RF Lighting Technical Requirements and Testing Guidance

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Overview

Lighting technology is rapidly changing.

- LED lighting will become a very large replacement technology as common general service incandescent lamps are phased out in the U.S. due to EISA 2007 implementation by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- There have been a number of interference complaints with regards to fluorescent and LED lighting that are being investigated by the FCC Enforcement Bureau.

Overview

FCC has requirements for RF lighting in Part 18, but there are questions as to whether these rules apply to all lighting technologies on the market.

Also, we have received questions about the applicability of the radiated emissions limits.

Draft KDB Publication 640677 provides
 <u>draft guidance</u> on the applicable technical
 and testing requirements for lighting devices.
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General Conditions of Operation

- Unintentional radiators are subject to operation on the condition that no harmful interference is caused (§§15.5 and 18.111).
- Use good engineering designs and construction techniques (§§15.15 and 18.109).

Operation of lighting devices will be required to cease operation if harmful interference occurs (§§15.15(c) and 18.115).

Part 15 Lighting Devices

Lighting devices that power the bulb or tube with direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC) below 9 KHz and utilize switching power supply technology are authorized under FCC Part 15.

An example of this type of device is an LED lighting device powered by a DC voltage from a switching power supply.

Part 15 Lighting Devices

Technical Requirements

- AC Power Line Conducted Emission Limits:

 §15.107(a) for Class B (residential) devices or §15.107(b) for Class A (commercial) devices, as appropriate.

- Radiated Emission Limits:

- §15.109(a) for Class B (residential) devices or §15.109(b) for Class A (commercial), as appropriate.
- Proposed testing guidance Radiated emission measurements are to be performed from 30 MHz to 1000 MHz.

Part 15 Lighting Devices

Equipment Authorization Procedure:

 The "Verification" equipment authorization procedure is used for both Class A and Class B devices.

Part 18 Lighting Devices

Lighting devices that power the bulb, tube, etc. using an RF signal that is applied to a gas inside a lamp are authorized under Part 18.

Examples of these types of devices include ballasts for fluorescent lamps, and self-ballasted lamps powered from an RF source.

Part 18 Lighting Devices

Technical requirements

- AC Power Line Conducted Emission Limits:

 §18.307(c), for all equipment (i.e., consumer or non-consumer equipment).

– Radiated Emission Limits:

- §18.305(c).
- Proposed testing guidance Radiated emission measurements are to be performed from 30 MHz to 1000 MHz.

Part 18 Lighting Devices

Equipment Authorization Procedure:

 The "Verification" equipment authorization procedure is used for non-consumer equipment; and the "Declaration of Conformity" (DoC) or "Certification" equipment authorization procedure is used for consumer equipment.

Summary

- See draft guidance provided in Draft KDB Publication 640677.
- Proposed Guidance Lighting devices which typically use frequencies below 1.705 MHz for their operation to perform are required to have radiated emissions measurements performed from 30 MHz to 1000 MHz.
- Comments have been received and are being reviewed.