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**Acuity Brands Comments on Pre-Rulemaking Draft Express Terms
for 2022 Update to Energy Code**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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Online via: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-03>

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Mr. Peter Strait, California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Acuity Brands Comments on Pre-Rulemaking Draft Express Terms for 2022 Update to Energy Code

Dear Mr. Strait:

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 located 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 draft Express Terms released on or around February 22, 2021 and focus primarily on the proposed updates to the single-family residential lighting requirements, the new section on multi-family residential and nonresidential lighting requirements for indoor lighting sources.

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 –

a. There are several unexpected proposed updates to Single-Family Residential Buildings, Mandatory Features and Devices Section 150.0 (k) Residential Lighting; none of which were identified or the focus of staff pre-rulemaking workshops or CASE reports. Although many of the updates appear to clean up the code language, there are also a number of changes that are either more stringent or less stringent. Without reviewing the market analysis, energy savings, and cost effectiveness data associated with the proposed changes, it is very challenging to provide adequate review and comment for consideration. A few of these updates include:

- i. EXCEPTION 2 to Section 150.0(k)2F that states luminaires connected to a circuit with controlled lighting power of less than 50 watts are not required to have dimming controls.
- ii. High luminous efficacy without JA8 certification
 1. Inseparable Solid-State Lighting (SSL) luminaires and colored light sources that are installed to provide decorative, accent, display, or special effect lighting
 2. Dim-to-warm and tunable-white LED light sources with at least one light source controller setting of 4000K or less and color rendering index (CRI) rating of 80 or greater
 3. Color-tunable LED light sources

Recommendation: Commission staff should provide a recent market analysis along with energy savings and cost effectiveness data for public review. Additionally, the staff should conduct a pre-rulemaking workshop with an extended comment period to allow for public comment and discussion.

b. Section 150.0.k.1.C.iv now states that the Recessed Downlight Luminaires in Ceilings shall meet the clearance and installation requirements per CA Electrical Code Section 410.116. This Section of the CA Electrical Code does not yet exist.

Recommendation: Commission staff should provide a copy of the anticipated language for the CA Electrical Code for review or and should not referenced it until the electrical code has been finalized.

2. **Multi-family Residential Building** - 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 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 the multi-family code language is updated.