



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REGULATORY ADVISORY:

Notice regarding efficacy standards for general service lamps (GSLs)

March 12, 2020

In 2017, the United States Department of Energy (US DOE) adopted rules expanding the definition of “general service lamp” (GSL) covered by efficacy standards under the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

In April 2019, Washington’s legislature adopted the federal 2017 expanded GSL definition.¹ Lightbulbs manufactured on or after January 1, 2020, that meet the definition of GSL under Washington law may not be sold or offered for sale in Washington unless they meet or exceed the 45 lumens per Watt lamp efficacy standard.² The Washington Department of Commerce may investigate complaints and issue warnings or civil penalties concerning violations of the GSL standard, as well as other appliance standards.³

In September 2019, the US DOE withdrew the 2017 rules expanding the definition of GSL. Washington, together with other state and municipal entities, filed a legal challenge to the 2019 US DOE withdrawal of 2017 federal regulations, and the 2017 definition may be reinstated.

In the interim, at a minimum and without expressing any opinion about other lamp types, the Department of Commerce confirms that the following lamps are subject to Washington’s 45 lumens per Watt standard and will be the primary focus of any oversight or enforcement activity by the department:

1. Medium screw base bulbs with shapes B, BA, CA, F, G-16½, G-25, G-30, S, and M-14 rated at less than or equal to 40 watts
2. Medium screw base T shape bulbs rated at less than or equal to 40 watts or having a length of more than 10 inches
3. 3-way incandescent lamps
4. Incandescent lamps with an output of 2,600 – 3,300 lumens
5. Incandescent reflector lamps of 50 watts or less that are ER30, BR30, BR40, or ER40 lamps

¹ See RCW 19.260.020(15).

² RCW 19.260.050(7), RCW 19.260.040(18).

³ RCW 19.260.070(6).

6. Incandescent reflector lamps rated at 65 watts that are BR30, BR40, or ER40 lamps
7. R20 incandescent reflector lamps rated 45 watts or less
8. Reflector lamps that are less than 2.25 inches in diameter

Please direct any questions concerning this advisory to: appliances@commerce.wa.gov.