



HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC.

Ballast Products Division

PRESS RELEASE *for immediate release*

Energy Policy Act Update: Fluorescent Ballast Efficiency Baseline Increases

The Department of Energy finalized a rule regarding the manufacture and sale of fluorescent lamp ballasts that will result in significant energy savings and emissions reductions. The commercial and industrial lighting sector will be subject to new energy-efficient lighting regulations beginning April 1, 2005. Under these regulations ballast manufacturers can no longer produce ballasts for installation into new lighting fixtures unless they meet the new minimum Ballast Efficacy requirements (BEF's).

These regulations affect ballasts that operate T12 fluorescent lamps. The new regulation has a different effective date for new fixtures versus replacing existing ballasts in the field or replacement ballasts. With existing technology today, only electronic ballasts comply with these new DOE guidelines. The following is a summary of this new regulation and the products and markets affected.

Ballast Regulations

T12 magnetic ballasts for replacement purposes in existing installations can be manufactured until June 30, 2010, but must meet the following requirements:

- Be labeled "For Replacement Use Only"
- Have leads shorter than the length of lamps intended to be operated
- Be shipped in packages not exceeding 10 ballasts
- Meet existing T12 magnetic BEF criteria

Exemptions include:

- T12 dimming ballasts that dim to 50% or less
- Two lamp F96T12HO ballasts designed for -20F operation and used in an outdoor sign
- Magnetic ballasts with power factors less than 0.90 designed and labeled for residential building applications

The lamps covered and BEF numbers are as follows:

Application	Ballast Input Voltage	Ballast Efficacy Factor
One F40 T12 lamp	120 or 277	2.29
Two F40 T12 lamps	120 or 277	1.17
Two F96T12 lamps	120 or 277	0.63
Two F96T12HO lamps	120 or 277	0.39

Minimum requirements have not been set for T8 lamps, since there are a few applications where electronic ballasts would not be used and the low frequency magnetic ballasts would be necessary.

Important Effective Dates

- **July 1, 2005** ballast manufacturers can no longer sell ballasts for use in new fixtures that do not meet the BEF requirements. Replacement ballasts marked "For Replacement Use Only" are to be provided until the final implementation date.
- **April 1, 2006** lighting fixture manufacturers can no longer incorporate ballasts that do not meet the new BEF requirements in new fixtures.
- **July 1, 2010** ballasts, including replacements, can no longer be manufactured unless they meet the new BEF Guidelines.

If you have questions about what Howard Industries Ballast Division is doing to ensure our products meet or exceed these government regulations, contact our customer service department at 1(800) 956-3456 between 7:00am – 6:00pm CST or by e-mail at ballast@howard-ind.com.



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