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Acuity Brands Comments on Rulemaking Express Terms (45-day Language) for 2022 Update to Energy Code

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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June 21, 2021

Online via: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=21-BSTD-01>

Docket Number: 19-BSTD-01

Payam Bozorgchami, PE
California Energy Commission, Building Standards Office, Efficiency Division
1516 9th Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Acuity Brands Comments on Rulemaking Express Terms (45-day Language) for 2022 Update to Energy Code

Dear Mr. Bozorgchami:

Acuity Brands appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed requirements for Title 24 Building Energy Code. Acuity Brands has a long history of working with the Commission and contractors to promote the adoption of the state building code to promote high efficiency lighting installations. We look forward to discussing our comments and working collaboratively on revisions necessary to ensure an effective building code

Acuity Brands, Inc. is a market-leading industrial technology company and a leading manufacturer of luminaires and lighting controls in North America. From building management systems to lighting and lighting controls, as well as location-aware applications, our technologies help improve lives and promote environmental justice by reducing the carbon footprint, saving energy, improving safety and promoting healthy and secure businesses and homes. Beyond that, our lighting solutions enhance the aesthetics of architecture and the natural environment. We operate facilities including various manufacturing sites, regional operations hubs, warehouses, offices, and innovation centers throughout California. In addition, our western regional manufacturing and distribution center is in Ontario, CA. The California building code has a direct impact on our investment of more than 500 California based employees.

Our comments are based on the Express Terms released on or around May 6, 2021 and focus primarily on the proposed updates to the single-family residential lighting requirements and the new section on multi-family residential.

Please contact me to discuss our comments in more detail.

Sincerely,

Tanya T. Hernandez, PE, LC
Vice President, Government & Industry Relations
Phone: (770) 860-2793

1. Residential Lighting –

As mentioned in our comments on the draft express terms, we remain concerned with the Commission’s inclusion of several unexpected proposed updates to Single-Family Residential Buildings, Mandatory Features and Devices Section 150.0 (k) Residential Lighting; none of which were identified in or the focus of staff pre-rulemaking workshops or CASE reports. Many of the updates appear to clean up the code language however, several changes are more stringent or less stringent than the 2019 code. Without reviewing the market analysis, energy savings projects, and cost effectiveness data associated with the proposed changes, it is impossible to provide adequate review and detailed comment for consideration. We also reviewed the published Initial Statement of Reasons and found many of the explanations insufficient or inapplicable.

TABLE 150.0-A CLASSIFICATION OF HIGH LUMINOUS EFFICACY LIGHT SOURCES – This table has been significantly revised and incorporates the inclusion of additional Solid-State Lighting (SSL) products that no longer need to be certified to Joint Appendix 8 (JA8).

- a. In Item #2 in the table, it states that “**Inseparable Solid-State Lighting (SSL) luminaires and colored light sources that are installed to provide decorative, accent, display, utility, undercabinet or special effect lighting.**” It is unclear if inseparable SSL luminaires no longer have to meet JA8 or is it only inseparable SSL luminaires that are installed to provide decorative, accent, display, utility, undercabinet or special-effect lighting that no longer have to meet JA8.
- b. It is unclear if the revised table still requires SSL luminaires with integrated sensors for occupancy and/or daylight sensing to comply with JA8 and be dimmable when these luminaires will save more energy by shutting off than moving to a dimmed level. Although most products with integrated sensors will likely fall under the utility provision of Item #2 of the table, all SSL luminaires with integrated sensors should be considered high efficacy in residential applications to achieve California’s carbon reduction goals.

Recommendation: Commission staff should conduct an additional rulemaking workshop on residential lighting with an extended comment period to allow for public comment and discussion of all residential lighting and lighting control provisions. Recent market analysis along with energy savings and cost effectiveness data where applicable should be provided for public review.

2. **Multi-family Residential Buildings** - The new Multi-family Residential Building contains several duplications taken from both the Single-Family Residential Buildings and Nonresidential and Hotel/Motel Occupancies sections of the code. While the idea of consolidating the requirements for Multi-family in one section may appear appealing from a code usability standpoint, we are concerned with the potential that the requirements copied directly from single-family and nonresidential section may not get properly updated as single-family or multi-family code language is updated.