



TECHNICAL STATEMENT

Legislative requirements for emergency lighting

- New Buildings and major refurbishments need to be safe and comply to relevant National and local Building regulations
- The safe use of all buildings. Systems also need to be appropriately designed for the activities being conducted, the structure of the premises and the types of occupants

UK guides to compliance with these requirements refer users to BS 5266-1.

Guides for the responsible persons (users) on meeting fire safety legislation for all premises

- **England and Wales.**

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Application Guides are available on line at www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk

- **Scotland**

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, (*FSA as amended*), Application Guides are available on line at www.infoscotland.com

- **Northern Ireland**

Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 No. 1254 (N.I.9).and the Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland)

Major relevant points in the guides that emergency lighting engineers should know.

Who is the target audience of the guides?

- This guide is for all employers, managers, occupiers and owners of offices and shops. It tells you about how you might comply with fire safety law, helps you to carry out a fire risk assessment and identify the general fire precautions you need to have in place.

Who is responsible for the safety of the occupants of premises?

- Responsibility for complying with the Order rests with the 'responsible person'. In a workplace, this is the employer and any other person who may have control of any part of the premises, e.g. the occupier or owner. In all other premises the person or people in control of the premises will be responsible.

How should the responsible person meet the requirements?

- The responsible person must carry out a fire risk assessment which must focus on the safety in case of fire of all 'relevant persons'. It should pay particular attention to those at special risk, such as disabled people, those who you know have special needs and young persons and must include consideration of any dangerous substance liable to be on the premises. Your fire risk assessment will help you identify risks that can be



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removed or reduced and to decide the nature and extent of the general fire precautions you need to take.

What standards should be met?

- If you decide that you need to install emergency escape lighting or to modify your existing system, any work should be carried out by a competent person in accordance with the appropriate standards. Further guidance is given in BS 5266-1 and BS 5266-8.

Who should assist the responsible to provide a suitable system?

- The responsible person must appoint one or more competent persons, depending on the size and use of your premises, to carry out any of the preventive and protective measures required by the Order.

Who is a competent person?

- A competent person is someone with enough training and experience or knowledge and other qualities to be able to implement these measures properly.

How can the user demonstrate the system stays in good condition?

- You must ensure that the premises and any equipment provided in connection with firefighting, fire detection and warning, or emergency routes and exits are covered by a suitable system of maintenance and are maintained by a competent person in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

Does the management only need to consider fire safety risks?

- Fire safety is only one of many safety issues with which management must concern themselves to minimise the risk of injury or death to staff or the public. Unlike most of the other safety concerns, fire has the potential to injure or kill large numbers of people very quickly. This guidance is concerned only with fire safety but many of the measures discussed here will impact upon other safety issues, and vice versa.