

## *The End of an Era*

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In 1938 General Electric made history when it began selling fluorescent tubes. While the technology had been around since the late 1880s, it took many years and the efforts of several inventors to develop a viable product. Now, almost a century later, the fluorescent bulb is destined for the history books once again—but this time it's lights out. Beginning this year, countries around the world will no longer allow the sale of general purpose compact and linear fluorescent bulbs. Here is a list of the legislative decisions that will have the greatest short-term impact on the fluorescent market:

- **European Union** RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) directive 2011/65/EU bans sales of linear fluorescents effective August 1, 2023.
- In the **United Kingdom**, as of September 1, 2023, linear fluorescent bulbs cannot be sold.
- The **Canadian government** proposes to phase out the manufacturing and importation of all mercury-containing bulbs after December 31, 2023 with a wholesale prohibition to follow after December 31, 2026.
- In the **United States**, California Assembly Bill No. 2208 will prohibit the sale of all compact fluorescent screw or bayonet base products after January 1, 2024 and all pin-base type compact and linear fluorescents effective January 1, 2025.
- Following California's lead, **Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington** have proposed similar bans that would go into effect between January 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. In addition, thirteen states have already passed individual laws banning or limiting certain fluorescent bulb types to incentivize the sale of LED products.
- The **U.S. Department of Energy** is already considering a widespread ban similar to that passed in California, but at this time no further details are known.

Regardless of your State's position concerning the banning of fluorescent bulbs, the shift away from fluorescent products is already impacting the U.S. market. Fluorescent prices have increased by 40%–50%, and the number of available products is declining. Now is the time to explore energy efficient options that will brighten up your facility, reduce your maintenance costs, and prevent disruptions to your operations. Call Voss and ask how we can help you light your future before fluorescents become history.

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