

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

March 13, 2023

Dear ENERGY STAR Lighting Brand Owners and Other Interested Parties:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the sunset of the ENERGY STAR specifications for lamps and luminaires effective December 31, 2024. Recessed downlights, discussed more below, will be covered by a new specification moving forward. Lighting requirements will be removed from the ENERGY STAR ceiling fan and ventilation fan specifications effective August 1, 2023. Fans with lighting will still be eligible.

EPA thanks stakeholders who submitted comments on the sunset proposal released last year. Feedback was provided by manufacturers, trade associations, energy efficiency organizations, facility managers and procurement organizations, certification bodies for ENERGY STAR lighting products, and sustainability consultants. All written comments received as well as the Comment Response Document are posted [here](#), and the final sunset timeline is detailed below.

Multiple commenters suggested that the marketplace still needs part or all the ENERGY STAR lighting program to avoid losing the significant efficiency gains associated with lamps and luminaires. To the contrary, historical efficiency gains for lamps and luminaires will be secured by way of the sales prohibition of inefficient light sources in the United States that will be enforced starting this summer. These efficiency gains will translate to luminaires to the extent they accept covered light sources. For the remaining luminaires, recessed downlights excepted, which multiple stakeholders noted still had room for significant energy savings differentiation, any remaining efficiency potential is quite small, especially for residential applications. Commenters also expressed concern regarding quality. While instituting performance quality metrics in the ENERGY STAR program was critical for ensuring widespread market adoption of energy efficient lighting technology, it is not the role of the Program to recognize products based on non-energy attributes alone. It is important to note that energy conservation is the congressionally mandated directive of the ENERGY STAR program.

In absence of the ENERGY STAR mark, the Federal Trade Commission's Lighting Facts labels will continue to communicate lamp performance to consumers, including brightness, estimated yearly energy cost, life, light appearance as the expression of the correlated color temperature, and energy used. Additionally, the Department of Energy (DOE) has initiated a rulemaking process that would significantly raise the minimum efficiency of general service lamps and establish a new minimum power factor requirement of 0.7 to go along with the minimum Color Rendering Index (CRI) of 80 initially set by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The proposed DOE rulemaking is open for comment until March 23, 2023, providing stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the development of a national standard for general service lamps (light bulbs).

## **ENERGY STAR for Recessed Downlights**

Two trade associations, and the DesignLights Consortium™ made a case for continuing ENERGY STAR certification for recessed downlights and recessed downlight retrofit kits because of the potential for significant additional energy savings. In response, EPA performed research and confirmed wide performance in this category and the opportunity for energy savings. If all downlights and downlight retrofit kits sold in the United States were ENERGY STAR certified with efficacy > 90 lumens per watt (for example), the energy cost savings would grow to more than \$1 billion each year, and more than 13 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented, equivalent to the emissions from more than 1 million vehicles. Considering DOE’s stated intent not to cover recessed downlights and recessed downlight retrofit kits in federal standards, EPA has decided to continue ENERGY STAR certification for these products via a new specification with a higher efficacy requirement than currently required in the luminaires specification, while preserving existing relevant performance requirements. EPA is striving to complete this specification in time for a seamless transition from Luminaires.

## **Timeline Milestones**

This timeline was set based on the 45 lumen per watt backstop and not future DOE rulemaking.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Specification</b>	<b>Lamps and Luminaires*</b>	<b>Ceiling Fan Light Kits</b>	<b>Ceiling and Vent fans with Lighting</b>
Certified lighting models recognized on <a href="http://www.energystar.gov/productfinder">www.energystar.gov/productfinder</a> until (static lists will be archived)		<b>December 31, 2024</b>	<b>December 31, 2024</b>	N/A
EPA to stop accepting new Partnership Applications		<b>August 1, 2023</b>	<b>August 1, 2023</b>	N/A
Certification Bodies (CBs) to stop certifying new lighting models and subcomponents**		<b>December 31, 2023</b>	<b>August 1, 2023</b>	<b>August 1, 2023</b>
Brand owners to stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark		<b>December 31, 2024</b>	<b>December 31, 2024</b>	<b>December 31, 2024</b>

\* EPA intends for there to be no interruption in the certification of recessed downlights and downlight retrofit kits.

\*\* CBs to stop certifying models referencing the Certified Subcomponent Database on August 1, 2023.

EPA will continue market surveillance and enforcement of the proper use of the ENERGY STAR mark. Brand owners are encouraged to remove ENERGY STAR references on Web sites and materials as they are updated or reprinted to ensure compliance by **December 31, 2024**.

## **Ceiling Fan and Ventilation Fan Amendments**

On August 1, 2023, EPA will issue amended versions of the Residential Ceiling Fans and Ventilating Fans specifications with the lighting requirements removed, effective at issuance. See Appendix A.

Please contact us at [lighting@energystar.gov](mailto:lighting@energystar.gov) with any questions. For inquiries on DOE’s Rulemaking please contact Bryan Berringer at [bryan.berringer@ee.doe.gov](mailto:bryan.berringer@ee.doe.gov). EPA appreciates the efforts of lighting partners to advance a cleaner environment through the ENERGY STAR Program and applauds your success in moving the market towards greater energy efficiency. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Taylor Jantz-Sell  
ENERGY STAR Lighting Program Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Appendix A

Following are details for the specification amendments EPA plans to finalize effective August 1, 2023. EPA will coordinate with its Certification Bodies the changes necessary to the Qualified Product Exchange forms to reflect the elimination of all lighting criteria. Ceiling and Vent fans packaged with lighting will still be eligible, but no longer be subject to lighting requirements.

### Residential Ceiling Fans Version 4.1

For purposes of this amendment:

1. Definitions of the following terms will be removed: ceiling fan light kit (CFLK) with integrated solid-state lighting circuitry, CFLK with separable light source, LED light engine, non-standard integrated LED lamps, Other SSL product, and solid-state lighting.
2. Scope: as of August 1, 2023, Ceiling Fan Light Kit that are sold separately from a residential ceiling fan will be removed from the scope.
3. Ceiling Fan Light Kit Requirements (Section 3.2) will be removed.
4. Control and Standby Requirements (Section 4) related to CFLKs will be eliminated.
5. Minimum Warranty requirements (Section 5) related to CFLKs will be eliminated.
6. Product Certification requirements related to CFLK Product Families (Section 6.1), Solid-state Lumen Performance Data (Section 6.2), and CFLK rounding, and sampling requirements will be eliminated.
7. Labeling and Packaging requirements (Section 7) related to CFLKs sold separately from a residential ceiling fan will be eliminated.
8. Lighting Toxics Reduction Requirements (Section 8) will be eliminated.

### Residential Ventilating Fans Version 4.2

For purpose of this amendment:

1. Definition of Residential Ventilating Fan will be updated to recognize that some models contain a light source for general lighting and/or a night light.
2. Definition of Combination Unit will be eliminated.
3. Lighting Requirements (Section 3.B.) will be eliminated.