

Emergency Escape Lighting & Signs (What is Required?)

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires that the ‘‘general fire precautions’’ include measures for securing that, at all times, the means of escape can be safely and effectively used.

These measures were often described as the ‘‘supporting provisions’’ for means of escape, and they included emergency escape lighting and escape signage; the situation under the fire Safety Order requires this must be observed.

Article 14 of the FSO is more specific. When necessary in order to safeguard the safety of relevant persons, emergency routes and exits requiring illumination must be provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity in the case of failure of their normal lighting.

Safety signs are required by legislation to identify and locate escape routes, first aid, fire fighting and emergency equipment provided as appropriate to meet the firm’s contingency plan.

All safety signs must maintain their intrinsic features in the event of an emergency or power failure. In order for safety signs to be effective they have to be seen and obvious to everyone. The Health & Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations asks for consideration to be given to both reflective and photoluminescent signs that are of certified performance in characteristics where required.

Both the Management of Health & Safety Regulations and Fire Safety Regulations require fire safety signs to be conspicuous and adequately illuminated under power loss conditions. Photoluminescent signs totally satisfy these requirements and are a cost effective alternative to providing more emergency lights, above all your signs and emergency equipment.