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Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 3:07 PM
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Subject: Dimming CFL ES Testing and Qualification

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I welcome this opportunity to provide a key input on the ES testing and qualifying procedures of one of the emerging CFL products on the market, namely the Dimming CFL Products.

The present qualification standards and guidelines only require the Dimming CFL products to be tested at Full Power.

Everybody in the industry knows very well that most of the Dimming CFL products pass the Full Power qualification with no problems. The issues though start arising once the CFL products operate at different dimming levels, especially at light levels below 30% of the Full Power light level. The life expectancy of most of the dimming CFL products currently on the market is so drastically reduced under these dimming conditions, that some of them do not survive for more than 24 hrs.

Just imagine impact on the customer's perception when a Dimming CFL product is advertized and endorsed by ES as a 10,000 hrs product and fails within a week. No wonder end users started ignoring the ES endorsement and render it as insignificant.

No wonder we witness this ES endorsement erosion on the market, especially related to Dimming CFL products.

My recommendation is very simple:

Expand the ES qualification testing procedures for the Dimming CFL products over the entire dimming range, by selecting at least two more test points besides the Full Power level, namely at MID and LOW dimming levels.

This would be a minimum requirement on the Dimming CFL ES qualification test procedures, in order to make the ES endorsement meaningful.

Sincerely,
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