

Clean Lighting in Action: European Union

The EU maintains some of the most progressive anti-mercury lighting policies to date – accomplished through the parallel utilization of two core policies.

EU No. 2019/2020

In 2019, the EU adopted EU No. 2019/2020, which sets minimum energy performance requirements for all lamps and luminaires placed on the market. In 2021, the first requirements of the regulation took effect, phasing out CFL.i and T12 LFLs, driving momentum for a successful fluorescent phaseout under the RoHS Directive.



The EU now has the opportunity to continue its clean lighting leadership by ending all domestic production for export of fluorescent lamps. A full phase out would protect underregulated markets from toxic mercury lamps and offer a chance to bolster European LED manufacturing as demand for the technology skyrockets worldwide.

RoHS

In 2022, the European Commission adopted a ban on domestic sales of nearly all LFLs and CFLs beginning in 2023 under the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive due to their toxicity, citing the widespread availability of cost-effective LED alternatives.



The goal is really two-fold – more efficient lighting and also mercury-free lighting.... one thing is to ban something, to say “this is not allowed anymore” which RoHS does, but you also have to compliment with other requirements on the quality of products that are compliant.

Peter Bennich, Swedish Energy Agency



IMPACTS & BENEFITS

On a cumulative basis between 2023 and 2035, the EU fluorescent phase out will:



Save €18.2 billion in electricity bills



Avoid 190 TWh of electricity



Eliminate 1.8 metric tonnes of toxic mercury from the market