

Colombia Enacts New Efficiency Standards for Street Lighting

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March 30, 2010-Colombia's Ministry of Mines and Energy has issued new efficiency standards for street lighting. Resolution 180540 of March 30, 2010, further complements the existing framework of energy efficiency regulations. Over the past years the country has slowly but surely taken steps to improve the efficient use of energy in the electricity (or power) sector mostly focusing on lighting fixtures. A short summary of the current regulations is as follows.

Law 697 of 2001 lies of the core of Colombia's strategy for the developments of new and renewable sources of energy and the adoption of tools for energy efficiency. The law is quite short mainly stating that the efficient and rational use of energy is in the social, public and national interest in order to achieve energy supply, the competitiveness of the economy and consumer protection. The law also created the Program for the rational and efficient use of energy –Proure-. The Proure's most salient efforts have been information dissemination and the development of standardization guidelines for some renewable sources of energy.¹

Decree 3683 of December 2003 was issued to regulate the framework created by Law 697. The Decree however did not establish hard targets on efficiency, and mostly focuses on establishing guidelines for the establishment of inter-agency commission, among other minor provisions related to the development of education, research and financing incentives but with little detail. Since the issuance of the Decree the government has enacted a patchwork of regulations as follows:

- Decree 2331 of June 2007 ordered use of fluorescent light bulbs in all government buildings by December 2007. The Decree was thereafter modified by Decree 895 of 2008 to clarify government entities should use the most efficient light sources available in the market.
- Decree 2501 of July of 2007 ordered the issuance of technical regulations on energy efficiency to be applied across the board, including the products used in the transformation of energy, end-use products, government buildings, government subsidized housing, public lighting and traffic lights. Notably the Decree established that starting in 2010 developers of public housing had to incorporate energy efficient designs into housing constructions in order to

¹ The PROURE's efforts are available on an English language website at: <http://www.si3ea.gov.co/EnglishSite/tabid/104/Default.aspx>

received government subsidies. However, as far as it has been possible to tell, the regulations have not been issued as of August 2008.

- Decree 3450 of September 2008, ordered that all users would have to migrate towards more efficient lighting fixtures by 2011 and prohibited the importation, sale and use of low efficiency lighting sources. The Decree was further regulated by Ministry of Energy and Mines' Resolutions 181331 of August 2009 and 180540 of March 2010.