



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	June 8, 2010	Interpretation	10-005
Topic	Photo-luminescent Exit signs		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code Section 1011.4 and 1011.5.2		
Requested by	Scott Ventura, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal City of Palm Springs Fire Department 300 N. El Cielo Road Palm Springs, CA 92262 760-323-8181 760-778-8430 FAX		

This is a formal request for an interpretation of the provisions found in the 2007 California Building Code, Volume 1, Chapter 10, Sections 1011.4 and 1011.5.2.

1. Are photo-luminescent exit signs utilized in the interior of occupancies as egress path markings subject to CBC 1011.4?
No, Exit signs are not pathway markings.
2. Shall fire inspectors utilize the listing and installation requirements contained in *UL 924, "Emergency Lighting and Power Equipment"* when conducting fire and life safety inspections of occupancies containing photo-luminescent exit signs?
N/A
3. Since photo-luminescent exit signs are dependant upon an external illumination source, are photo-luminescent exit signs subject to CBC 1011.5.2?
No. The external lighting source requirements for photo-luminescent exit signs shall be per manufacturer's instructions.
4. May photo-luminescent exit signs be used in rooms where the required external illumination lighting may be temporarily dimmed (below 5 foot-candles), or temporarily extinguished, while the room is occupied (i.e.,

a school multi-purpose room during a theater performance or movie presentation)?

No. Photo-luminescent exit signs may be used only in locations where a minimum 5 foot-candle external illumination source (as specified in the UL 924 listing and marked on the exit sign) is present on the sign face, is deemed reliable, is supplied by a circuit not controlled by automatic timers or sensors and the controls are accessible only to authorized personnel. The reliable external illumination source is to be energized at all times of building occupancy. Refer to manufactures Installation Instruction Manual for details. Note: Sign must be illuminated for a minimum of 90-minutes upon loss of power or building illumination.

5. *UL 924 states that "...the lighting controls (for external illumination) are accessible only to authorized personnel".*
- a) Would a typical "toggle-type" light switch that is accessible by the public, meet this requirement if that switch controlled the required external illumination source?
No
 - b) Would a "key-type" light switch, where only authorized personnel could operate the switch controlling the external illumination source meet this requirement?
Yes