

2.2.1.1 Interiors without supplementary electric lighting during daytime

If electric lighting is not normally to be used during daytime hours, the average daylight factor should be not less than 5 per cent.

The internal reflectances and the positions of windows should be such that inter-reflected lighting in the space is strong and even. When the shape of the room causes the distribution of daylight to be very uneven (such as when a large area lies behind the no-sky line – see section 3.1.1, Initial appraisal of daylight quantity), supplementary electric lighting may still be necessary.

2.2.1.2 Interiors with supplementary electric lighting during daytime

If electric lighting is to be used during daytime, the average daylight factor should be not less than 2 per cent.

In a room where the average daylight factor is significantly less than 2 per cent, the general appearance is of an electrically lit interior. Daylight will be noticeable only on room surfaces immediately adjacent to windows, although the windows may still provide adequate views out for occupants in the room.

2.2.2 Daylight for task illumination

Where daylight alone provides the illumination for a visual task, the illuminance should not fall below that given in the Lighting schedule (section 2.5). The uniformity of illuminance within the immediate task area should be similar to that acceptable with electric lighting (see section 2.3.3, Illuminance variation), although there may be differences in the level of daylight in different parts of an interior.

2.3 Recommendations for electric lighting with daylighting

The two distinct functions of electric lighting used in conjunction with daylight are to enhance the general room brightness and to supplement the daylight illuminance on visual tasks (see sections 3.8.1.4, Conventional switching, and 3.8.1.5, Photo-electric control).

Where there is a significant amount of daylight (an average daylight factor of 2 per cent or more), electric lighting may be required to reduce the contrast between internal surfaces and the external view. It needs to fall on the walls and other surroundings of the window opening. The brighter the view, the higher the luminance required of the surfaces surrounding the window. Electric lighting may also be required to increase the general illumination of parts of the room distant from a window. If this is the case, the average working plane illuminance from electric lighting in the poorly daylighted areas should not be less than 300 lux. If a lower illuminance is used, in circulation areas for example, there may be noticeable contrast between areas near windows and other parts of the room, with a corresponding impression of harshness or gloominess.