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## The ECA Short Guide Series Emergency Lighting Systems

Guide to the Design, Installation,  
 Commissioning and Maintenance of  
 Emergency Lighting Systems



£4.99

Produced in conjunction with the FSA



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a simple industry guide, and is not designed to replace any of the parts of BS 5266. The more detailed technical recommendations can be found in the actual standards. Members undertaking works on Emergency Lighting Systems should be in possession of the following British Standards:

**BS 5266-1:2005:2005**

**BS EN 1838:1999 (also numbered as BS 5266-7:1999)**

**BS EN 50172:2004 (also numbered as BS 5266-8:2004)**

**BS 7671:2008**

This document looks at the electrical installation element of these systems and offers some useful guidance and information on the use of the standards.

This document is designed to explain the use of and interpret the recommendations of the British Standards, as it applies to the individuals and organisations that carry out the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of emergency lighting installations.

Although often called emergency lighting, there are different types of emergency lighting systems and installations, which have different objectives and standards. This guide covers emergency lighting, emergency escape lighting, emergency escape route lighting, open area (often called anti-panic) lighting and high risk task area lighting.

The purpose of emergency lighting is to ensure the safety lighting is provided promptly, automatically and for a suitable time in a specified area when the normal mains power supply to the usual lighting installation fails.

The overall objective of emergency escape lighting is to enable safe exit from a location and/or building in the event of failure of the mains' normal supply.

The objective of escape route lighting is to enable the safe exit from a location or building for occupants by providing appropriate visual conditions and direction finding on escape routes and in special locations, and to ensure that fire fighting and safety equipment can be readily located and used.

The objective of open area (anti-panic) lighting is to reduce the likelihood of panic and to enable safe movement of occupants towards escape routes by providing appropriate visual conditions and direction finding.

The objective of high risk task area lighting is to contribute to the safety of people involved in a potentially dangerous process or situation and to enable proper shut down procedures to be carried out for the safety of other occupants of the location or the building.

A combination of different types of emergency lighting is likely to be needed in some buildings and a risk assessment should be carried out to identify the areas, which will require emergency lighting and the type of installation needed.

Vision varies from person to person, both in the amount of light required to perceive an object clearly and in the time taken to adapt to changes in the illuminance level. In

general, older people need more light and take longer to adapt to lower illuminance on hazard or escape routes.

Much anxiety and confusion can be alleviated by strategically placed emergency lighting luminaires and signs indicating the way out of a location or building. It is very important that exits are clearly signposted and are visible, whenever the location or building is occupied.

# 2. DEFINITIONS

It is a good idea to familiarise yourselves with some of the definitions used within the emergency lighting design, installation, commissioning and maintenance standards.

## Escape route

A route designated for escape to a place of safety in the event of an emergency.

## Emergency escape route lighting

That part of emergency escape lighting provided to ensure that the means of escape can be effectively identified and safely used at all times when the premises are occupied.

## Open area (anti-panic)

Areas of undefined escape routes in halls or premises larger than 60m<sup>2</sup> floor area or smaller areas if there is additional hazard such as use by a large number of people.

## Combined emergency luminaire

A luminaire containing two or more lamps, at least one of which is energized from the emergency lighting supply and the other(s) from the normal mains lighting supply. A combined emergency luminaire is either maintained or non-maintained.

## Emergency exit

A way out that is used during an emergency.

## Final exit

The terminal point of an escape route.

## Maintained emergency luminaire

Luminaire in which the emergency lighting lamps are energized at all times when normal lighting or emergency lighting is required.

## Non-maintained emergency luminaire

Luminaire in which the emergency lighting lamps are in operation only when the mains supply to the normal lighting fails.

### Required battery duration

Duration, in hours, of emergency operation of the battery required for the function.

### Rated duration of emergency operation

Time, in hours, as claimed by the manufacturer, that the rated emergency lumen output is provided.

### High-risk task area lighting

That part of emergency escape lighting that provides illumination for the safety of people involved in a potentially dangerous area, process or situation and to enable proper shut down procedures for the safety of the operator and other occupants of the premises.

## 3. NEED FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING

When the mains supply to the normal lighting of premises fails, emergency lighting may be required. Throughout this guide, reference to “emergency lighting” covers “emergency escape lighting” in particular, but also includes any element of standby lighting, which may be used for emergency escape lighting, and as determined by the risk assessment.

## 4. CURRENT, NEW LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Under the Management of Health and Safety At Work Regulations 1999 [7], every employer is required to carry out a risk assessment to identify the risks to people who enter the employer’s premises; the employer is required to take measures on the basis of the risk assessment to safeguard building occupants. These measures need to include the provision of safe means of escape, including, where necessary, emergency lighting, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities, in particular people with visual impairment.

Emergency lighting is covered by various pieces of legislation and regulations. The major of these are: -

- 1) **The Construction Products Directive. This is implemented by building control officers Requirements are given in Approved Document B Fire Safety (Statutory)**
- 2) **Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005 (Statutory)**
- 3) **The Signs Directive (90/664) implemented in UK by Statutory Instrument 341 (Statutory)**
- 4) **The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (Statutory)**

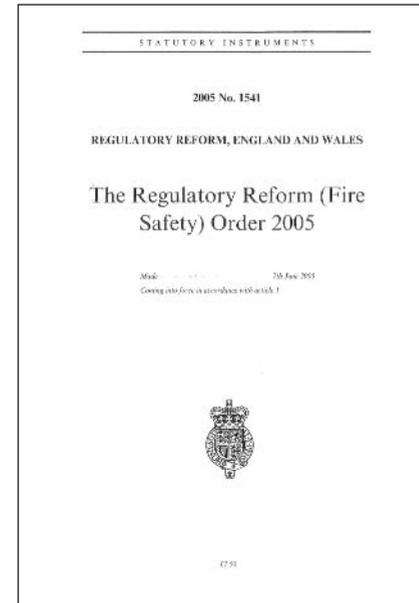


Fig 1 - Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

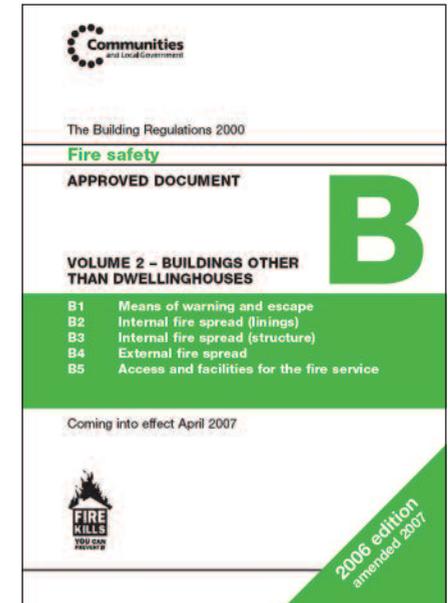


Fig 2 - Part B of the Building Regulations

These documents can be downloaded free of charge at

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051541.htm>

[http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/BR\\_App\\_Doc\\_B\\_v2.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/BR_App_Doc_B_v2.pdf)

You should ensure you are familiar with these legislative documents and regulations before undertaking any design or any work. These laws and regulations require that those who undertake work within these areas may be required to demonstrate competence.

There has been much debate on how individuals and companies can demonstrate that they are competent to carry out the maintenance of emergency lighting installations:

- 1) **Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 covers the issue of competence in Regulation 16.**
- 2) **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 covers the issue of competence in Clause 13.**

A person is to be regarded as competent where he/she has sufficient training and experience or knowledge along with additional qualities for them to assist in undertaking preventative and protective measures.



Fig 3 - Typical Exit Sign

## 5. EMERGENCY LIGHTING DESIGN

At the start of any emergency lighting design, the relevant information regarding the premises needs to be obtained either from drawings, a site survey or the building's responsible person.

### 5.1 Design checklist

The following describe a typical list of

actions, which would take place during an emergency lighting system design process.

- Examination of the risk assessment
- Duration of the emergency lighting
- Identify emergency escape routes and take account of potential hazards
- Identify the locations of fire alarm call points, fire fighting equipment and fire safety signs
- Determine type of emergency lighting system
- Means of isolation for testing and/or maintenance
- Coordination/interface with luminaire manufacturers where main luminaires are to be converted into emergency lighting luminaires
- Identify the exit sign requirements
- Identify any high risk areas
- Open areas larger than 60m<sup>2</sup> floor areas need to be identified
- Need for external illumination outside final exit doors and on a route to a place of safety.

The start of any design is to identify and agree the escape routes so the design will be engineered in accordance with EN 1838 (BS 5266-7).

Plans or layout drawings showing the layout of the building and of all existing or proposed escape routes, fire alarm call points and fire fighting equipment, and indicating the positions of all structural items which may offer obstruction to escape should be provided before commencing system design.

Consultation between the owner/developer and/or occupier of the premises, the architect, the consultant, the lighting engineer, the installation contractor, the enforcing authorities (e.g. the building control and fire authorities), and any other interested parties, should be arranged very early in the design stage.

In addition to the recommendations of the standards, it is important that the requirements of any national and/or local legislation that may apply to the premises in question are fully recognized and discussed at the early design stage. This highlights the importance for a fire risk assessment.

Fire risk assessment is the process of considering each part of a building from the point of view of what fire hazards exist within an area and what would happen if a fire or explosion were to occur. This would normally include the provision and need for emergency lighting as lighting forms an important part of any evacuation/escape strategy.

## 6. LOCATIONS

It is important that the emergency luminaires are located to give appropriate illuminance in the event of a normal lighting failure. There are several areas which would need to be considered when designing an emergency lighting system. These are:

### 6.1 Open areas

Open areas are often called anti-panic lighting. These are areas larger than 60m<sup>2</sup> floor area or may be areas identified by the fire risk assessment as requiring safety illumination.

### 6.2 Emergency exit and escape routes

Emergency exits and escape routes should be provided with signs. These should be illuminated to indicate unambiguously the route of escape to a point of safety. Where direct sight of an emergency exit is not possible, an illuminated directional sign (or series of signs) should be provided to assist progression towards the emergency exit.

Every change of direction leading to an escape door needs to be illuminated. An escape lighting luminaire (complying with EN 60598-2-22) should be sited near each exit door and at positions where it is necessary to emphasize potential danger or safety equipment.

Emergency luminaires should be mounted near the following positions or fire safety equipment:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Each exit door intended to be used in an emergency         | 6) Intersection of corridors           |
| 2) Stairs so that each flight of stairs receives direct light | 7) Outside and near to each final exit |
| 3) Change in level  | 8) First aid post                      |
| 4) Mandatory emergency exits and safety signs                 | 9) Fire fighting equipment             |
| 5) Change of direction  | 10) Fire alarm call points             |

Note: "Near" is normally considered to be within 2m measured horizontally.

Positions denoted as 8) or 9), if not on the escape route or in an open area, shall be illuminated to 5 lux minimum at floor level.

### 6.3 External areas in the immediate vicinity of exits

In order to assist dispersal to a place of safety, the external areas in the immediate vicinity of final exits should be illuminated in accordance with the illumination level for escape routes given in EN 1838 (BS 5266-7). If the area outside the building has hazards in darkness such as a riverbank or steep stairs, the fire risk assessment should determine if further emergency luminaires are needed until a place of safety can be reached. This might involve the placement of emergency lighting on the outside of a building adjacent to the final exit door. An example of this would be an external fire escape staircase from a first floor. If street lighting is available and adequate, it may be used with the agreement of the fire authority. It should, however, be remembered that the electrical supply to the local street lighting may also be affected by a local mains failure.

### 6.4 Lift cars

Lifts present a problem because the experience of being confined in the dark within a small space for an indefinite period of time is not only unpleasant, but may cause harm to those who are nervous or suffer from claustrophobia. Emergency lighting as specified for open area (anti-panic) lighting in EN 1838 (BS 5266-7) should therefore be fitted in lifts in which persons may travel. The emergency lighting can either be self contained or powered from a central or a secondary supply in which case a life safety fire protected power supply will be required in accordance with BS 9999.

### 6.5 Moving stairways and walkways

Moving stairways and walkways should be illuminated as if they were part of an escape route in the event of mains failure.

### 6.6 Toilet facilities

Toilet facilities exceeding 8 meters squared gross area should be provided with emergency lighting as if they were open areas.

Toilets for disabled use, and any multiple closet facilities without borrowed light, should have emergency illumination from at least one luminaire.

It is not necessary to provide emergency lighting in toilets designed to accommodate only a single able-bodied person or en suite toilets or bathrooms in hotel bedrooms.

### 6.7 Switch rooms and plant rooms

Emergency lighting should be provided in all motor generator rooms, control rooms, plant rooms, switch rooms and adjacent to main switchgear or control equipment associated with the provision of normal and emergency lighting to the premises.

### 6.8 Covered car parks

The pedestrian escape routes from covered and multi-storey car parks should be provided with emergency lighting.

## 7. DURATION OF BATTERY BACK-UP

The battery back-up of the emergency lighting system will depend on the use of the building and the evacuation strategy. Three-hour duration is required in places of entertainment (cinemas, theatres, etc) and for buildings that have a sleeping risk (hotels and guesthouses, etc.).

Three-hour duration is also required if evacuation is not immediate, or where early re-occupation may be required.

One-hour duration may be acceptable, in some premises, if evacuation is immediate and re-occupation is delayed until the system has recharged.

Emergency luminaires of the maintained type should be used in public areas where the normal lighting may be dimmed and in common areas where a build-up of smoke could reduce the effectiveness of normal lighting. Maintained lighting that combines both emergency and normal lighting functions may also be desirable for aesthetic or economic reasons.

The battery back-up for the emergency lighting system should be determined by the fire risk assessment for the building.

The exit signs always need to be illuminated and be visible at all times when the premises are occupied. Because of the difficulties of ensuring that the normal lighting will adequately achieve this, maintained exit signs are required in licensed and entertainment venues. Maintained exit signs should be used in any premises which are used by people who are unfamiliar with its layout.

## 8. LUMINANCE LEVELS

The level of illuminance required depends on the function of an area. The stimulus for vision is not the light, which falls on objects, but the light reflected to the eyes. Different objects are distinguished by contrast, and the changes in light reflected to the eyes. A light coloured object on a dark background can be made conspicuous with far less light than a dark coloured object on a dark background.

The amount of light falling on an object (illuminance) is affected not merely by the power and position of the lamps used for illumination but also by reflection from the surroundings. In many interior spaces, a high proportion of the light falling on any surface comes from the reflected light. Where the walls, floor and ceiling are light in colour. Up to 60 % of the illuminance at floor level may be reflected from the walls or ceiling.

In a room where the decorative finishes are dark in colour (i.e. have low reflectance), the contribution of reflected light to the illuminance is much smaller. The reflected light may be negligible in, say, a discotheque or restaurant, where the carpets, walls and ceiling have been deliberately kept dark in colour to produce a feeling of intimacy and relaxation.

All potential obstructions or hazards on an escape route should be light in colour with contrasting surround. Such hazards include the edges of stair treads, barriers and walls at right angles to the direction of movement.

In restricted spaces such as corridors, light coloured decoration throughout is an advantage. Prominent edges to vertical surfaces at changes of direction can assist emergency evacuation.

The recommended illuminance levels that are given as a minimum or average should be regarded as the lowest value acceptable during the rated duration, taking into account the effects of reduction in voltage, voltage drop in the system wiring, battery ageing, lamp ageing and the accumulation of dirt and dust.

Calculations of illuminance, except where up-lighting is used, should be made ignoring reflectance.

For escape routes up to 2m in width, the horizontal illuminance on the floor along the centreline of an escape route shall be not less than 1 lux and the central band consisting of not less than half of the width of the route shall be illuminated to a minimum of 50 % of that value (0.5 lux). Wider escape routes can be treated as a number of 2m wide strips or be provided with open area (anti-panic) lighting. The UK does have a national deviation to the European Standard stating that a value of not less than 0.2 lux is acceptable on the centre band of an escape route. But this value should only be used if the escape route is permanently unobstructed.

In open area (anti-panic) lighting, the horizontal illuminance shall be not less than 0.5 lux at the floor level of the empty core area which excludes a border of 0.5m of the perimeter of the area.

In areas of high risk, the emergency maintained illuminance on the plane of work (reference plane) shall be not less than 10% of the normal required illuminance for that task. As a minimum, it should not be less than 15 lux and shall be free of harmful stroboscopic effects.

The uniformity of the high-risk task area lighting illuminance needs to be maintained across the area.

## 9. PRODUCT CONFORMITY

It is important that all emergency luminaires are engineered to the correct standard. This is especially important when retro fitting battery packs to existing luminaires. The European emergency lighting product standards, EN 60598-2-22, EN 60924 and EN 60925 cover most points of safety and performance for emergency luminaires and conversion modules. Emergency lighting luminaires used on escape routes are required to be fire retardant (850°C glow wire tested). Luminaires can be registered for product compliance through the ICEL Product Registration Scheme which assures compliance with this requirement. It also assures the user that the products have been certified to EN 60598-2-22:1999 and are manufactured within a facility operating a scheme of quality assurance approved to BS EN ISO 9001 or BS EN ISO 9002.

## 10. SPACING TABLES

How you achieve the required illuminance levels is dependent on the position and orientation of the luminaires. Spacing tables provide the information to help you decide whether or not additional luminaires are needed besides those required for the points of emphasis. Most luminaires have been independently tested to prove their photometric performance and the tables generated have been third-party inspected. The manufacturers construct tables for use by designers and installers.

The tables show the distance from the wall or door to the first fitting and then the distance that must not be exceeded for spacing between subsequent luminaires. This is shown for the fittings being mounted either parallel to the route (Axial) or at right angles to the route (Transverse) for different mounting heights.

In addition to values for escape routes, figures are also given for the coverage of open areas by regular arrays of luminaires.

### Photometric table for an 8 watt non-maintained luminaire

Ceiling mounting height Meters	Escape Routes 1 lux along the centre line				Open areas 0.5 lux minimum in the central core			
	Transverse to wall	Transverse to Transverse	Axial to Axial	Axial to wall	Transverse to wall	Transverse to Transverse	Axial to Axial	Axial to wall
2.5 m	3.9m	11.3m	4.0m	2.0m	4.0m	12.0m	6.0m	1.9m
4 m	2.1m	9.6m	5.6m	1.2m	3.3m	14.8m	7.2m	1.9m
6 m	-	-	-	-	1.6m	12.4m	7.4m	0.8m

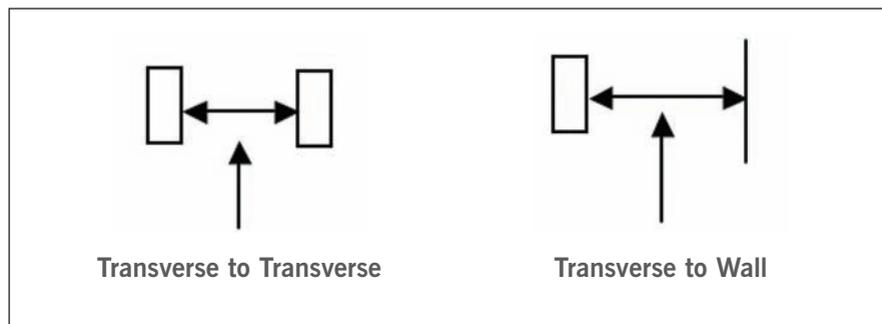


Fig 4 - Transverse mounting positions

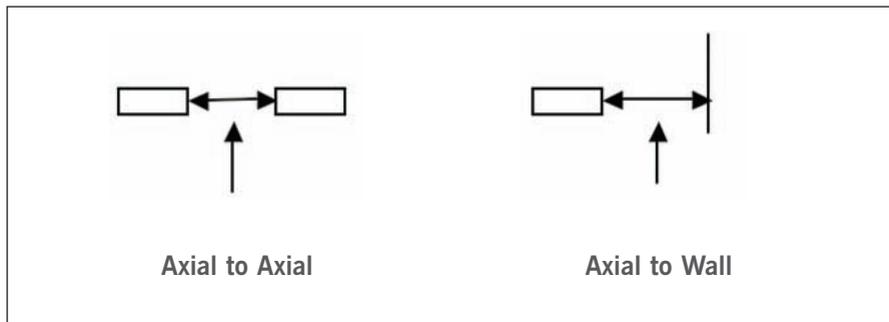


Fig 5 - Axial mounting positions

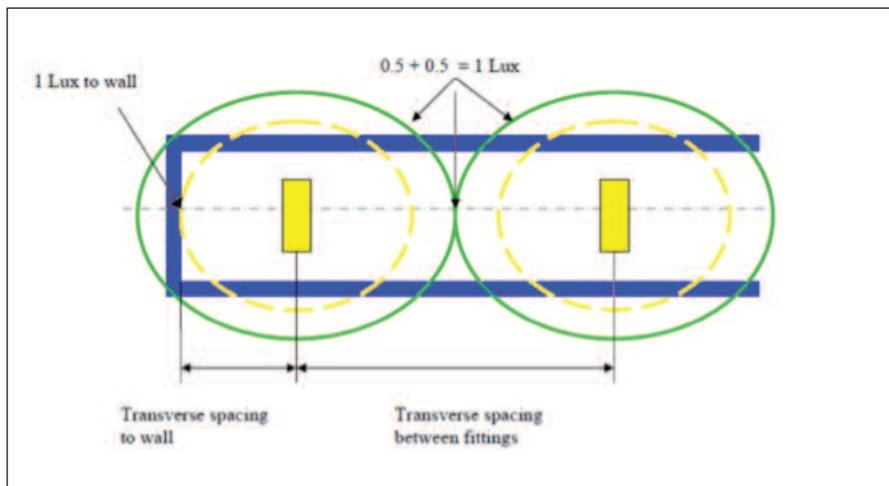


Fig 6 - Lux levels on an escape route

## 11. LIGHTING AN ESCAPE ROUTE

When designing the lighting for an emergency escape route, care needs to be taken on the placement of luminaires so that there is an even distribution of illuminance throughout the escape route. When placing luminaires near stairs or any other change of level, the luminaires must be located so each tread receives direct light.

Generally at least two luminaires will be needed to provide the 1 lux minimum level on the centre of each tread (even designs to the older standard of 0.2 lux needed the higher level on the treads unless contrasting colour stair nosing were fitted). The spacing from luminaire 1 to luminaire 2 shown in figure 7 is reduced as their mounting height is being reduced as the point's illuminated rise up the stairs so the cosine correction factor reduces the light.

Although the angle of correction improves in comparison with the floor level as the treads descend, at some point the effect of increased distance from the luminaire will outweigh this. Other changes of level that can cause tripping hazards in low light levels must also be illuminated.

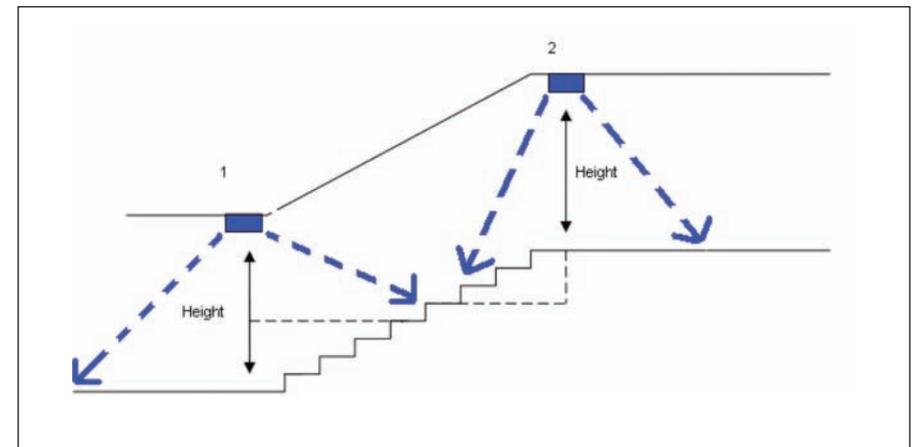


Fig 7 - Mounting positions on a staircase

Figure 8 shows the area that needs to be covered for open area lighting. As you can see, the centre core is illuminated to a level of 0.5 lux. This excludes the area 0.5m away from the walls indicated by the dotted line.

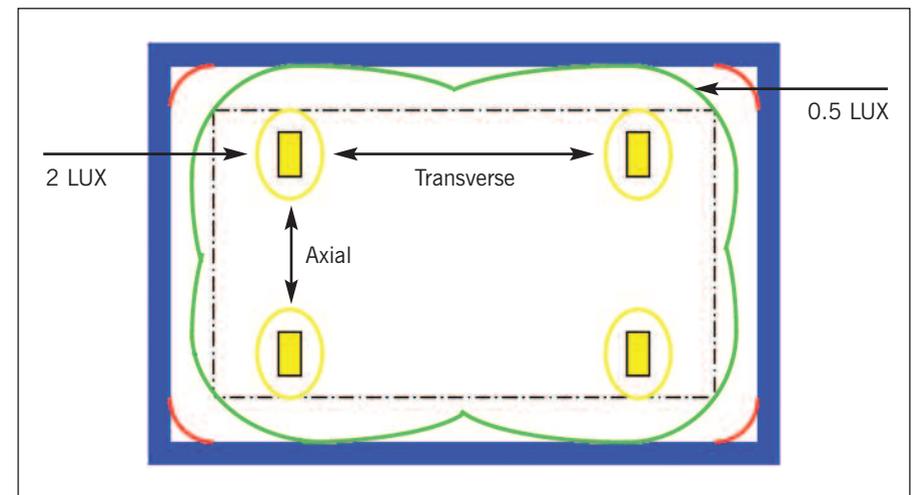


Fig 8 - Mounting positions for open area lighting

## 12. EXIT SIGNS

The format of emergency exit signs has changed over the years. Below are the three most common signs that you will see in use today. The current one has just a pictogram and no wording. This design of sign has been a legal requirement since 1st April 1996. Although the older BS 5499 designs are still acceptable, it is not allowed to mix the different designs



*Old exit sign format to BS 2560 These signs should all have been replaced by the 24th of December 1998, but some are still in existence.*



*BS 5499 -1 format has the addition of a running man pictogram and was an interim move towards the full pictogram sign. This is classed as being acceptable on existing buildings provided the meaning is still clear.*



*Signs Directive Format the European and British legislative requirement with a full pictogram only. This is now the UK norm and should be used.*

## 13. INSTALLATION

The installation of emergency lighting should only be carried out by persons who are competent in the installation of electrical wiring systems in accordance with BS 7671. Although emergency lighting can be installed after the main electrical work is complete, for example, converting a building's use from domestic premises not needing emergency lighting, to office space that would require emergency lighting, it is normal for the emergency lighting to be installed at the same time as the general electrical services installation.

## 14. WIRING SYSTEMS FOR CENTRAL POWER SYSTEMS

The importance and the reliability of a central power emergency lighting system requires a high standard of wiring system. Cables or cabling systems used for central power emergency lighting installations should adequately resist the effects of fire and mechanical

damage. This should be achieved either through the use of cables or cabling systems with an inherently high resistance to the effects of fire (fire rated cable) and mechanical damage.

Cables or cable systems should be installed through areas of low fire risk wherever practicable. A minimum survival time of 60 minutes is recommended for cables that supply luminaries from central power supplies. It may be possible to reduce the degree of fire protection of cables or cable systems where they follow routes of very low fire risk and such areas also contain a sprinkler installation. The same fire resistance rating that applies to the cables should also apply to the fixings/support of the cables.

The main protective device and any isolators controlling the supply to the central battery should be clearly labelled "EMERGENCY LIGHTING", "EMERGENCY ESCAPE LIGHTING" or "STANDBY LIGHTING" as appropriate, and the marking should indicate its use. Similarly all joints should also be labelled.

## 15. EMERGENCY LIGHTING TEST SWITCHES

Every emergency lighting system will need to have a suitable means for simulating failure of the normal supply for testing and maintenance purposes. This is normally achieved by the use of key switches. These should be able to be operated by the user/owner of the system so that they can carry out weekly tests of the system. The use of a miniature circuit breaker (mcb) or fuse which isolates the whole lighting circuit is not acceptable as this could introduce a risk of injury when the emergency lights are being tested.

## 16. COMMISSIONING & HANDOVER

When commissioning and handing over an emergency lighting system there are a number of certificates that need to be produced. These are:

- Design certificate
- Installation certificate
- Completion certificate
- BS 7671 Electrical installation certificate

The design and installation certificates may be produced and signed by different people as the design might be done by one company and the installation by another.

The person responsible for commissioning the system will need to have copies of both the design and installation to enable them to verify that the design and installation is compliant with the standard. In addition to the emergency lighting certificates, a BS 7671 installation certificate is required to confirm that the wiring meets the requirements of BS 7671.

It is important that during the handover of the emergency lighting system the end user is informed of the correct method of carrying out short duration tests and is made aware of their responsibilities.

Note: For ECA members, these certificates and log books are available as free downloads from the ECA website.

A log book should be provided to the end user so that a record of the system can be maintained. The information in the log book can prove to be invaluable to the maintenance company when it comes to identifying problems with the system.

Fig 9 - Completion Certificate

Fig 10 - Installation Certificate

- Are up-to-date drawings available and correct?
- Are routine tests completed according to the requirements in BS 5266?

### EMERGENCY LUMINAIRES AND ESCAPE ROUTE SIGNS

- Are the fittings supplied with the correct operating voltage?
- Are the fittings cleaned and sited in their correct operating environment, e.g. for temperature and IP rating?
- Do the luminaires operate in the correct mode, e.g. maintained for sleeping accommodation?
- Do the luminaires operate for the required emergency duration? 1 or 3 hour
- Are there signs that clearly show the emergency escape route from any position within the premises?
- Are all exits marked and directions of travel indicated?
- Are the signs illuminated internally or from an external source when the normal lighting supply fails?
- Is the size of each sign correct for the viewing distances?
- Do the sign legends comply with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations (i.e. running man style)?
- Are the luminaires positioned at all points of emphasis?
- Are the luminaires positioned along the escape routes at the correct spacing to ensure that the required illuminance levels are achieved?
- Are the luminaires positioned in open areas (anti-panic areas) at the correct spacing to ensure that the minimum illuminance level is achieved?
- Are the non-maintained luminaires fed from the same final circuits as the local lighting?
- Are there at least two luminaires in each “lighting compartment” to ensure that the area is not plunged into darkness if a luminaire fails?
- Are additional luminaires provided in lift cars, escalators, toilets, etc?
- Are hazardous areas illuminated at 10% of normal illuminance?

### CENTRAL BATTERY SYSTEMS

- Does the central battery system comply with EN 50171 and BS 7671?
- Is the battery charger functioning?
- Where applicable, are the battery electrolyte levels and specific gravities satisfactory?

### SELF-CONTAINED EMERGENCY LUMINAIRES AND SIGNS

- Are the batteries being charged (LED – on)?
- Are the luminaires marked with a BS mark to show compliance with all relevant product standards for escape routes?

## 17. MAINTENANCE

It is essential that servicing and maintenance of emergency lighting systems is carried out at regular intervals to ensure that the system remains in a fully operational condition.

This would normally be performed as part of the periodic testing routine, but for consumable items, such as replacement lamps, spares should be provided for immediate use.

It is advisable to have in place a service and maintenance contract with a competent person or company, not only for routine inspection, but also for emergency repairs and alterations.

### 17.1 Checklist for assessing an existing installation

#### RECORDS

- Is there a log book?
- Are the entries made in the log book correct?

Because of the possibility of a failure of the normal lighting supply occurring shortly after a period of testing of the emergency lighting system or during the subsequent recharge period, all full duration tests shall, wherever possible, be undertaken preceding time of low risk to allow for battery recharge. For example, during the day or out of normal working hours. Alternatively, suitable temporary arrangements shall be made until the batteries have been recharged.

### 17.2 Daily

Indicators of central power supply shall be visually inspected for correct operation. Also combined fittings should be checked for the charge light.

This is a visual inspection of indicators to identify that the system is in a ready condition and does not require a test of operation.

### 17.3 Monthly

If automatic testing devices are used, the results of the short duration tests still need to be recorded.

A typical test schedule is as follows:

- Switch on the emergency mode of each luminaire and each internally illuminated exit sign from its battery by simulation of a failure of the supply to the normal lighting for a period sufficient to ensure that each lamp is illuminated.
- During this period, all luminaires and signs shall be checked to ensure that they are present, clean and functioning correctly.
- At the end of this test period, the supply to the normal lighting should be restored and any indicator lamp or device checked to ensure that it is showing that the normal supply has been restored.

In addition to the above, for central battery systems, the correct operation of system monitors shall need to be checked.

### 17.4 Annually

If automatic testing devices are used, the results of the full rated duration test still need to be recorded.

As well as the test carried out during a monthly test, the following additional tests need to be done:

- Each luminaire and internally illuminated sign shall be tested for its full rated duration in accordance with the manufacturer's information
- The supply of the normal lighting shall be restored and any indicator lamp or device checked to ensure that it is showing that normal supply has been restored. The charging arrangements should be checked for proper functioning
- The date of the test and its results shall be recorded in the system logbook.

## 18. FSA TRAINING COURSES

Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) Education & Training is the FSA's training provider of accredited training courses for the design, commissioning, installation and maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems and emergency lighting.

**A comprehensive modular training programme has recently been launched, in partnership with the Fire Protection Association (FPA), designed to meet the needs and competency requirements of FSA members and the industry.**

### THREE TRAINING PATHWAYS ARE AVAILABLE:

#### Emergency Lighting

#### Fire Detection & Alarm Systems for the Workplace

#### Fire Detection & Alarm Systems for Dwellings

For details: Download a brochure from [www.eca.co.uk/courses](http://www.eca.co.uk/courses) or phone ECA Education and Training, short course division, on 0845 872 5361.

## 19. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q Do I have to install emergency lights in toilets?

A Yes, all toilets without any natural light and greater than 8m<sup>2</sup> need emergency lighting.

### Q Do emergency lights need a test key? Can't I just use the MCB or fuse?

A A test switch is required; either a secret key type or a dedicated switch which will isolate the supply to the emergency lights, but not the normal lighting as this might introduce a risk when carrying out periodic inspections.

### Q Would any emergency lighting modifications to any existing emergency lighting circuits within an existing building, installed to an earlier standard, result in the whole building having to be brought up to the new standard? Or would it just be individual circuits and associated equipment that need to be brought up to the latest standard?

A The whole building has to be brought up to the new safety standard, so taking action in one area is not enough.

### Q Is there a recommendation in BS 5266-1 on how often the batteries in emergency luminaires need changing?

A There is no hard and fast recommendation. BS 5266-1:2005, 6.3.4, defines that the required minimum illuminance should be provided during the rated duration.

If this is not achieved, the batteries should be changed so that the system can provide the original required duration. For self-contained luminaires, if this failure period is less than 4 years, the luminaire should be investigated to ensure that the battery is being properly charged, and that the luminaire is not sited in a location outside of its temperature limits. Too high an ambient temperature will cause short battery life; too low a temperature will reduce the capacity available to meet the discharge period.

**Q Can emergency lighting luminaires be fed from their own circuit off a distribution board?**

A No the emergency lights must be fed from the local lighting circuit

**Q Do you need to fit an emergency light outside the final exit door of an escape route?**

A Yes if there is not enough natural illuminance for people to safely exit away from the building.

**Q Can I use a non maintained exit sign in a cinema or theatre?**

A No all exits signs need to be of the maintained type to ensure people are not confused in the case of the normal lighting failing.

**Q What size of battery do I need?**

A The sizing of the batteries needs to take into account the battery duration of the system. Not all systems require a 3 hour battery duration some buildings will only need a 1 hour battery duration. So the batteries may be smaller

**Q What are the emergency lighting requirements in a normal open plan office?**

A The requirement for emergency lights would be part of the fire risk assessment. But an illuminance level of 0.5 Lux is deemed acceptable for open plan offices

**Q Can use normal luminaires as emergency luminaires?**

A It is possible to fit battery packs to normal luminaires and in effect make them emergency luminaires. Care should be taken to ensure that the fitting meets the relevant product standards

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