

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Test Procedures for Illuminated Exit Signs

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

This Request for Information (“RFI”) initiates the review process outlined by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act and seeks input from the public to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) with its determination about whether amended test procedures are warranted for illuminated exit signs.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the test procedures for illuminated exit signs would more accurately or fully comply with the requirements for the test procedures to not be unduly burdensome to conduct and be reasonably designed to produce test results that reflect energy efficiency, energy use, and estimated operating costs during a representative average use cycle or period of use.

This RFI is part of DOE’s ongoing commitment to consider feedback from all interested stakeholders and promote an open and transparent rulemaking process.

2. What type of information is the Department looking for?

In this RFI, DOE seeks information related to replacing references to the suspended ENERGY STAR program requirements for exit signs with direct specifications and requirements; revising and adding definitions to clarify terms; obtaining information on illuminated exit signs that operate in standby mode and/or off mode; specifying the test input voltage of illuminated exit signs designed to operate multiple input voltages; revising conditioning and stabilization specifications; and including an alternative test method for combination illuminated exit signs (e.g. signs with egress lighting).

3. What is an Illuminated Exit Sign?

An illuminated exit sign is a sign that is designed to be permanently fixed in place to identify an exit, and has an electrically powered light source that illuminates the legend “EXIT” and any directional indicators. Illuminated exit signs are used to denote the location of emergency exits and are required by various building codes.

4. How much energy do Illuminated Exit Signs consume?

Nearly all illuminated exit signs in the commercial and industrial sectors use light emitting diodes (LEDs) that draw less than 5 watts of power, equating to roughly 44 kilowatt hours (kWhs) per year per unit (assuming 24-hour operation).

5. How many Illuminated Exit Signs are shipped annually in the United States?

DOE’s 2010 Lighting Market Characterization (LMC) estimates that, as of 2010, there were 31 million LED exit signs installed in the United States, 98 percent of which are used in commercial applications and 2 percent of which are used in industrial applications.

6. Who are the parties that may be interested in this notice?

Interested parties include manufacturers, trade associations, distributors, energy utilities, state agencies, international organizations, and consumer, energy, and environmental advocacy groups.

7. How does an interested party comment on this notice and when are comments due?

The comment period for this rule will be 45 days, beginning on the date in which this document publishes in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties may submit comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to exitsigns2019TP0013@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-TP-0013. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.