

1031.10

Inspection and Testing of Emergency Egress Lighting



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Emergency egress lighting is manually tested monthly unless equipped with self-testing and self-diagnostics.



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

Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: Inspection and testing requirements for emergency egress lighting are relocated into Chapter 10 Means of Egress and revised to allow self-diagnostics.

2018 CODE: 604.6 1031.10 Emergency lighting equipment inspection and testing. Emergency lighting shall be maintained in accordance with Section 108 and shall be inspected and tested in accordance with Sections 604.6.1 through 604.6.2.1 1031.10.1 and 1031.10.2.

604.6.1 1031.10.1 Activation test. An activation ~~Emergency lighting~~ equipment shall be tested monthly for a duration of not less than 30 seconds. The test shall be performed manually or by an automated self-testing and self-diagnostic routine. Where testing is performed by self-testing and self-diagnostics, a visual inspection of the emergency lighting equipment shall be ~~completed~~ conducted monthly to identify any equipment displaying a trouble indicator or that has become damaged or otherwise impaired. The activation test shall ensure the emergency lighting activates automatically upon normal electrical disconnect and stays sufficiently illuminated for not less than 30 seconds.

604.6.1.1 Activation test record. Records of tests shall be maintained. The record shall include the location of the emergency lighting tested, whether the unit passed or failed, the date of the test and the person completing the test.

604.6.2.1 Power test record. Records of tests shall be maintained. The record shall include the location of the emergency lighting tested, whether the unit passed or failed, the date of the test and the person completing the test.

604.6.1 1031.10.2 Power test. For battery-powered emergency lighting, a power test of the Battery-powered emergency lighting equipment shall be ~~completed~~ tested annually. ~~The by operating the equipment on battery power test shall operate the emergency lighting for not less than 90 minutes. and shall remain sufficiently illuminated for the duration of the test.~~

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: This change moves requirements for emergency lighting equipment inspection and testing from the general emergency and standby power requirements of Chapter 6 to the means of egress requirements in Chapter 10 where it more logically is found.

Additional changes recognize modern technology found in many emergency lighting units, including self-testing and self-diagnostics to replace manual testing.

Conditions for the annual requirement of a 90-minute duration test have been clarified so the test can occur without having to disconnect normal premises power.

Finally, by referring users to IFC Section 108 Maintenance, record-keeping requirements are made consistent with the remainder of the fire code.