Technical Article



DLC and LED Rebates

Product: Intellect Intelligent Fixture Control System Article ID: 061016-DB/TB-01

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Summary:

This document will introduce the DesignLights Consortium® (DLC) and explain the new Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls (CALC) Project, and how this initiative will affect the lighting control industry and rebate qualification.

DesignLights Consortium (DLC)

The DLC is an industry organization that "promotes quality, performance and energy efficient commercial sector lighting solutions through collaboration among its federal, regional, state, utility and energy efficiency program members, luminaire manufacturers, lighting designers, and other industry stakeholders throughout the US and Canada." Originally formed in 1996, the DLC brings members of the lighting control industry together toward goals of increased technological efficiency, product consistency and compatibility/interoperability.

DLC Qualified Products List

The DLC created and oversees the Qualified Product List of commercial grade LED luminaires, containing over 170,000 tested and approved products from worldwide manufacturers. It is this list that drives the DLC LED Lighting Rebates program, ensuring that high-quality and approved products garner rebates.

The list is used as a reference and touchstone by rebate organizations such as DSIRE and Energy Star to update and amend rebates to keep the most up-to-date LED luminaires included and eligible. The Qualified Product List also drives the product categories that are added as the industry evolves.

The list serves consumers as a database of reliable LED technologies, as well as an indicator of official energy rebates to come as energy technology rebate programs on the state and national level continue to grow and evolve.

To view and search the entire DLC database, visit http://www.designlights.org/qpl.

Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls (CALC) Project

In 2015, the DLC announced a new initiative titled the Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls Project (CALC). By increasing the available educational opportunities and information databases on advanced lighting control, the project seeks to "accelerate adoption of advanced networked lighting control systems" in order to reduce or eliminate market barriers that prevent large-scale adoption. The complexity of advanced lighting control systems, coupled with the lack of standardization and clear information for customers, have created barriers to entry. By setting a clear standard, the DLC will remove the burden from local utilities and provide a clear set of guidelines for what constitutes an advanced networked lighting control system.

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The CALC project goal is to standardize advanced networked lighting controls for rebate programs and interoperability by:

- Setting minimal requirements of Advanced Network Lighting Controls for incentive eligibility
- Inform energy efficiency programs and the market of systems currently available and their characteristics
- Improve current and future Networked Lighting Control products

In 2016, the DLC released the Networked Lighting Control Specification and Qualified Products List resources based on CALC lighting industry and utility company collaborations. This list recommends lighting control products to equip utility energy efficiency programs with the necessary information needed to create incentive and rebate programs.

Intellect Intelligent Fixture Control System

The Leviton Intellect Intelligent Fixture Control System was specifically engineered to meet the CALC Networked Lighting Control Specification and Qualitied Products List guidelines for rebate-eligible advanced networked lighting control systems. Factory equipped by lighting manufacturers, Intellect-enabled LED fixtures integrate Intellect occupancy/vacancy and light level sensing technology within the luminaire. This enables the fixtures with wireless communication via a mesh network and allows the fixtures to communicate with other Intellect devices in a space. The only other component required in an Intellect solution is an Intellect Keypad Room Controller. With these two products installed, the system provides dimming, occupancy/vacancy sensing and daylight harvesting capabilities out of the box. The Intellect system is configured, monitored and controlled from an Android or iOS smart device via the Bluetooth-enabled Leviton Neuron App. Based on the CALC project, Intellect is anticipated to garner rebates and energy incentives as local utilities incorporate the industry recommendations set by the DLC.

For more information on CALC, visit https://www.designlights.org/content/calc/overview.