

The Switch-off Requirement under the Charter

1. Scope

The following external lighting should be switched off at the preset time:

- (i) Lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes
- (ii) Lighting installations that are intended for illumination of the outdoor environment, regardless of whether the lighting installations are interior or exterior, should be switched off at the preset time
- (iii) Lighting installations of promotional or advertising purposes, including shop signs and advertising signs (e.g. signs illuminated by spotlights and light box signs, etc.) and outdoor video walls, etc.
- (iv) Decorative lighting, including lighting for facades and features, etc.
- (v) Signs and advertising signboards on higher levels: Signage on the first floor and above of a building, including signs and advertising signboards on the top of a building. Even the shops (regardless of whether these shops are located on the ground floor or the first floor or above of a building) are still in operation, light should be switched off at the preset time.
- (vi) Non-static signs: Any non-static lighting for decorative, promotional or advertising purposes (e.g. non-static signs and video walls, etc.) should be switched off after 11 p.m.. If the non-static sign is a shop-front sign on the ground floor, and the shop concerned is still in operation at the preset time, the non-static sign should be turned to static mode after 11 p.m..

2. Preset time

- (i) 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. – Participating organisations that choose to switch off external lighting during this preset time will be awarded a Platinum Award; or
- (ii) Midnight to 7 a.m. – Participating organisations that choose to switch off external lighting during this preset time will be award a Gold Award.

3. Exempted external lighting installations

- (i) Shop-front signs of shops on the **ground floor** which remain open at the preset time: The shop-front signs should not be operated in non-static mode. If the signs are located on the first floor or above of a building, they should be switched off at the preset time even the ground floor shops are still in operation.
- (ii) Festive lightings: **Festive lightings** of decorative purpose, regardless of static or non-static, can be switched on at the preset time three weeks before the respective public holidays of Christmas, New Year and Lunar New Year until the morning of the seventh day after the holidays. However, external lighting installations of promotional or advertising purposes only should be switched off at the preset time.
- (iii) Lighting for security, safety and operational purposes (e.g. street lighting, lighting at airport and container port, construction sites, etc.): Due to safety and other operational considerations, such external lighting installations do not need to be switched off at the preset time. Hence, it is not necessary for the owners and management of such external lighting installations to sign up to the Charter. Yet, the Government encourages the organisations concerned to observe the Guidelines on Best Practices for External Lighting to minimise the nuisance caused by such lighting and the energy consumption.

