Dear DLC Members and Stakeholders:

The DesignLights Consortium is pleased to release the final Networked Lighting Controls Technical Requirements Version 5.2 (NLC V5.2), which will take effect on **August 3, 2026**. Building on the foundation established in NLC V5.1, this update continues DLC's work to support quality lighting, controls, and integrated building systems that reduce energy use, carbon emissions, and light pollution.

The DLC appreciates the time, expertise, and practical insight that stakeholders provided during the Draft 1 public comment period earlier this year. Commenters were generally supportive of the direction of NLC V5.2, especially the effort to recognize NLC-HVAC integration, while encouraging the DLC to make the requirements easier to understand, easier to apply, and more reflective of how systems are installed and configured in real buildings. Feedback helps refine the final requirements so they better support real-world buildings, retrofit conditions, and the different ways NLC and HVAC systems may be connected in the field.

Several key themes guided the development of NLC V5.2:

- Expanding recognition of integrated building technologies, particularly lighting-to-HVAC integration opportunities that can leverage occupancy and operational data to achieve additional energy and carbon savings;
- Supporting greater confidence in energy savings through standardized configuration reporting and improved alignment with emerging industry standards;
- Improving the usability and clarity of the Qualified Products List (QPL) by streamlining terminology, capability descriptions, and reporting structures; and
- Expanding opportunities for additional market segments, including horticultural applications, to participate in the NLC program.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the final requirements include refinements to thermostat integration language, clearer distinctions between standard manufacturer-supported configuration and custom programming, updates to graphical user interface (GUI) related language, and clarifications related to system capabilities and environmental suitability. Version 5.2 also recognizes ANSI/NEMA C137.9 configuration reporting while maintaining it as a reported capability, not a mandatory requirement.

These updates reinforce the role of networked lighting controls as a foundation for integrated building controls and deeper energy savings and decarbonization across building systems. V5.2 encourages opportunities for NLC-HVAC integration, supports greater consistency in configuration reporting, improves alignment between NLC and SSL product information, and helps make the QPL more useful for efficiency programs, manufacturers, specifiers, and building owners.

The DLC is grateful for the continued engagement and partnership of the NLC community. Stakeholder participation is essential to ensure that the NLC Technical Requirements continue to drive innovation and support real-world needs.

Supporting Resources

- NLC V5.2 Final Technical Requirements
- NLC V5.2 Application Process
- NLC-HVAC Integration Toolkit

Upcoming Webinars

NLC V5.2 Final Release Webinar – July 8, 2026

Join the DLC for an overview of the final NLC V5.2 Technical Requirements. This session will walk through the key updates, highlight changes made following the public comment period, and include a live Q&A session.

Register for the NLC V5.2 Final Release Webinar

NLC V5.2 Application Guidance Webinar – August 13, 2026

The DLC will also host an **NLC V5.2 Application Webinar on August 13, 2026**, focused on implementation and application process updates ahead of the transition to the final requirements.

Register for the NLC V5.2 Application Guidance Webinar

Sincerely,

The DLC Team