



Setting Standards for Excellence

August 25, 2009

Re: Availability of U.S.-Manufactured Electronic Fluorescent Ballasts

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today on behalf of NEMA manufacturers of electronic ballasts for fluorescent lighting. NEMA represents nearly all of the high efficiency electronic ballast manufacturers in the United States.

Based on our research, it is clear that electronic fluorescent ballasts – the efficient product of choice based on standards included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 –are not manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient quantity to meet demand. Imports of high efficiency represent approximately *95 percent* of U.S. demand. Although research and development of these products is conducted in the U.S., production and final assembly is done primarily in China and Mexico, and there is no expectation that this will change in the future. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of these products are sold in the U.S. annually.

As evidenced by the lists of American Recovery and Reconstruction Act-funded projects, improving the energy efficiency and energy performance of buildings is a top priority. Lighting can account for as much as 25 percent of the energy use in a building and this area is ripe for energy efficiency improvements. Electronic ballasts are a critical component of fluorescent lighting fixtures. A ballast's function is to transform the voltage received at the lighting fixture into the voltage that will most efficiently provide electrical power to the light source. Replacement of less efficient magnetic and electronic ballasts with higher efficiency units can achieve significant energy savings.

NEMA is the largest trade association representing the interests of U.S. electrical industry and medical imaging equipment manufacturers, whose worldwide annual sales of electrical products exceed \$120 billion. Our approximately 430 member companies, representing 400,000 jobs, manufacture products used in the generation, transmission, distribution, control, and use of electricity. These products are used in utility, medical imaging, industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential applications.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at 703 841 3294 or [cra\\_updyke@nema.org](mailto:cra_updyke@nema.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Updyke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Updyke  
Manager, Trade and Commercial Affairs