

1025.1

Luminous Egress Path Marking in Group I Occupancies

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: Luminous egress path marking is no longer required in high-rise buildings classified as Group I-2, I-3, or I-4 occupancies.

2018 CODE: 1025.1 General. Approved luminous egress path markings delineating the exit path shall be provided in high-rise buildings of Group A, B, E, I-1, M, or R-1 occupancies in accordance with this section.

Exception: Luminous egress path markings shall not be required on the level of exit discharge in lobbies that serve as part of the exit path in accordance with Section 1028.1, Exception 1.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The use of luminous egress path markings in specified high-rise buildings is intended to provide for the visibility of stair treads and handrails in interior exit stairways under emergency conditions where both the building's primary power supply and the emergency power system fail. The use of photoluminescent or self-illuminating materials to delineate the exit path has historically been required in interior exit stairways and exit passageways of high-rise buildings housing Group A, B, E, I, M, and R-1 occupancies. Such markings are no longer required in those high-rise buildings classified as Groups I-2, I-3, or I-4.

The 2015 IBC mandates luminous egress path markings in all of the Group I classifications. This requirement has been revised for Group I to only require luminous egress path markings in Group I-1 occupancies. Groups I-2 and I-3 have been removed because hospitals, nursing homes, jails, and detention facilities have trained staff that operate with a defend-in-place strategy. The emergency generators are continually monitored and maintained, so the chance of the emergency egress lighting required in the means of egress failing is extremely minimal. For the luminous egress path marking to be utilized, both the normal power for means of egress lighting and the emergency generator have to fail.

Group I-4 occupancies were also removed from the list of required classifications. For the requirement for luminous path marking to apply, the high-rise building would need to be a day care facility used for custodial care. It was determined that there was a very limited chance that such a use would occur in a high-rise condition.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Building Code®*, 2018 Edition.

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Luminous egress path markings