

Design Lights Consortium

What is DLC?

The Design Lights Consortium (DLC) began in 1998 as a commercial lighting initiative of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and initially consisted of a working group made up of energy efficiency program managers. In response to the fact that many energy efficiency projects fell short on lighting quality, the DLC developed the knowhow series™, a set of lighting design guides for individual commercial spaces. The guides highlighted up-to-date and efficient lighting equipment, best design practices, and codes and standards for commercial lighting. The knowhow series™ was embraced by architects and engineers alike as an instructional tool to promote services and to distinguish themselves against their competitors.



In 2008, LED lighting for general illumination became commercially available and the energy efficiency community was anxious to reap its energy

savings benefits. ENERGY STAR®, along with the DOE Solid State Lighting (SSL) team, created a qualification process for consumer-focused LED lighting products in order to avoid the market-introduction pitfalls that compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) had experienced in the early 1990s. Soon it became obvious that similar needs existed for the commercial LED sector and energy efficiency program managers in the Northeast turned to the DLC to create a similar resource for commercial-grade LED luminaires. The resource became the [DLC Solid State Lighting Qualified Products List](#) (QPL).

Why Should You Purchase DLC Qualified Products?

When you purchase DLC certified light fixtures, you may be eligible to receive [Focus on Energy](#) and/or utility incentives. Also, DLC certified products require the manufacturer to meet a standard, ensuring that the lighting fixture performs as stated by the manufacturer. It is important to note that not all products in all configurations are DLC certified. Please check the [DLC Qualified Products List](#) at www.designlights.org to confirm which versions are qualified. Always verify project eligibility with Focus on Energy prior to making a purchase. Please contact Frank Barth, your Energy Services Representative, at 920-573-0155 should you need help with product or project verification or help with your incentive application.

