

# GLA Regulatory Guidelines; FAQ list

27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## General Questions

### Q: What are the GLA Regulatory Guidelines?

A: The GLA Regulatory Guidelines describe an adequate set of energy efficiency and basic functional performance recommendations for LED lamps. They include the key elements needed for regulators to create their own national regulations. Their purpose is to encourage countries to transform their markets, realizing a successful transition to energy efficient LED lighting and so reduce electricity consumption, and thereby mitigate climate change in an effective and affordable way.

### Q: Who are the GLA Regulatory Guidelines intended for?

The policy guidance presented in this document is meant for regulatory authorities in developing and emerging markets who are considering a legislative framework to promote energy-efficient LED lamps, or those that have a legislative framework but have not yet developed regulations for energy-efficient LED lamps. It is intended to encourage cross-national harmonization where possible, lowering costs and removing barriers to trade.

### Q: Are the GLA Regulatory Guidelines mandatory or voluntary requirements and when will they become effective?

A: GLA Regulatory Guidelines are a guidance for governments considering a legislative framework to promote energy-efficient LED lamps, or those that have a legislative framework but have not yet developed regulations for energy-efficient LED lamps. These governments can implement the GLA Regulatory Guidelines in their national legislation/regulations. Governments can choose at any time to adopt the GLA Regulatory Guidelines in nationally binding regulation, after which it would enter into force typically after 2-3 years.

## GLA Regulatory Guidelines content questions

### Q: Which parameters are included?

A: The GLA Regulatory Guidelines include all the key elements needed for regulations: definitions, scope, performance requirements, information requirements, applicable test methods and compliance criteria. Specifically, they include:

- energy efficiency and basic functional performance requirements to assure product (light) quality and robustness
- product information reporting and labelling requirements to enable consumers to make informed choices
- demonstrating compliance with the requirements; and
- market surveillance and enforcement of the requirements

### Q: Why the emphasis on energy efficiency?

A: The GLA Regulatory Guidelines are all about speeding-up the market transition to energy efficient LED lighting. Therefore, energy performance is a key parameter.

### Q: Why does the GLA have so few recommended requirements compared to other model lighting regulations?

A: The GLA Regulatory Guidelines focus on the essential energy efficiency requirements and functional parameters necessary for a smooth transition to energy efficient lighting. They exclude parameters that are secondary in nature to reaching energy efficiency targets, or lead to delays and over-regulation. For example:

- >1000 hr tests (e.g. 3000- or 6000-hour tests) are not included in the GLA Regulatory Guidelines as this is a time consuming, high effort activity for both industry and governments that can delay market introductions and carries a high risk of not being implemented by all. It is also extremely difficult to enforce. The simple 1000 hours early failure/robustness test proposed by GLA is sufficient to protect consumers against poor quality products, as it detects early failures, requires manageable efforts from industry and governments and is easily enforced.
- The GLA Regulatory Guidelines do not contain unique requirements on safety (including photobiological safety such as UV light and blue light hazards), electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), or substances to avoid overlap and conflict with other parallel international regulations already covering these requirements.

The preference for simplicity and a practical, balanced approach prevails over excessively detailed regulation.

### Q: Why are the GLA recommended energy efficiency levels perceived to be not that ambitious?

A: The levels chosen in the GLA document are a trade-off between performance limits and the feasibility of an effective transition to energy-efficient lighting. Overly ambitious efficiency levels drive up LED lamp costs unnecessarily and impede market transformation in developing and emerging countries by making them unaffordable for ordinary consumers.

### Q: Do the GLA Regulatory Guidelines ban old technologies?

A: The GLA has chosen an approach deemed sensible which allows continuation of certain classical lighting technologies such as fluorescent lamps - which are already very efficient - or special lighting products for which there are not yet LED alternatives. This is simply good stewardship of existing resources and eventually people will opt for an upgrade to LED. Allowing existing energy efficient linear fluorescent or HID lighting solutions to remain part of the infrastructure will lead to a gradual changeover, where they will be replaced at end-of-life by LED products. By not banning old technologies, we avoid the creation of large quantities of electronic waste because replacement lamps, or spare parts, are not available. This is not a sustainable option for less affluent people in emerging economies, or for the environment.

Q: Will GLA develop guidelines for other products?

A: GLA will evaluate the need for Regulatory Guidelines for other lighting categories/products. We are happy to hear from those with suggestions.

Q: Where are environmental substances requirements in the GLA Regulatory Guidelines?

A: The requirements for environmental substances are usually dealt with in separate regulations or conventions. To avoid conflicting requirements, they are not part of the GLA Regulatory Guidelines concerning LED lamps. Environmental substances are for example covered by the RoHS Directive for Europe or the United Nations Environmental Programmes:

- UNEP Minamata Convention on Mercury,
- UNEP Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) or,
- UNEP Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Q: Will GLA periodically review the requirements?

A: LED technology is still evolving, and the Global Lighting Association will therefore monitor changes and revise the Regulatory Guidelines as necessary.