



EMERGENCY LIGHT TESTING



Is emergency lighting testing a legal requirement?

Emergency lighting is required in premises to enable occupants to escape safely in an emergency situation. BS 5266-1 states that a building must have adequate illumination to support escape and identify firefighting equipment (or any other fire safety equipment).

In the UK, is a legal requirement under both Building Regulations and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, that all business premises including offices, factories, pubs and clubs, schools, hospitals and entertainment venues – including tents and marquees – are provided with emergency escape lighting. (Standby lighting which is designed to support ongoing activities in the event of a power failure is not a legal requirement).

The latest British Standard recommends that you have at least a 3 hour emergency lighting test once a year, during which your main light circuit should be switched off and your emergency lights left on for a 3 hour period to find out if any batteries need replacing.

what emergency lighting should my building have?

UK fire safety legislation states that emergency lighting is required in buildings to provide light if normal lighting fails during a fire.

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Emergency escape lighting provides illumination for people who need to exit a building in an emergency, such as a fire or a power cut. This also incorporates escape route lighting. This lighting ensures that the means of escape for occupants of a building can be clearly identified and used in an emergency. Having this lighting in place is part of the fire safety provision of a building and a requirement of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

High risk task area lighting provides light for the safety of people involved in potentially dangerous processes. This lighting enables proper shut-down procedures to be followed for the safety of the operator and other occupants of a building.

Standby lighting enables normal activities within in building to continue in the event of a mains power failure. Standby lighting is not a legal requirement but is a facility that some buildings may need depending on the use and occupancy of the premises. You need emergency lighting in areas that could be considered “dangerous” such as commercial kitchens or plant rooms. If your building has rooms larger than 60 square metres, then emergency lighting is recommended.

How long do emergency lights need to stay on?

This depends on the size and complexity of your building and the time it would take to evacuate. The minimum duration for an emergency escape lighting system is one hour. One hour’s duration should only be used if the premises are evacuated immediately on power supply failure and it is not reoccupied until full capacity has been restored to the batteries.

A minimum duration of 3 hours should be used for emergency escape lighting if the premises are not evacuated immediately. The 3 hour time frame allows the fire brigade time to work in the event of a fire after all of the building’s occupants have been safely evacuated.



How often should my emergency lighting system be tested?

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Your emergency lighting needs to be checked **monthly** and at least **annually**.

Every month you need to switch off the mains power supply to the emergency lighting unit. Often, a separate switch with a 'fish key' is installed allowing the testing of emergency lights without having to switch off all the power. Once the mains supply is off you need to walk past all the emergency lights to ensure they are working. If there are any defects these need to be repaired immediately. It is important to record the results of your monthly checks in your fire safety logbook.

Its recommended Every 6 month perform a 1 hour test and required Annually you need to switch off the mains power supply to the emergency lighting units and then leave the units illuminated for a longer period (usually three hours), The lights should be on for the whole length of time. A certificate id then given and If any of the emergency lights fail within this time their back up battery needs to be replaced then recorded and kept alongside report as proof of compliance.

In conclusion, choosing us as your electrical contractor for emergency lighting tests and repairs is a decision that guarantees top-quality service and expertise. Our experienced team is well-equipped to handle emergency lighting systems with precision and efficiency, ensuring compliance with safety regulations and minimizing downtime. We prioritize timely response times, thorough inspections, and efficient repairs to keep your emergency lighting systems operating reliably. With our commitment to safety, transparent pricing, and dedication to customer satisfaction, you can trust us to provide exceptional service for your emergency lighting needs. Thank you for considering our services, and we look forward to being your trusted partner for emergency lighting tests and repairs.



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