



Essential Emergency Lighting Guidelines for Safety and Compliance

Emergency lighting is a critical safety feature in any commercial or public building. In the event of a power outage or emergency, these lights provide illumination to help people safely find exits and navigate corridors or stairs.

In this guide, you'll learn how to stay compliant and safe with emergency lighting systems:

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Where Is Emergency Lighting Needed?

Emergency lighting is required along all egress paths. It is also required in equipment rooms, public restrooms, and other life-safety areas.



Reminder: Any exit path or occupied area must be lit during power loss.

Legal Requirements and Building Code Standards

- **Brightness:** =1 foot-candle avg, =0.1 at any point
- **Duration:** =90 minutes
- **Activation:** =10 seconds
- **Power Source:** Battery/inverter/generator
- **Certification:** UL 924

Wiring and Installation

Emergency lights must be hardwired to the building's system and function automatically during outages. Battery backups charge while power is available.

Inspection and Maintenance

- 30-second test every 30 days
- 90-minute test once per year
- Written test records required

Exit Signs and Daylight Requirements

Photoluminescent signs are allowed if ambient light meets code. They must stay visible during outages just like internally lit signs.

Types of Fixtures

- Standard LED two-head
- Combo units
- Recessed lights
- Outdoor/wet location
- Remote heads

Local Code Variations

Localities like NYC and Chicago may require special specs for signage and emergency lighting. Always consult your AHJ.

Energy Efficiency Features

Modern systems use motion sensors, dimming, and LEDs to reduce cost while staying compliant. Self-testing saves time.



Additional Considerations

- Use self-contained batteries for small installs
- Use inverter or generator systems for large facilities
- Verify UL 924 compliance on all units

Summary

To stay compliant and safe, follow these 5 steps:

1. Mark all required areas
2. Use code-compliant fixtures
3. Install correctly
4. Test and log regularly
5. Verify with local authorities

Explore [emergency lights](#) and [battery backup lighting](#) options to stay compliant.