



Fixture Seal of Approval Program

Version 3

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International Dark-Sky Association

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*To preserve and protect the nighttime environment
and our heritage of dark skies through quality outdoor lighting*

Contents

Fixture Seal of Approval Program 1
Introduction 3
History 3
Program Objectives and Scope 3
Frequently Asked Questions from the Lighting Manufacturer 4
Corporate Partnership Opportunities for Manufacturers.....5
Conclusion..... 5
Submission Instructions for Manufacturers 6

Introduction

Formed in 1988, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is the authoritative voice on light pollution. IDA educates lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees, and the public about light pollution abatement. Recognizing that the best way to accomplish this goal of protecting and restoring our natural night environment and our heritage of dark skies is through promotion of quality outdoor lighting, the Fixture Seal of Approval (FSA) Program was established.

The *Fixture Seal of Approval* provides objective, third-party certification for luminaires that minimize glare, reduce light trespass, and lessens the destruction of the night sky. For a modest fee, IDA evaluates the photometric data of any luminaire submitted by its manufacturer. When the fixture is approved, the manufacturer receives a certificate and use of the *Fixture Seal of Approval* (FSA). Manufacturers may use the FSA seal to promote and advertise their IDA approved dark sky friendly products.

History

Prior to coining the term “light pollution,” elements of light pollution, such as light trespass, glare, and sky glow, already concerned amateur and professional astronomers, biologists and ecologists, medical doctors, and everyday concerned citizens. In more recent years, the demand for quality “dark sky friendly” fixtures has grown, and manufacturers have responded by developing luminaires that address pervasive light pollution issues.

Over the past 20 years, IDA has become the authoritative voice on light pollution and continues to educate lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees, and the public at large about the harms of and solutions to light pollution problems. IDA recognizes that the best way to accomplish its goal of protecting and restoring the natural night environment is by coupling education efforts with quality outdoor lighting. The IDA Fixture Seal of Approval Program encompasses this objective.

Program Objectives and Scope

The Fixture Seal of Approval Program addresses the demand for a third-party “certification” of luminaires which do not pollute the night. The IDA maintains a list of approved fixtures and manufacturers on its Web site, drawing thousands of visits from businesses, homeowners, and developers searching for dark sky friendly lighting solutions for their buildings and projects.

As manufacturers have begun to develop luminaires which address the many harms of uncontrolled light, there has been question as to what qualifies as a dark sky friendly fixture. IDA has sought to remedy this problem by offering third-party approval on fixtures that satisfy an established set of standards. The program is open for submissions from any and all manufacturers worldwide who have luminaires believed to be dark sky friendly.

Frequently Asked Questions from the Lighting Manufacturer

Why should we submit our luminaires for approval?

Conscientious consumers, ranging from individual homeowners to municipalities and governments, have increased the demand for dark sky friendly and energy efficient lighting fixtures. The *IDA Fixture Seal of Approval* eliminates consumer guesswork by providing a credible and reliable reference source for the wide range of fixtures and luminaires available on the market today. As the first dark sky friendly luminaire certifying program, the *Fixture Seal of Approval* is the most trusted name in dark sky friendly lighting options.

What criteria are required for submission to the program and how will they be applied?

IDA analyzes the ULOR (Upward Light Output Ratio) of a luminaire—that is, the amount of upward flux a fixture produces. Photometric analysis is done by IDA staff using state-of-the-art software at the International Dark-Sky Association’s Tucson, Arizona headquarters.

Residential fixture manufacturers will be exempt from submitting photometric data if they can supply images that clearly confirm no light emissions above 90 degrees. If this cannot be confirmed by images, we will need to conduct a physical evaluation of the product at our own facilities.

From which testing labs will IDA accept photometry?

IDA will accept photometry from any testing lab that is National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and/or NIST Information Technologies Laboratories (NIST-ITL) approved, including a manufacturer’s ‘in-house’ testing lab that meets this standard.

How did IDA determine pricing for the program?

Pricing was determined by a fair market value for third-party certification, defraying our costs of photometric analysis and program materials. We believe the IDA approved dark sky friendly fixture designation under the *Fixture Seal of Approval* is a salient luminaire feature similar to an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listing, which could cost significantly more.

What exactly do I receive if my fixtures are approved?

IDA Fixture Seal of Approval accepted fixtures gain the use of IDA’s official seal of approval for use in sales, marketing, technical, and packaging materials. Manufacturers receive a certificate of approval with a list of the approved luminaires. They also receive listing on the IDA approved dark sky friendly fixtures section of our Web site.

May I use the seal of approval on other publications, such as a brochure?

IDA allows manufacturers to use the *Fixture Seal of Approval* to advertise their IDA approved dark sky fixtures on brochures, advertisements, catalog covers, or other

similar uses. But in order to eliminate confusion between which of the manufacturer's fixtures are IDA approved and which are not, the following disclaimer must be used: "For a listing of our IDA dark sky approved fixtures see ____for details." The space may be filled with "see our catalog for details," "visit our Web site for details," or other such necessary text. Questions regarding the disclaimer line should be sent to ida@darksky.org or phoned to 520-293-3198.

How do I get my luminaires approved?

Forms and additional information can be obtained from the Fixture Seal of Approval homepage at www.darksky.org. Manufacturers will need to follow the instructions provided within this package, submit an application with appropriate photometric files, and await response for approval or denial. If a fixture is denied, a reason for the denial and recommendations to improve the fixture will accompany the denial notification.

How long does this process take?

Depending on the current program workload and the quantity of photometric files submitted, a manufacturer can expect notice of approval or denial within 4 weeks.

Corporate Partnership Opportunities for Manufacturers

IDA recognizes the importance of a strong working relationship with manufactures in the lighting industry. Corporate partnership opportunities are now available for manufacturers of exceptional products who also seek the Dark-Sky Fixture Seal of Approval. Qualifying corporate partners will be exempt from Fixture Seal of Approval registration Fees and will be eligible for additional marketing benefits. Please refer to the corporate partnership information on page 10 for more details.

Conclusion

As consumer demand drives the market toward more energy efficient, secure, functional and dark sky friendly luminaires, the IDA *Fixture Seal of Approval* is **the** trademark certifying your luminaire as truly dark sky friendly. As the most trusted name in light pollution abatement, the International Dark-Sky Association's approved dark sky friendly fixture logo provides assurance to both consumers and retailers that the certified fixtures conform to even the most stringent local outdoor lighting ordinances. This ensures a safe and secure nighttime environment while decreasing energy usage and increasing enjoyment of the nighttime sky.

Submission Instructions for Manufacturers

Instructions for Submitting a Luminaire for Approval

The *Fixture Approval Application* form must be completed with all fields submitted and returned to IDA along with **ALL electronic IES photometry files and current photographs¹ of the product being submitted**. Payment in full must be received prior to IDA issuing permission to use the IDA approved *Fixture Seal of Approval* logo.

Testing and Approval

Each photometric file submitted to IDA will undergo a rigorous testing procedure to evaluate whether the luminaire submitted meets IDA's standards for being dark sky friendly. Upon luminaire certification under the IDA approved Fixture Seal of Approval Program and testing, a certificate and both an electronic and hardcopy version of the IDA approved dark sky friendly fixture logo will be provided to the manufacturer.

In the event that not all files pertaining to a certain luminaire are approved, the luminaire may still be granted IDA approval, pending at least one version of the luminaire passed program testing. That is to say, if a manufacturer produces more than one version of a luminaire, one of which passes the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval Program, that particular version of the luminaire will still pass; whereas, the other non-complying versions do not pass certification. If this is applicable, the following text **must** be used in conjunction with the logo: "IDA approved dark sky friendly versions of this luminaire are available. Contact factory or retailer for details." If the IDA approved dark sky friendly logo appears on fixtures that have not been certified, this may result in legal action and removal from our programs.

Photometry Submission

Photometric files should be submitted via e-mail to: ida@darksky.org. Larger quantities of photometry should be submitted in ZIP format or by File Transfer Protocol (FTP). IDA will accept photometry from all NIST- or ITL-approved testing labs, including a manufacturer's own "in-house" testing lab, that meets this standard.

Residential fixture manufacturers will be exempt from submitting photometric data if they can supply images that clearly confirm no light emissions above 90 degrees. Please refer to the FAQ section on page 4.

Use of Dark-Sky Friendly Logo

Upon receipt of notification from IDA that submitted luminaires have been approved, the manufacturer may begin using the IDA dark sky friendly fixture logo on their marketing, sales, and technical materials as well as on the luminaire itself. The logo may be used alone or combined with the following text: "This luminaire has been approved as dark sky friendly by the International Dark-Sky Association." There may be some instances when both approved and non-approved versions of a luminaire may be found on the same manufacturer's catalog page or brochure. In this event, the following text must be used in conjunction with the logo: "IDA approved dark sky friendly versions of this luminaire are available. Contact factory or retailer for details." Improper use of the IDA approved dark sky friendly logo may result in legal action.

¹ Failure to submit current photographs of a luminaire will prevent IDA from listing your approved luminaire under the IDA approved fixtures section of our Web site.

Certification Period, Terms, and Notes

1. The IDA approved dark sky friendly fixture designation is valid for a period of three years from the date of approval, or until the luminaire is modified, whichever comes first. Manufacturers are requested to resubmit their fixtures after a three year period for recertification. Recertification will be done at a reduced cost.
2. Standards for IDA approved dark sky friendly fixture designation are transparent to the public but are subject to change as our knowledge increases and new technologies emerge.
3. At this time, IDA is only accepting submissions for luminaires that have no light emissions above 90 degrees. Photometric tests must include measurements taken from 0 to 180 degrees vertical to validate the luminaire's performance. LED driven products must have photometric testing that meets the IESNA LM-79 criteria. The Fixture Seal of Approval Program may be expanded in the near future to include luminaires that meet additional requirements.
4. Luminaires that do not have rigid, non-adjustable mountings may still be approved in the "standard" (typically, 90-degree) position with use of the following text: "This luminaire has been IDA approved as dark sky friendly when installed and maintained in the default mounting position. Contact factory or retailer for details."

FSA Application Order Form



Please completely fill out all sections of this form to the best of your ability.

Name: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Number of Photometric Files Being Submitted: _____

Pricing for the Fixture Seal of Approval Program (all amounts in US \$)

	Quantity	Total
\$1500.00 One-time manufacturer registration fee	X _____ =	_____
\$50.00 Per initial photometric file submitted. ¹	X _____ =	_____
\$100 Per subsequent photometric file submitted	X _____ =	_____

Corporate Partnership Level _____

Total Amount Due: _____

The manufacturer registration fee of \$1,500.00 is due upon receipt of application (Corporate Partners are exempt). The remaining costs of approval will be determined by the total number of photometric files approved. IDA will verify the total amount with the manufacturer's point of contact prior to final charges. Only approved files will be charged.

Pricing Example:

XYZ Lighting has three (3) luminaires to submit with five (5) photometric files; three (3) of XYZ Lighting's five (5) photometric files pass Fixture Seal of Approval Program standards. Thus:

\$1500.00	One-time manufacturer registration fee	X <u> 1 </u> =	<u> \$1500 </u>
\$50.00	Per photometric file submitted	X <u> 5 </u> =	<u> \$250 </u>
		Total Amount Due:	<u> \$1,750 </u>

Payment Method: VISA MasterCard Check (# _____) Money Order

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

By signing above, I agree to pay IDA the total amount due for the services provided.

¹ ALL photometry for a given luminaire must be submitted at the time of application.

When your corporation becomes an International Dark-Sky Association Annual Corporate Partner, you will receive the following benefits depending on the level of your partnership:

Bronze Level Corporate Partner (\$US 5,000):

- One ½ page advertisement in Nightscape or two ¼ page advertisements in consecutive issues of Nightscape
- Bronze Sponsorship Benefits at IDA Annual General Meeting
- Enhanced visibility on IDA website
- Free Fixture Seal of Approval One-Time Manufacturer Fee, plus 5 Free Photometric Files

Silver Level Corporate Partner (\$US 10,000):

- One full page advertisement in Nightscape or two 1/2 page advertisements in consecutive issues of Nightscape
- Silver Sponsorship Benefits at IDA Annual General Meeting
- IDA annual membership given to 5 people of your choice
- Enhanced visibility on IDA website
- Free Fixture Seal of Approval One-Time Manufacturer Fee, plus 10 Free Photometric Files and discount on additional Files

Gold Level Corporate Partner (\$US 15,000):

- Two full page advertisements in consecutive issues of Nightscape or 4 ½ page advertisements in consecutive issues of Nightscape
- Gold Sponsorship Benefits at IDA Annual General Meeting
- IDA annual membership given to 10 people of your choice
- Enhanced visibility on IDA website
- Free Fixture Seal of Approval One-Time Fee, plus 15 Free Photometric Files and discount on additional Files

Platinum Level Corporate Partner (\$US 25,000):

- Four full page advertisements in consecutive issues of Nightscape
- Platinum Sponsorship Benefits at IDA Annual General Meeting
- IDA annual membership given to 20 people of your choice
- Enhanced visibility on IDA website
- Free Fixture Seal of Approval One-Time Fee, plus 25 Free Photometric Files and discount on additional Files

For further information on Corporate Partnership, please contact us directly:

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