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CBC & IBC Section 1011: Exit Signs

cbc 2010 1011.4 Internally illuminated exit signs. Electrically powered, self-luminous and photoluminescent exit signs shall be listed and labeled in accordance with ul 924 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and chapter 27. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times. (See CSFM Interpretation) Shall be illuminated at all times while the building is occupied.

2009 IBC 1011.4 Internally illuminated exit signs. Electrically powered, self-luminous and photoluminescent exit signs shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 924 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapter 27. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times.

2012 IBC 1011.3 Illumination. Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated.
Exception: Tactile signs required by Section 1011.4 need not be provided with illumination.

1011.5 Internally illuminated exit signs Electrically powered, self-luminous and photoluminescent exit signs shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 924 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapter 27. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times.

CheckList for Photoluminescent Exit Signs

- The faces of the exit signs see at least 5 foot-candles of light from an artificial 'charging light source' – typically fluorescent. With popular lighting fixtures, this usually means the signs need to be within 6-10 feet of the charging light source.
- The charging light source is illuminated [irrespective of timers & sensors] during building occupancy and not controlled by unauthorized personnel. [However, no charging light source is needed during emergency conditions.]
- The exit signs are listed to Underwriters Laboratories UL-924 standard and located in accordance with their rated 'viewing distance'. Therefore, exit signs with a viewing distance of 75 ft [i.e. Active Safety Series 2002] are located 150 feet apart.
- The exit signs are not located completely outdoors. Good locations are rooms, hallways, corridors, stairways, lobbies, covered exterior corridors, and parking garages.
- There is adequate contrast between the exit sign face and the background.
- Groups A, E, I and R1, R2 require low level exit signs or pathway markers.

Design tip: Layout photoluminescent exit signs first and then position lighting accordingly.

BEST APPLICATIONS: Hotels, condos, schools, retail, offices, military, airports, hospitals, factories, prisons, parking garages, etc.

Note: These are only general guidelines. For specific project applications, please consult codes, and local building & fire inspection authorities. Call or email Active Safety for more information. For Active Safety contact information visit: www.activesafety.com.

2010 California Building Code Simplified Exit Sign & Path Marking Guidelines [March 2010 update]

Occupancy Group	High Level Exit Signs	Low Level Exit Signs	Path Marking
Group A – Assembly A1 – theaters, concert halls A2 – restaurants, bars, banquet facilities A3 – Churches, libraries, museums. A4 – pools, tennis courts A5 – amusement parks, stadiums [see CBC Section 411.7]	YES Exceptions: -1- Main Lobby Exits -2- areas w/one exit only -3- A3, A5 seating rows	YES - Only in interior corridors Exceptions: -1- bldgs w/fire sprinkler system	YES - Only in interior corridors Exceptions: -1- bldgs w/fire sprinkler system
Group B – Business Offices, clinic/labs, banks, College/University offices, class areas	YES	NO	NO
Group E – Educational K-12 areas w/>6 persons Daycare > 6 children.	YES	YES Exceptions: -1- classrooms w/direct exits	NO
Group F - Factory/Industrial	YES	NO	NO
Group H – Hazardous	YES	NO	NO
Group I – Institutional I2 – hospitals, nursing homes, detox cntrs I3 – jails, prisons I4 – day care facilities	YES Exceptions: -1- I3 holding rooms & cells	YES Exceptions: -1- occupancies w/smoke barriers -2- I3 occupancies	NO
Group M – Mercantile Stores, Markets, Gas Stations & Shopping Centers	YES	NO	NO
Group R – Residential R1 - Hotels, Motels R2 - Apts, Condos, Dorms, Timeshare R2.1 – Elderly care homes, halfway houses R3 - Single Family Dwellings R3.1 - Group Care Homes < 6 R4 – Group Care Homes > 6	YES Exceptions: -1- sleeping/dwelling units -2- all R3, R3.1	NO Exceptions: -1- R1 interior corridors -1- R2.1 interior corridors w/o smoke barriers.	YES – only in interior corridors Exceptions: -1- R2.1, R3, R3.1, R4
Group S – Storage Hangers, parking garages	YES	NO	NO
Group U – Utility Barns, carports, sheds, greenhouses	NO	NO	NO

NOTICE TO USERS OF THIS INFORMATION. Codes and Standards change regularly and Active Safety advises the user of this document to independently verify that the information provided is current. Active Safety will not accept any responsibility for errors or changes to this information. Check with your local Authority Having Jurisdiction for the most up-to-date information. For Military applications, see Unified Facilities Criteria.