

# No BS Fact Sheet No. 19

## Everything you needed to know about Emergency Lighting BUT were too afraid to ask!!

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRFSO) 2005, which came into force in October 2006, charges the responsible person in control of non-domestic premises and the common areas of a House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) with the safety of everyone in the building, whether working, visiting or living there.

This duty of care includes the provision of emergency lighting. Article 14 (2) (h) of the RRFSO states:

**“Emergency routes and exits requiring illumination must be provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity in the case of failure of their normal lighting”.**

### Sanjay Says

“The legal requirement is that non-domestic buildings must be safe at all times, even if mains power failure occurs. Therefore, nearly all such buildings must have emergency lighting fitted”.

- The primary purpose of emergency lighting (or emergency escape lighting) is to illuminate escape routes.
- It is also provided to illuminate signs and other safety equipment.
- The size and type of your premises and the risk to the occupants will determine the complexity of the emergency lighting required.
- In larger more complex premises a comprehensive system of fixed automatic escape lighting is likely to be needed.
- This will be particularly true in premises where there are significant numbers of staff or members of the public.

### An emergency lighting system should normally cover the following:

1. Each exit door
2. Escape routes
3. Intersections of corridors
4. Outside each final exit and on external escape routes
5. Emergency escape signs
6. Stairways so that each flight receives adequate light
7. Changes in floor level

8. Windowless rooms and toilet accommodation exceeding 8m<sup>2</sup>
9. Fire-fighting equipment
10. Fire alarm call points
11. Equipment that would need to be shut down in an emergency
12. Lifts
13. Rooms greater than 60m<sup>2</sup>

- It is not necessary to provide individual lights (luminaries) for each item above, but there should be a sufficient level of light overall to allow them to be visible and usable.
- Emergency lighting can be ‘maintained’, i.e. on all the time, or ‘non-maintained’, i.e. normally off and only operates when the normal lighting fails.
- Emergency lights should operate for one, two or three hours, depending on the application but in practice most emergency lights are three hour. Emergency lights will also provide for some use in the premises during a power failure other than in an emergency situation.
- Self-contained emergency lights with the battery and charger built into the light fitting are commonly used. In large buildings central systems may be used where the batteries and charger are remote from the light fittings.

- There should be a simple method of testing the emergency lights without interfering with the normal lighting from the consumer unit (see image below):



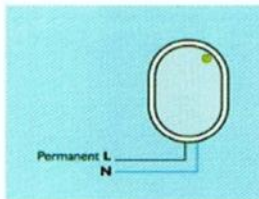
CALL ME!



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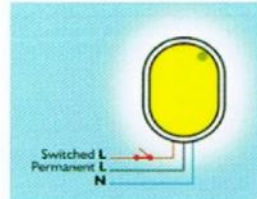
## Everything you needed to know about Emergency Lighting BUT were too afraid to ask!!

### Your Quick Guide to Non-Maintained and Maintained Emergency Lighting



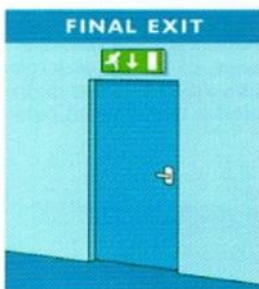
#### Non Maintained

The lighting only operates when the normal mains supply fails (emergency lighting only).

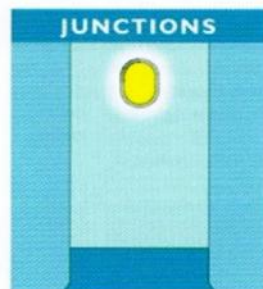


#### Maintained

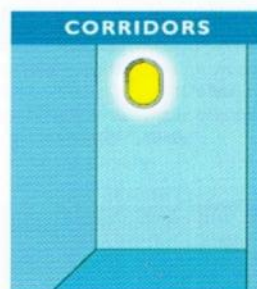
The lighting operates normally and continues to operate when the normal mains supply fails (mains and emergency lighting)



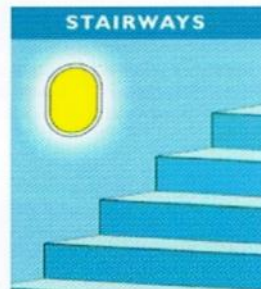
To provide illumination of escape routes.



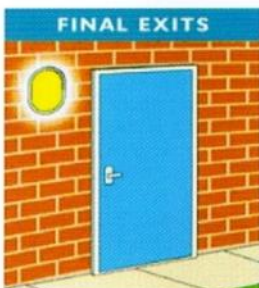
Install within 2 metres of escape route junctions.



Install within 2 metres horizontal distance of a change of direction in an escape route.



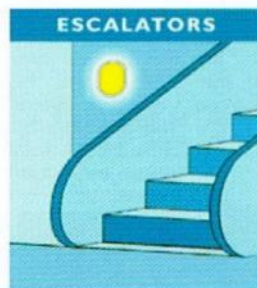
Install within 2 metres horizontal distance of change in floor level or stairs (each tread to receive direct light).



Install externally within 2 metres horizontal distance of any final exits. Please note that sufficient light will be needed to muster a roll call.



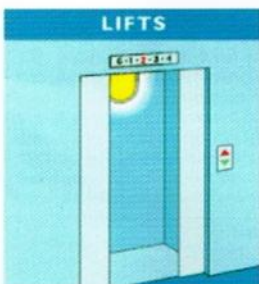
Fire alarms, first aid points and fire-fighting equipment, install within 2 metres horizontal distance.



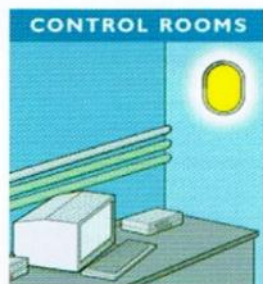
Should not be used as an escape route, but requires the same illumination to protect users on it when the supply fails.



Install in all toilets exceeding 8m<sup>2</sup> area or where natural light is not present.



To provide emergency illuminations in all lifts.



Motor generator, control and plant rooms for essential and safety services.



Open rooms either with a particular hazard, an escape route passing through or larger than 60m<sup>2</sup>.



Areas of high risk should be illuminated to 10% of normal lighting or 15 lux, whichever is greater.

