

An update on the ban on filament (incandescent) and halogen light bulbs

The European Union (EU) has stated that, by switching to low energy saving light bulbs there will be a reduction in carbon dioxide(CO₂) emissions of 12 million metric tons, which is equivalent to 13.2 imperial tons, every year. The claimed energy saving is analogous to taking out the power output from 10 power stations or the total electricity consumption of Romania. This significant contribution to providing a greener and sustainable environment has led to the creation of the 2012 ban.

In a directive banning incandescent and halogen bulbs the EU are phasing out their supply and use in stages up to 2018 and they will be replaced with more energy efficient models, for instance, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) and LED bulbs.

The ban is already in effect. All incandescent 100 watt clear bulbs which are not energy rating C or above and all frosted light bulbs not including CFL's have been banned. This means that all 100 watt and above, filament incandescent bulbs together with halogen bulbs which have a D rating, could not be distributed from manufacturers from September 2009. However, it is worth noting that retailers are still allowed to sell banned bulbs they have in stock!

The normal energy rating of the main bulb types is shown below:

- Energy Rating A: LED Bulbs
- Energy Rating B: Very high efficiency Halogen Bulbs typically achieved by using an infrared coating
- Energy Rating C: Energy Efficient Halogen Bulbs
- Energy Rating D: Normal Halogen Bulbs (Light bulbs of this rating have been phased out)
- Energy Rating E: (Light bulbs of this rating have been phased out)
- Energy Rating F: Incandescent Bulbs (Light bulbs of this rating have been phased out)
- Energy Rating G: (Light bulbs of this rating have been phased out)

The more detailed timing for the period to 2018 is as follows:

- September 2010 : All bulbs of energy rating D or below of 75 watts were banned
- September 2011: All bulbs of energy rating D or below of 60 watts were banned
- September 2012: All bulbs of energy rating D or below banned
- February 2016: Bulbs previously defined as rough service banned and also clear vintage filament bulbs. Golden glass vintage filaments are still permitted.
- September 2016: Minimum energy rating for all clear lamps increased to Energy Rating B except for G9 and R7 bases. Phase out of low voltage , less than 60 volt, bulbs with the following bases E14/E27/B22d/B15d.
- September 2018: Final phase out of GU10, GLS, golf ball and candle bulbs.

Even after 2018 there will still be some halogen bulbs available like the G9 and R7 118mm tube because at present LED technology is not advanced enough to make LED equivalents to a sufficiently small size.

At Saving Light Bulbs we are supporting the phasing out of the incandescent bulbs by providing cost effective alternatives, specifically the Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and the extremely efficient LED bulb.

CFL's are approximately four more times efficient and last typically up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. They can use up to 80% less energy, for example a 20 watt CFL can produce the same light output as a 100 watt incandescent bulb. From an environmental perspective just changing two bulbs to a CFLs will reduce CO₂ emissions by 1 tonne over the lifetime of those bulbs.

LED bulbs typically last 3 or 4 times longer than CFL's and 30 times longer than incandescent bulbs. When you compare the LED bulbs average life span, which is typically 30,000 hours, against the average life span of an incandescent of 1,000 hours, this has massive implications in terms of waste. Coupled with the fact that savings are made in both maintenance and replacement costs.

If you require more information on the light bulb ban or assistance with energy saving in lighting there is more information on the SLB web site <https://www.saving-light-bulbs.co.uk>.