

Say “NO” to Sub Standard CFLs – - Do Not Get Cheated by Cheap Prices

The Commercial and Domestic Sectors Lighting. have already embraced CFLs in a Big way, because of about 75% of energy saving potential when compared to traditional Incandescent Lamps. . Now is the time to set some benchmarks and keep good vigilance, so that savings by virtue of CFLs are not negated by the substandard and spurious CFLs

Standards &Labeling

According to IEC, CFLs should have clear and durable markings of such details as the rated voltage, luminous flux, wattage, frequency, the lamp current, name of manufacturer and information on special conditions or restrictions to be observed in operating the lamps. Some of the salient features are:

***Power Factor(PF) equal to or greater than 0.9**

***Total Harmonic Distortion(THD) Rating of 33% or less.**

***Efficacy for Self Ballasted lamps**

<10 watt	-	40 lumens /watt
10-15 watt	-	45 lumens / watt
< 15 watt	-	55 lumens / watt

***Colour Rendering Index (CRI) Around 80**

*** Mercury Less than 10 mg per lamp**

*** Radioisotopes Without any**

Substandard Quality of CFLs

The low cost CFLs have gained easy access into the Indian market under the liberalized environment. Although the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has laid down certain specifications for Indian and foreign manufacturers, these are not enforced strictly, resulting in Indian consumers getting substandard products and CFLs getting a bad name. But non-standard imported CFLs, now available in Indian market do not furnish the required particulars and their price ranges from Rs 20 to Rs 250. The sellers of substandard CFLs do not offer any guarantee or warranty and rarely provide proof of purchase.

Adverse Impacts of Poor Quality CFLs

The indiscriminate promotion of poor quality of CFLs with low Power Factor (PF) and high Total Harmonic Distortion (THD), which saturated the present market), could cause distortions in the Distribution Network resulting in poor quality of power supply. It is therefore of utmost importance to prevent the sale of substandard & spurious CFLs having PF less than 0.9 and THD more than 33% and not providing guarantee