



Dear DLC Members and Stakeholders,

The DLC is pleased to present the latest update to the Networked Lighting Controls Specification, building upon the foundation established in version 5.1. This revision reflects an ongoing effort to strengthen the specification not just as a technical standard, but as a shared framework that enables alignment across manufacturers, utilities, program administrators, and other industry stakeholders.

Please note that all changes are highlighted in yellow throughout the Technical Requirements document.

Stakeholders should review the introductory section closely, as it outlines the scope of changes included in this version.

Version 5.2 of the NLC Technical Requirements focuses on these goals:

1. Highlight emerging capabilities in networked lighting controls
 - Present new system capabilities, particularly integrations with thermostats to save energy and improve building performance
2. Strengthen the role of NLC in energy efficiency programs by:
 - Improving confidence in savings through standardization configuration reporting (ANSI/NEMA C137.9)
 - Creating a clear pathway for first generation LED projects to achieve deeper savings through NLC upgrades
3. Simplify and improve the QPL experience
 - Streamline capability descriptions and enhance usability so stakeholders can more easily understand, compare, and select qualified systems
4. Improve visibility across connected product categories
 - Create stronger linkages between NLC systems and SSL products to support clearer specification pathways and coordinate system design

At its core, the NLC program serves as a tool for coordination, to help diverse stakeholders operate from a common understanding of performance, capabilities, and expectations. By refining requirements and improving usability, this update aims to reduce ambiguity, streamline communication, and enable more efficient collaboration across the market.

To support these goals, this version introduces thermostats into the specification, expanding the definition of networked lighting controls to reflect more comprehensive building system integration. Updates to the Qualified Products List (QPL) improve accessibility and transparency, making it easier for stakeholders to identify, evaluate, and deploy compliant solutions. Additionally, enhanced compatibility with the SSL V6.0 specification reinforces consistency across DLC programs, supporting more cohesive program design and implementation.

Taken together, these updates are intended to strengthen the specification as both a technical resource and a market catalyst, helping to align incentives, streamline effort and coordination, and accelerate the adoption of high-quality networked control solutions.

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership.

Supporting Resources

- [NLC V5.2 Draft 1 Technical Requirements \(PDF\)](#)
- [Comment Submission Form](#)

Upcoming Webinar – April 8, 2026

Join the DLC for an overview of the proposed updates in [NLC V5.2 Draft 1](#). This session will walk through key changes and provide an opportunity to ask questions ahead of the close of the comment period.