Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
120 Wall Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10005-4001
T 212-248-5000
F 212-248-5017, 18
www.ies.org

Color Rendering Index (CRI)

PS-8-14

The IES recognizes that the Color Rendering Index (CRI) metric, used to determine the accuracy of a light source's rendition of color compared to a reference, has shortcomings that limit its ability to fully represent how humans perceive color.

Since its adoption in 1964, several light source technologies have been introduced and commonly adopted for architectural lighting that yield a different visual experience than the CRI metric can describe.

To this end, the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) formed a Color Metric Task Group in March 2013, which has been tasked to develop an improved measure to characterize light source color rendition. This group is committed to developing an alternative to CRI that will better serve the lighting industry and its stakeholders.

The task group is currently writing an IES Technical Memorandum (TM) that may propose a path toward a new color metric. In recognition of the shortcomings and limitations of the current CRI metric and the development of a new TM addressing color metrics, it is the position of the IES that CRI requirements should not be a metric used in energy regulations to characterize color attributes for solid state lighting until there is industry consensus on the issue.

ABOUT THE ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The IES is a collegial community dedicated to improving the lighted environment. The IES is composed of a diverse membership, all with an interest in and a dedication to good lighting. 25% of the membership is involved in manufacturing (lamps, sources, luminaires, accessories); another 25% is composed of lighting designers and architects. The remaining 50% is composed of consultants, electrical and building contractors, distributors, and wholesalers, individuals working in affiliated lighting fields, those working for utilities and energy services, and people in government and education. Over one thousands of these individuals serve on committees, most serving on the Society's document development committees; these

committees develop standards, design guides, technical memoranda, lighting energy management materials, guidelines and lighting measurement, testing and calculation guides.