



Leading the Way to a Brighter Future

Glossary of Terms

ASD – Adjustable Speed Drives are electronic devices that are designed to control the motor speed by varying the frequency of electricity in response to an electric signal. ASDs control motors so they run based on need, instead of running constantly at full tilt. Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) and Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) are two types of ASDs. See our Variable Speed Drives technical data sheet for more information on this technology.

Custom Incentives – One of two types of cash incentives offered by the Efficiency Maine Business Program. Custom Incentives are available to customers planning electric energy saving projects that are unique to their individual building or business, or who do not qualify for prescriptive incentives. To be eligible for a custom incentive, pre-approval by the Efficiency Maine Business Program is required prior to installation.

Efficiency – Refers to achieving the same, or better, results using less energy. For example, you can save money by turning off a light. Efficiency means you choose the right light bulb for the kind of light you need, as well as considering other design options, such as daylighting, to meet your needs without using more electricity. Efficiency Maine is an electric energy program; so it is designed to help participants use electricity more efficiently.

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning – usually referred to as “HVAC systems” in a building.

Incentives – Cash rewards, sometimes called rebates, to encourage businesses and other organizations to try energy efficient products.

NEMA Premium® – NEMA is the acronym for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The NEMA Premium designation means that the motor is a highly energy efficient product, as defined by standards set by the industry. The federal government establishes minimum standards for motor efficiency, and motors that meet these standards are often called “premium” by manufacturers. However, NEMA Premium levels exceed these minimum legal standards. Selecting NEMA Premium motors ensures purchasers will optimize their motor

system’s efficiency, reduce electrical power consumption and costs, and improve system reliability.

Prescriptive Incentives – One of two types of cash incentives offered by the Efficiency Maine Business Program. Prescriptive cash incentives are available for specified lighting, motors, refrigeration, HVAC equipment, and VFDs. The qualifying items and the incentive amounts are clearly defined. Some applications may need pre-approval. For example, if you purchase a 125 horsepower NEMA Premium motor, you will receive \$600, assuming you are eligible, follow all the guidelines, and complete the forms. See our Prescriptive Cash Incentives for a complete list of available cash incentives.

Qualified Partners – The manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, contractors and other organizations that stand ready to work with the Efficiency Maine Business Program to help businesses improve their energy efficiency and inform them about the Efficiency Maine Business Program. These Allies are actively spreading the word about the cash incentives to their customers, their sales forces and their members, so they can take advantage of the Program and save energy and money. Qualified Partners are listed on this website. You may also call 866-376-2463 and request a complete list of Qualified Partners.

Qualified Products – Products that meet efficiency standards and are eligible for cash incentives. A list is available on this website. We are continually looking for more products that provide eligible savings opportunities.

High Performance T8 Lighting Systems – Also known informally as “Super T8s,” these lighting systems combine premium performance T8 lamps with ballasts specifically matched to the lamp. The result is higher light output per watt (efficacy), longer lamp life and longer warranties. In general, High Performance T8 systems are about 20% more efficient than conventional T8 systems. View the CEE specification sheet for High Performance T8s.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine’s environment.

T5s – T5s are 5/8" in diameter fluorescent lamps. T5 systems are available in standard and high output versions and can be very useful for situations such as gymnasium and warehouse lighting, as well as, specialty indirect lighting systems. However, do not assume that if "T8s are good, T5s must be better."

VFD or VSD – Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) and Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) are two types of ASDs (Adjustable Speed Drives). See our Variable Speed Drives technical data sheet for information on this technology.