

Chapter 8: Emergency lighting

8.1 Legislation and standards

Emergency lighting is a legal requirement in almost all premises. Details of emergency lighting systems can be found in SLL Lighting Guide 12: *Emergency lighting design guide*.

When the normal mains lighting fails in areas without natural light it is necessary to evacuate the premises, to move people to a place of safety or to allow essential processes to continue or be shut down. During this period, emergency lighting should be provided from a source independent of that supplying the normal lighting.

A number of European Union Directives have implications for emergency lighting. They are:

- The Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC)
- The Workplace Directive (89/654/EEC)
- The Signs Directive (92/58/EEC).

These Directives have been implemented into UK law. For emergency lighting, this has been achieved through the Building Regulations: Approved Document B in England and Wales, the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations and associated Technical Standards for Scotland and the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and Technical Booklet E for Northern Ireland, the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations and the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations.

In addition, the responsibility for ensuring safety in fire has now been shifted by the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, from the fire authorities to any person who exercises some level of control over premises. This person is required to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of fire and to ensure that occupants can safely escape if a fire does occur. To meet these obligations, it is necessary to carry out a risk assessment, create and implement a plan to deal with an emergency and to document the findings. Guidance is available from BS 5266-10: 2008.

As well as these legal requirements for emergency lighting, standards govern both equipment design and performance and the design of emergency lighting systems. BS EN 60598 is the standard covering all types of luminaires. Part 2.22 covers emergency lighting luminaires. BS 5499 covers the colours, design and layout of emergency signs and is based on the international standards ISO 3864 and 6309. There are numerous product standards covering lamps and individual components of luminaires. BS 5266 covers design of emergency lighting systems as well as some specific equipment. It consists of the following Parts:

- BS 5266-1: *Code of practice for the emergency lighting of premises*
- BS 5266-2: *Code of practice for electrical low mounted way guidance systems for emergency use*
- BS 5266-3: *Specification for small power relays (electromagnetic) for emergency lighting applications up to and including 32 A*
- BS 5266-4: *Code of practice for design, installation, maintenance and use of optical fibre systems*
- BS 5266-5: *Specification for component parts of optical fibre systems*