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Guidance Type: Definitions and Scope of Coverage, Conservation Standards

Category: Lighting Products

Product: Ceiling fan light kits

Product Sub-type: Sockets other than pin-based for fluorescent lamps and medium screw base

Guidance Version: FINAL

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Q: Is accent lighting on ceiling fan light kits with sockets other than medium screw base or pin-based for fluorescent lamps subject to the total 190 watt limitation for all lamps included with the ceiling fan light kit?

A: DOE does not consider ceiling fan accent lighting that is not a significant light source to be part of the 190-watt limitation. DOE has made this determination for three reasons. First, pursuant to section 135(a)(3) of EPCACT 2005, EPCA defines a ceiling fan light kit, in part as equipment "designed to provide light." (42 U.S.C. 6291(50)) The purpose of accent lighting is not to provide direct light; instead, it is commonly used for decorative purposes. As such, accent lighting is not covered by EPCA.

Second, this application of the standard is clearly consistent with EPCA's treatment of ceiling fan light kits with medium-screw base sockets and those with pin-based sockets for fluorescent lamps. For these two types of ceiling fan light kits, section 325(ff) of EPCA clearly regulates only lamps inserted into screw base or pin-based sockets, and not any accent lights otherwise incorporated into the fan. (42 U.S.C. 6295(ff)(2)-(3)) Third, DOE is concerned with addressing energy consumption by light sources that are aligned with the primary purpose of the ceiling fan light kit. For ceiling fan light kits, the general illumination provided by the light kit is its principal function, and thus should be subject to the 190-watt limitation. Other ancillary lighting, such as accent lighting serves primarily an aesthetic purpose and is therefore not part of the general illumination function of the ceiling fan light kit. 71 FR 71347.