

California Title 20

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CEC?

The CEC or California Energy Commission is the state of California's primary energy policy and planning agency. It is focused on reducing energy costs and the environmental impacts of energy use - such as greenhouse gas emissions - while ensuring a safe, resilient, and reliable supply of energy. While the CEC has regulatory authority for products sold or offered for sale in the state of California, its policies impact products produced for other regions as well. It is not uncommon for other states eventually to adopt similar measures to what is implemented in California.

What is Title 20?

Title 20 is a part of the California Code of Regulations and are appliance efficiency standards that require the manufacturer of certain regulated products to certify that the devices meet minimum standards— among them certain energy efficiency thresholds. Title 20 also restricts the sale of non-compliant products within the state of California. Included in the list of regulated devices are “Emergency Lighting – Illuminated Exit Signs” and “Small Battery Chargers” that may be incorporated into emergency lighting unit equipment or life safety luminaires. The new requirements for Small Battery Chargers are covered in the July 2015 update under – Section 1605.3(W)(4) for battery back-up and uninterruptible power supplies.

Which Life Safety Luminaires are subject to the new Title 20 Regulations?

Included in the list of regulated “Small Battery Charger” products are the battery backup devices in emergency lighting luminaires, emergency ballasts and drivers, and AC inverters which contain battery charging systems. Exit signs are also covered under a previous T20 regulation, and all Acuity UL924 exit signs are certified and listed in the CEC appliance efficiency database. Combination Exit and Emergency Lighting products are also included in the scope of the CEC Title 20 regulations.



When did the Small Battery Charger regulation go into effect and how do I know if a luminaire is compliant?

The regulations for commercial Small Battery Chargers took effect on January 1, 2017 and apply to products manufactured on or after that date. Manufacturers with products made prior to that date, can still offer that product for sale after that date and until inventory is depleted. Products manufactured on or after January 1, 2017, must meet the efficiency standard as outlined in the regulations before it is offered for sale in the state of California. Compliance with Title 20 is confirmed by checking the CEC Appliance Efficiency Database.

Does anyone maintain a list of CEC Title 20 products?

Manufacturers certify products that have been tested by a CEC approved lab and meet the Title 20 requirements. The certification includes a declaration that the information is accurate for each submitted product. Products meeting the certification provisions are listed in the CA T20 Appliance Efficiency Database. A link to that database follows: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/database/>