

FACT SHEET: General Service Incandescent Lamp Provisions Contained in EISA 2007

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on December 19, 2007. The new law contains provisions for phasing in more efficient incandescent lamps, as described below.

1) Is there a requirement to phase out incandescent lights by 2012?

No, EISA 2007 established minimum efficiency and lifetime requirements which apply to general service incandescent lamps, as defined by the legislation. The standards that were promulgated by the EISA 2007 will require that manufacturers improve the performance of these lamps over two years, starting on January 1, 2012.

In responding to the question about whether this is a “phase out” of incandescent technology, it is important to understand that EISA 2007 was not a “design” standard, but was rather a “performance” standard. While a design standard may have been prescriptive about what technologies should be banned, a performance standard focuses on the service of the product. In this case, EISA 2007 established minimum requirements around amount of light delivered per unit of energy consumed.

The actual legislation can be reviewed by visiting <http://thomas.loc.gov>, searching for the “Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007” and selecting section 321, Efficient Light Bulbs.

The requirements for EISA 2007 are phased in over two years, between on January 1, 2012 and 2014. For the same lumen output, the minimum requirements represent a reduction of 25% over the incandescent technology in use in 2007.

GENERAL SERVICE INCANDESCENT LAMPS

Rated Lumens	Max Rated Wattage	Min Rated Lifetime	Effective Date
1490-2600	72	1,000 hrs	1/1/2012
1050-1489	53	1,000 hrs	1/1/2013
750-1049	43	1,000 hrs	1/1/2014
310-749	29	1,000 hrs	1/1/2014

EISA 2007 also sets several definitions and minimum performance standards for modified spectrum general service incandescent lamps.

2) Is DOE responsible for overseeing this?

Yes, DOE is responsible for enforcing the Federal energy conservation standards, whether those standards were developed through a DOE rulemaking or, in this case, enacted by Congress.

DOE is also required to initiate two rulemakings to consider whether lamp standards should be made more stringent. DOE shall initiate a rulemaking in 2014 to consider whether it is technologically feasible and economically justified to make the standards for “general service lamps” higher than the EISA 2007 levels. Note that the definition of “general service lamps” includes general service incandescent lamps as well as: compact fluorescent lamps, general service light-emitting diode (LED or OLED) lamps, and “any other lamps that the Secretary determines are used to satisfy lighting applications traditionally served by general service incandescent lamps”. If this rulemaking cannot produce savings that are greater than or equal to the savings from a minimum efficacy standard of 45 lumens per watt, effective January 1, 2020, then the Secretary shall prohibit the sale of any general service lamp that does not meet a minimum efficacy standard of 45 lumens per watt (this is referred to in the statute as a “backstop requirement” and is the only circumstance that may qualify as an outright “ban” on certain general service lamps, but only as a last resort).

DOE is also required under the EISA 2007 to initiate a rulemaking in 2020 to determine whether the standards in effect for general service incandescent lamps should be increased.

3) If not DOE, who is responsible?

See above, DOE is responsible for enforcing and amending the standards.

4) If we're responsible, when will we have a plan in place?

The EISA 2007 regulations became the law when the bill was signed by President Bush and will be incorporated into the Code of Federal Regulations. DOE will be establishing certification and enforcement reporting requirements for all manufacturers and importers of general service incandescent lamps. Starting on the effective date of the standard level, all general service incandescent lamps must be in compliance with the minimum efficiency and lifetime requirements from EISA 2007.

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