Allowances

During the development of the V4.0 Technical Requirements Table, various stakeholders expressed concern regarding certain product design and performance features relating to quality that necessarily made it more difficult for them to achieve the prescribed efficacy levels. DLC therefore proposed developing allowances for certain design and performance features if they could be rigorously defined and justified to provide benefit to member programs.

**Intent**

While the primary intent of the DLC SSL QPL is to serve the energy-savings goals for the DLC member programs, it is not the intent of the DLC or its membership to arbitrarily drive market development or customer choice away from features that contribute to the overall quality of the light fixture, or the quality of the lighting for a particular space. DLC and its membership are therefore sensitive to concerns that high efficacy thresholds may drive features in a way that are not intended.

To this end, in the announcement of the V4.0 criteria, DLC signaled its intention to continue exploring areas of concerns to relevant stakeholder groups, and – if rigorous, objective, transparent criteria for evaluation could be identified – allow products with certain features or performance characteristics to qualify for listing on the QPL at slightly reduced efficacy levels. This would be through the application of “allowances” for the product design or performance features identified.

**Allowances Proposed**

Below are the proposed first set of proposed allowances. They include allowances for products at CCTs of 3000K and below, or CRI’s of 90 and above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature or Performance Metric</th>
<th>Allowances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCT: 3000K</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCT: ≤2700K</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRI*: R≥ 90 (*must also conduct TM-30 testing and report results)</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that allowances are not proposed to be cumulative. That is, products may not take multiple allowances, even if they exhibit more than one feature for which an allowance is offered. For example, a 2700K, 90CRI product may utilize a maximum allowance of 5%, to be applied to the efficacy requirement for the category for which it is applying. It may not take a 5% allowance for its 2700K CCT, and an additional allowance for its 90CRI.
**Next Steps and Allowances Wish list**

DLC is striving to adopt the first set of allowance proposals in a timeline that would allow products currently on the QPL that would otherwise be disqualified on 4/1/17 as part of the final transition to V4.0 to remain qualified if they exhibit the necessary performance characteristics and are otherwise meeting the published criteria. Comments on the allowances proposed above are due to DLC by January 20, 2017, and should be sent to info@designlights.org.

DLC has received several additional requests for allowances for particular design elements or features. These have been characterized into priority groups and will be evaluated and considered for inclusion in future development rounds.

Additional, specific, detailed proposals for allowances are welcome. Please submit them to info@designlights.org with the subject line “Allowance Proposal”. Detailed suggestions for rigorous, implementable features, as well as justification for why the allowances is necessary, is critical for DLC and its membership to adequately assess and allowance proposal. Commenters are strongly encouraged to review and consider the information presented in the October 2016 Allowance Webinar.