

Commercial lighting – Applying to use an alternative benchmark

5 October 2023

WHAT

You can apply to use an alternative benchmark for upgrades of:

- ▼ Building Lighting
- ▼ Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces, and
- ▼ Traffic Signals

This fact sheet provides information on how and under what circumstances you can apply for an alternative benchmark.

WHO

Accredited Certificate Providers (**ACPs**) who hold an accreditation under the Commercial Lighting Energy Savings Formula (**Commercial Lighting**) method.

WHY

The *Energy Savings Scheme Rule of 2009* (**ESS Rule**) allows for the use of alternative benchmarks for lighting upgrades under the Commercial Lighting method, subject to approval by the Scheme Administrator.

This is to accommodate lighting upgrades that:

- are outside the scope of AS/NZS1680 (for Building Lighting), or
- can be covered by an alternative standard to AS/NZS 1158 for (Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces), or

- can be covered by an alternative standard to AS 2144:2014 (for Traffic Signals)

HOW

You can apply to use an alternative benchmark by emailing us at ess_applications@ipart.nsw.gov.au.

You must include relevant supporting information to your application including:

- the proposed alternative benchmark
- the type of space to which the alternative benchmark will apply and justification on why it is appropriate
- business and record keeping processes to support use of the alternative benchmark

More details on the supporting information required are outlined below.

WHEN

You can apply to use an alternative benchmark at any time.

However, you can only create Energy Savings Certificates (**ESCs**) for an implementation using an alternative benchmark **after** approval for its use has been granted by the Scheme Administrator.

USE ALTERNATIVE BENCHMARKS UNDER THE ESS RULE

If you are performing an upgrade to lighting under the Commercial Lighting method, the ESS Rule requires you to ensure the upgrade meets specified standards for each type of lighting upgrade allowed under Clause 9.4 (Building Lighting, Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces, and Traffic Signals).

The ESS Rule also specifies the circumstances under which an alternative benchmark can be applied to a lighting upgrade.

If an upgrade is of **Building Lighting**, an alternative benchmark may be applied if:

- the proposed lighting upgrade is outside the scope of AS/NZS 1680; and
- the benchmark is approved by the Scheme Administrator^a

If an upgrade is of **Roads and Public Spaces**, an alternative benchmark other than AS/NZS1158 can be applied if:

- the benchmark is specified by the Scheme Administrator^b

If an upgrade is of **Traffic Signals**, an alternative benchmark other than AS 2144:2014 can be applied if:

- the benchmark is specified by the Scheme Administrator^c

Notwithstanding the above, you must ensure that all lighting upgrades under clause 9.4 meet or exceed the relevant lighting standards for each upgrade.^d

^a ESS Rule, Clause 9.4.1(c)(i)

^b ESS Rule Clause 9.4.1(g)(ii)

^c ESS Rule Clause 9.4.1(h)(ii)

^d ESS Rule clause 9.4.1(b)

Information needed to support your application

Your application for an alternative benchmark must support the requirements of the ESS Rule and the *Commercial Lighting Method Guide*. All applications for an alternative benchmark must include the following supporting information:

- The type of space or description of the lighting upgrade for the alternative benchmark to be applied:
 - Indicate whether you are applying for one specific site (if so, provide the address), or if you are applying in an ongoing capacity across eligible sites.
 - If applying for ongoing approval, detail your business and record keeping procedures that will support the use of the alternative benchmark and specific lighting requirements to be met from the standard or benchmark proposed.
- You must detail the space type and provide justification on why the proposed standard is appropriate.
- What benchmark is proposed:
 - Explanation on how the alternative benchmark is appropriate for the identified space type(s) including:
 - how it ensures that lighting upgrades do not result in reduction of service levels
 - reference to the appropriate section of the benchmark
- Business processes that you have in place to identify when to use the alternative benchmark.
- Record keeping processes to obtain the required evidence to support adherence to the alternative benchmark.

Additionally, applications regarding Building Lighting must also include:

- Explanation on why AS/NZS 1680 does not apply.
- how each space in an upgrade will meet as a minimum, the requirements of BCA Section F4.4, 'Safe movement'

Application process

We will assess your application promptly. If we identify any areas where we require further information, we will send a request for information (RFI).

We will assess your response to this request for information in accordance with ESS requirements. We typically issue no more than two requests for information to ensure that applications are completed in a timely manner.