unleash a wave of innovation

In 2007, with bipartisan support, Congress adopted and President George W. Bush signed energy efficiency standards for light bulbs. The first phase (2012–14) required efficiency improvements of 25–30% compared to traditional incandescent bulbs. These standards unleashed a wave of spectacular innovation by the lighting industry. Sales of halogen incandescents, and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) increased and manufacturers introduced light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. Today, consumers are moving rapidly to long-lasting, cost-saving, and energy-efficient LEDs. (In Q1 2016, LEDs accounted for over 26% of light bulb sales).

For phase two, Congress directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop revised standards to take effect in 2020, including a backstop requiring that light bulbs achieve at least 45 lumens (a measure of brightness) per watt. DOE recently stated that this backstop will go into effect. Halogen incandescent light bulbs will probably not meet the backstop.

DOE also proposed stronger efficiency levels for CFLs and LEDs, which current CFLs cannot meet. General Electric has already announced that they will no longer produce CFLs, and one large retailer, Ikea, has already switched to LEDs only.

#### LEDs—the light bulb of choice

You don't have to rush out and replace your working light bulbs, but when they burn out, LEDs are an excellent choice for replacements. LEDs provide instant, high-quality light similar to incandescent light bulbs but are about 4 times more efficient and last up to 12 times longer—and

LED prices are dropping as consumers purchase the efficient bulbs in increasing numbers.



#### Standards will help transform market

Even though sales of LEDs are growing rapidly, halogen incandescent bulbs still account for about 47% of light bulb sales, costing consumers billions in high energy bills. Standards will remove these inefficient products from the market, speeding the transition to more efficient lighting.

#### Consumers will save money

A typical household replacing inefficient bulbs with those meeting the proposed standards will save about \$90 annually on its electric bill, which is like getting nearly a month of free electricity every year. Plus, LEDs can last a decade or two, saving consumers the cost and trouble of purchasing new bulbs every year.

#### Standards will reduce energy waste

Through 2030, energy efficiency standards for light bulbs will cumulatively save 1.5 trillion kilowatt hours of energy, or more than enough to meet the *electricity needs of every US home for one year* and will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 700 million metric tons, equivalent to taking nearly 150 million cars off the road for a year.