



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

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Incandescent Light Bulb Ban to Begin in 2012

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, June 21, 2010 - Vicki Rolens, managing director of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), says that many members have asked about the legality of buying and using incandescent light bulbs.

FACT is a national not-for-profit corporation which was organized to answer consumers' questions and furnish a variety of other benefits.

"There have been reports about bans on incandescent light bulbs," says Rolens, "but those bans really don't kick in for another year and a half."

According to Rolens, an energy bill signed into law in 2007 will begin the phase-out of incandescent light with the 100-watt bulb in 2012. It will end in 2014 with the 40-watt bulb.

By 2014, all light bulbs must use 25% to 30% less energy than at present. By 2020, they must be 70% more efficient than they are today.

"Until recently," says Rolens, "The evident push was toward compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. However, there have been complaints about CFLs because they contain highly toxic mercury and pose a problem if broken. They may also present an environmental hazard when introduced by the billions into insufficient disposal sites."

Cost is another problem. A CFL sells for some \$3, but advocates point out that it typically lasts five years longer than an incandescent bulb and uses about 75% less energy.

"The latest new thing," Rolens says, "are bulbs which use light-emitting diodes (LEDs). They're due to be available by the end of this summer, and are purported to last 15-20 years and be up to 80% more efficient than incandescent or halogen bulbs. The drawback: each bulb will, at least initially, cost \$30 or so."

Rolens adds: "The average consumer may want to begin his or her own incandescent phase-out program now, replacing one bulb at a time over the coming years in order to keep the purchase cost of CFLs and LEDs from taking a sudden big bite out of the household budget."

This news release has been issued by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), a consumer organization formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. FACT serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the Encyclopedia of Associations, and by visiting the association's Web site (www.usafact.org). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. The association does not offer support to -- and does not receive support from -- any political party or movement. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from medical insurance and dental discounts to prescription drug savings and scholarships. FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025