



Frequently Asked Questions: The FTC Lighting Facts Label

How will the FTC Label affect the bulb and packaging?

The FTC labeling rule will affect packaging and the bulb in three ways:

1. The front of the packaging must provide information on brightness (lumen output) and estimated annual energy cost.
2. The back of the package must include the FTC Lighting Facts label, which provides information on brightness, energy cost, the bulb's life expectancy, light appearance, wattage, and the mercury content (if any).
3. Lumen output must be printed directly on the bulb, along with mercury content (if any).

What are the primary differences between the FTC and DOE Lighting Facts[®] labels?

- The FTC label is directed to consumers. The DOE label enables retail buyers, utilities, and lighting professionals to evaluate solid-state lighting (SSL) product performance.
- The FTC label applies to all medium screw base bulbs, while the DOE label applies to all SSL.
- The FTC label is mandatory; the DOE label is voluntary. DOE will not encourage the use of its label on packaging once the FTC label is required, but Lighting Facts partners should still rely on the verified information on the DOE Lighting Facts label, which can be found on manufacturer specification sheets or www.lightingfacts.com/products when reviewing products.
- The FTC label does not require test procedures to verify performance claims. DOE will continue to require appropriate testing for products listed with the voluntary Lighting Facts program.

Are there any ENERGY STAR requirements associated with these labels?

Yes. The ENERGY STAR specification packaging specifications require that:

- 1) LED lamp performance data must be submitted to the DOE Lighting Facts program prior to submitting for ENERGY STAR qualification and
- 2) Product packaging must include labels provided by that program.

As clarified in the [ENERGY STAR Integral LED Lamps Technical Clarification](#), manufacturers of medium screw-base lamps have the option of which label to place on their packaging: the DOE or FTC label. Beginning on July 19, 2011* only the FTC label will be permitted on packaging of medium screw base ENERGY STAR qualified LED lamps. While manufacturers may elect to use the DOE label on packaging until the effective date of the FTC-mandated label, EPA strongly encourages the use of the FTC label from the start to minimize confusion in the marketplace. The DOE label will still be available for use on materials other than product packaging, such as cut sheets, promotional literature, and web sites after the FTC effective date. ENERGY STAR

* The ENERGY STAR Integral LED Lamps Technical Clarification was not yet revised at the time of this FAQ's release and still reflects the original effective date of the FTC label. This document will be updated when any ENERGY STAR policy revisions are made.

qualified LED lamps employing base types other than medium screw-base are not affected by the FTC requirement and must still adhere to the labeling requirements in the specification.

When will the FTC labeling rule become mandatory?

The labeling rule takes effect January 1, 2012, but the FTC is encouraging manufacturers to start using the new label immediately.

Does the FTC verify performance claims?

The FTC label does not require test procedures to verify the stated performance claims. The FTC encourages stakeholders to refer to the DOE Lighting Facts program for verified performance values for SSL.

Does the FTC Lighting Facts label compete with the DOE Lighting Facts Label?

DOE and the FTC have worked closely throughout this process, and both are committed to assuring that products perform as claimed. The FTC label is primarily a consumer label, and therefore does not conflict with the DOE label. The DOE label is a valuable tool for lighting buyers, designers, utilities, etc. The FTC encourages stakeholders to refer to the DOE Lighting Facts program for SSL products, because the FTC label does not require test procedures to verify the stated performance claims.

Why is lifetime included on the FTC label but not the DOE label?

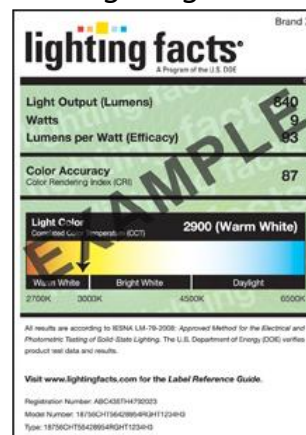
Though the FTC label provides lifetime estimates for CFL, incandescent, and LED medium screw base lamps, it does not require test procedures to verify lifetime claims. The DOE label requires industry standard testing for all performance metrics. At present, there is no standard method for predicting the lifetime of an LED lamp, so lifetime is not included on the DOE label. DOE is working to develop an appropriate method for predicting LED lamp lifetime, and the FTC will continue to encourage stakeholders to refer to the DOE Lighting Facts program.

What do the FTC and DOE Lighting Facts labels look like?

FTC Lighting Facts Label:



DOE Lighting Facts Label:



How will the FTC label help educate consumers on the lumen output and energy savings of various product types?

While watt measurements are familiar to consumers and have been featured on light bulb packages for decades, watts are a measurement of energy use, not brightness. As a result, reliance on watt measurements alone makes it difficult for consumers to compare traditional incandescent bulbs to more efficient bulbs, such as CFLs. A CFL may be able to produce the same brightness as an incandescent bulb using significantly less energy, or watts. New energy standards mandated by Congress will effectively phase traditional low-efficiency incandescent bulbs out of the U.S. market over the next few years. The FTC label's focus on brightness in lumens will help consumers make purchasing decisions as they transition to more energy-efficient bulbs. The FTC label also requires that the average annual energy cost associated with the bulb be clearly identified on the front and back of the package so consumers learn to look for this information when making purchasing decisions.