LM79 Tests and Lighting Facts Labels

Government Certified for Your Peace of Mind

When the Department of Energy (DOE) developed its curent Solid State Lighting Initiative to reduce energy, it did not want to repeat the mistakes it had made with its compact fluorescent light bulb initiative. That initiative resulted in the immediate flooding of the market with cheap, poor-quality fluorescents that had weak lumen outputs and short lives. What had been expected was high-lumen-output and long-life bulbs. As a result, adoption of the fluorescents occurred at a slower rate than desired.

Accredited Labs Certify Each Fixture

This time, the DOE has created specific lighting requirements for its LED Solid State Lighting Initiative. To be eligible for DOE projects, LED lighting products are now required to pass independent laboratory tests known as LM79s.

So far, the DOE has certified thirteen labs [1] in the United States for LM79 testing. These testing and calibration labs must be accredited through the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP). The NVLAP is a Congressionally mandated program.

The DOE rewards LED fixtures that pass LM79 with a Lighting Facts [2] certification label printed for that specific fixture with all its specifications. The illustration below diagrams the parts of the label [3].

The DOE encourages end users, engineers and utilities to use only LM79 tested products.

Just the Lighting Facts, Please

Lighting Facts labels list many things, including a fixture's catalog number, dimensions, total system watts, total lumens, lumens per watt, Kelvin temperature and Color Rendering Index (CRI). Even the slightest change to an LED fixture requires a repeat of the test.

LM79 testing creates an accurate representation of an LED fixture's performance. LM79 tests help eliminate misleading product performance statements in the marketplace.

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Visionaire Lighting's LM79 Approved Fixtures

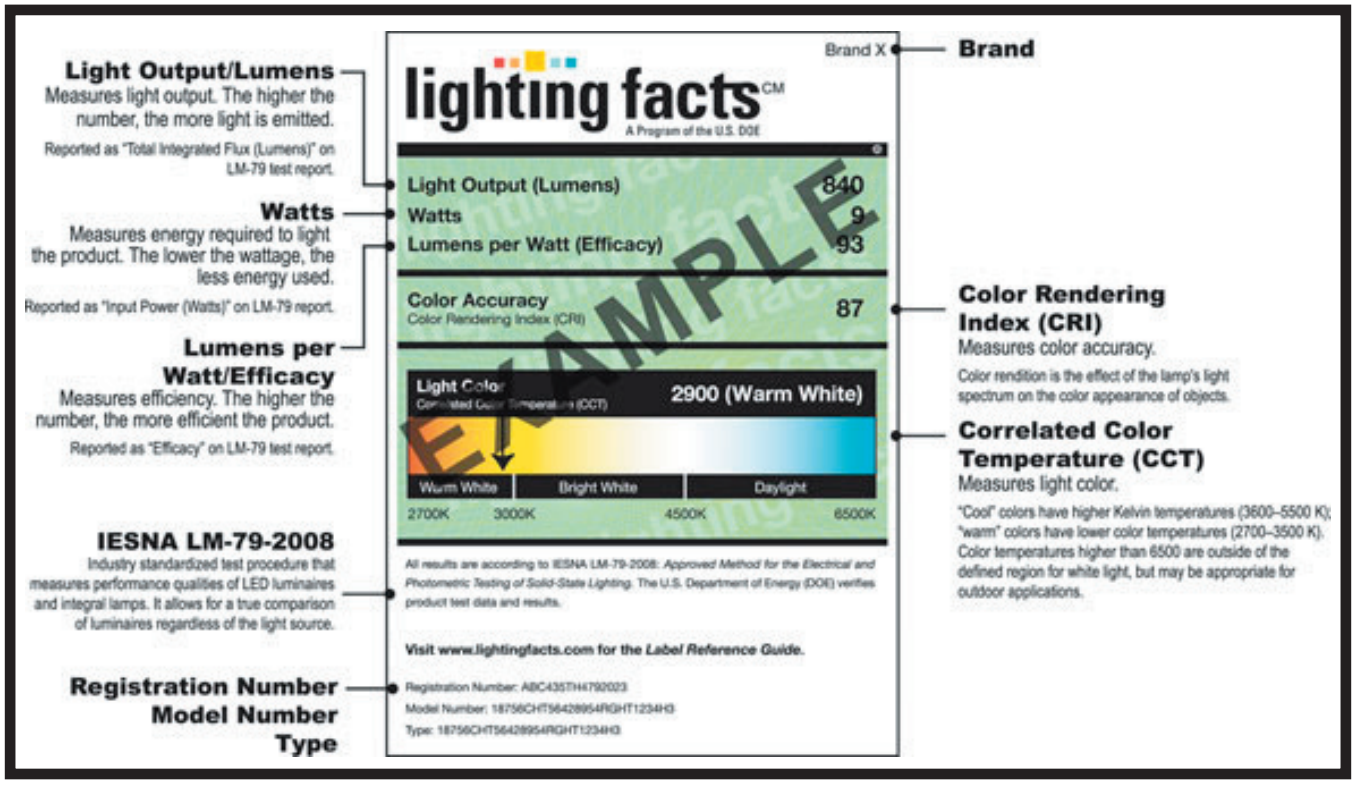
As of this writing, Visionaire Lgihting has qualified fourteen fixtures through the Department of Energy's Lighting Facts program. These LED model versions include the **Element** and **New Orleans II** area luminaires, and the **OceanWalk** bollard.

Visionaire Lighting [4] supports LM79 testing because it works to prevent an LED backlash in this new robust lighting fixture market.

Links for More Information

[1] List of NVLAP Certified Labs
[2] www.LightingFacts.com
[3] Anatomy of a Lighting Facts Label
[4] Visionaire Lighting

Anatomy of a Lighting Facts Label



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