



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	April 11, 2005	Interpretation #	05-007
Topic	Emergency Egress Illumination		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Building Code, Section 1003.2.9.1		
Requested by	Jim Hines Rex Moore Co. 3601 Parkway Place West Sacramento, CA. 95798		

California Building Code section 1003.2.9.1 requires that the means of egress serving the occupied portion shall be illuminated at an intensity of not less than 1 foot-candle at the floor level. Section 1003.2.9.2 requires a power supply in the event of failure of power failure so that illumination shall be automatically provided from an emergency system for certain occupancies and shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.

California Electrical Code, Article 700-12 (e), Unit Equipment, states the batteries shall be suitable rating and capacity to supply and maintain at not less than 87 ½ % of the normal battery voltage for the total lamp load associated with the unit for a period of at least 1 ½ hours, or the unit equipment shall supply and maintain not less than 60% of the initial emergency illumination for a period of at least 1 ½ hrs.

Is it the intent that the lighting level not be less than 1 foot-candle for the entire 1 ½ hours, or is it permitted to decline to not less than 60% based on the electric code? Also, NFPA 101 article 7.9.2.1 states that initial illumination is not less than an average of 1 foot-candle and is permitted to decline to an average of 0.6 foot-candle.

Since the California Building Code requires that the secondary power source for emergency lighting comply with California Electrical Code, then the requirements and any reductions afforded by the California Electrical Code would apply.