

## Guide to Emergency Lighting Terms



There are many technical words, titles and abbreviations used in emergency lighting. Whilst it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list, we hope that these will be of use in explaining some of the most commonly used phrases and titles.

**Emergency Lighting** : The lighting provided for use when the supply to the normal mains lighting installation fails.

**Non-Maintained Emergency Luminaire** : A luminaire containing one or more lamps or light sources, which operate from the emergency supply only upon failure of the normal mains supply.

**Maintained Emergency Luminaire** : A luminaire containing one or more lamps or light sources, all of which operate from the normal supply or from the emergency supply at all material times.

**Stand Alone Self-Testing Luminaire** : A luminaire with internal battery and control inverter/driver which automatically tests the luminaire in accordance with testing standards and displays correct operation or fault by means of a coloured indicator LED.

**Addressable Self-Testing Luminaire** : A luminaire with internal battery and control inverter/driver which tests the luminaire in accordance with testing standards and displays operation correct operation or fault by means of a coloured indicator LED and remotely on a PC, Tablet or smart-phone. Communication between luminaires can be achieved either by wired or wireless bus network.

**Central Emergency Supply (Central Battery System)** : A system in which the batteries for a number of emergency luminaires are housed in one location and power is supplied to the luminaires via a fire protected cable network.

**Self Contained Emergency Luminaire** : A luminaire or sign providing Maintained or Non-Maintained emergency lighting, in which all the elements such as battery, the lamp/light source and the control unit are contained within the housing or within 1 metre of the housing.

**Combined Emergency Luminaire** : A luminaire containing two or more lamps or light sources, at least one of which is energised from the emergency supply and the remainder from the normal supply (If the emergency lamp is only illuminated in a mains failure condition this luminaire is regarded for fire authority approval as non-maintained).

**Escape Route Lighting** : Lighting provided to ensure that the means of escape can be effectively identified and safely used when a location is occupied.

**Final Exit** : The terminal point of an escape route, beyond which point persons should be no longer in danger from fire or any other hazard requiring evacuation of the building.

**Standby Lighting** : The part of emergency lighting which may be provided to enable normal activities to continue in the event of a mains supply failure.

**Emergency Safety ("Stay Put") Lighting** : BS 5266 Part 1: 2016 introduced the concept of 'stay put' lighting, recognising the fact that often emergency lighting is triggered as a consequence of power failure, rather than a real emergency. The revised standard allows occupants to stay in place if the emergency situation is of 'minimum risk'. Occupants may be moved to a safe refuge, so escape lighting has to be combined with 'stay put' illumination.

**High Risk Task Area Lighting** : Emergency lighting provided to ensure the safety of people involved in a potentially dangerous process or situation and to enable proper shut down procedures for the safety of the operator and other occupants of the premises.

**Uniformity** : The ratio between minimum illuminance (or luminance) to average illuminance (or luminance), usually measured at the working plane.

**Re-charge Period** : The time necessary for the batteries to regain sufficient capacity to achieve their rated duration.

**Rated Duration** : The manufacturers declared duration for a battery operated emergency lighting unit, specifying the minimum time for which it will operate after mains failure. This may be for any reasonable period, but is normally one or three hours (when fully charged).

**IP Rating** : IP (or "Ingress Protection") ratings are defined in European standard EN 60529 (British BS EN 60529:1992). They are used to define levels of sealing effectiveness of electrical enclosures against intrusion from foreign bodies (tools, dirt etc.) and moisture. Full details and an explanation about the meaning of the numbers in an IP Rating is available from P4.

**Ballast** : The component that controls the operation of fluorescent lamp(s) from a specified low or high voltage AC or DC source (typically between 12 and 240 volts).

**Driver**: The component that controls the operation of LED(s) from a specified low or high voltage AC or DC source (typically between 12 and 240 volts).

