
Transforming the Market for Lighting: Global Approaches to Lighting Regulations

SEAD Policy Exchange Forum Call Overview
8 September 2015, 12:00–14:00 GMT

Highlights of the discussion:

- Representatives from Australia, China, Mexico, India, United States, Europe and Central America participated in the third SEAD Policy Exchange Forum call.
- The call featured an introductory presentation by the International Energy Agency (IEA) 4E Solid State Lighting Annex which provided an overview of the benefits of implementing energy-efficient lighting policies and the use of LED lighting technology.
- Representatives from the European Commission, the US Department of Energy, and Proyecto Mesoamerica shared their approaches to regulating lighting.
- All of the programs presented during the call highlighted the transition to LED technology as an essential aspect of achieving energy-efficiency in lighting.

Summary of Country Presentations:

- **European Commission:** Europe concluded some time ago that there is significant energy savings potential from lighting. These savings could be achieved through a combination of R&D, MEPS, labelling (both comparative and endorsement), and green public procurement. To date, ecodesign and energy labelling measures have supported a market transition to efficiency. Current efforts are focused on bringing the three ecodesign regulations into one measure, eliminating separate lamps and luminaire categories and instead distinguishing between lighting components, products, and systems. Information about the EU energy efficiency lighting policies can be found [here](#).
- **United States:** The US appliance standards program covers over 60 products. The process to establish energy conservation standards involves four phases and includes three public meetings. In terms of lighting products, DOE is currently working on standards for: fluorescent lamp ballasts, general service lamps, ceiling fan light kits, and HID lamps. In addition, DOE is also working on test methods for the following lighting products: LED lamps, CFL lamps, ceiling fan light kits, traffic signals, and illuminated exit signs.



- **Central America:** Proyecto Mesoamerica covers eight countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Dominican Republic. The goal of this project is to transform the lighting market in these countries to be more energy-efficient. Some of the key activities in order to achieve this goal are: establish MEPS for efficacy, quality, safety and environmental impacts; establish labelling policies with incentives to companies and consumers; establish an MV&E system; and implement an end-of-life collection and recycling scheme. The benefits of implementing the project include energy and electricity subsidy savings, reduction in CO2 emissions, and eliminating mercury in lighting devices. Product certification for the whole region is carried out by a laboratory in Costa Rica, there is currently no Mesoamerican certification body. More information about the project can be found here (in Spanish and English).

Other Relevant Activities:

- Information on Australia's lighting regulations is available in the [Energy Rating initiative website](#). Recently published product profile reports on LED and commercial lighting can be found [here](#). The LED paper provides detailed analysis on options for MEPS and the annex contains a comprehensive overview of LED regulations and initiatives around the world.

Questions and Answers:

How can governments ensure that consumers are getting products with good service lifetime?

It isn't possible to test LED lamps for the rated lifetime, so some proposed alternatives to a minimum lifetime requirements include a premature failure test, endurance test, and minimum warranty duration. There is a dilemma between wanting LEDs to last a long time (minimum life-cycle impacts) and providing opportunities to be replaced by other technology in the future.

If you have any questions to the presenters or to other country representatives, or would like further information, please contact Nicole Kearney, the SPEX Coordinator at nkearney@clasp.ngo.