

Emergency Lighting System Integrity



What the Standards Require

Clause 6.3 of BS5266 -1: 2016 requires that the risk of occupants being in total darkness, in the event of failure or after testing, of individual escape lighting luminaires should be minimised by ensuring that emergency illumination from at least two luminaires or emergency exit signs is visible in each open area requiring emergency lighting and escape routes.

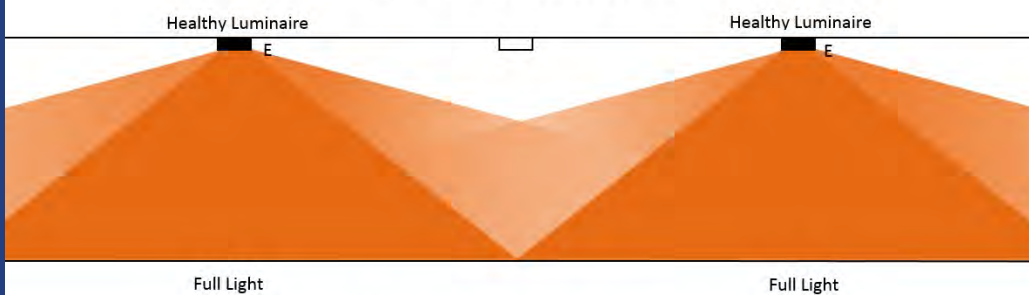
For the purposes of compliance with this clause, the light emitted from exit signs is considered acceptable, however

it is considered to be a beacon of light rather than any consideration that the exit signs will contribute to the required minimum level of illuminance.

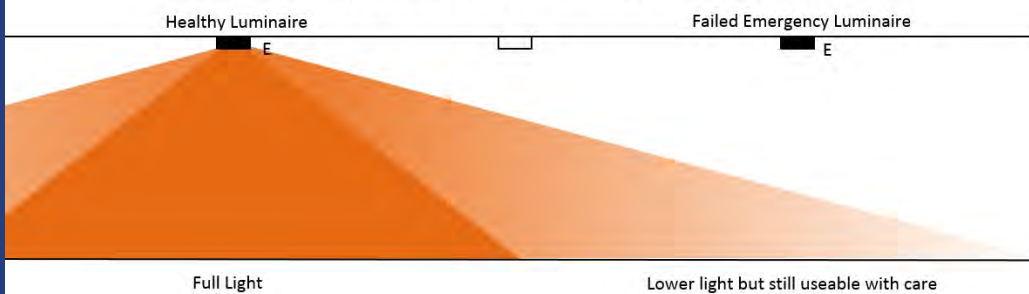
In a compartment, because of the requirement to have an emergency lighting luminaire near each exit door intended to be used in an emergency (Clause 4.1.2a of BS EN 1838:2013/BS 5266-7: 2013:) there would normally be a minimum of two emergency lighting luminaires fitted in addition to exit signs.

Where legislation allows, exit signs need not necessarily be internally illuminated, but rather legend panels illuminated externally by the emergency lighting luminaires.

Normal Emergency Operation



Emergency Operation with one luminaire unavailable



Rated Light Output From Exit Signs

An illuminated exit sign cannot be considered to contribute to the achievement of the required minimum level of illuminance specified in BS EN 1838:2013/BS 5266- 7: 2013, either in an open area or along an escape route, unless it has been photometrically tested and determined to have a rated light output and light distribution.

Most exit signs have not been so tested, as they are designed to be signs and to only illuminate the sign legend.

Some exit signs have downlight panels, but these are to be considered only as providing courtesy light unless photometric testing has been carried out and the light output and its distribution determined.

If an emergency lighting luminaire is used as an exit sign by the addition of a self - adhesive legend across its diffuser, any photometric data produced for that luminaire without the legend applied is invalidated and it must be considered to be an exit sign only, unless it has been photometrically tested again with the legend applied.



P4

