



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	12/28/2005	Interpretation #	05-015
Topic	Egress Path Illumination		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Building Code, Section 1003.2.9.2		
Requested by	Jim Hines Rex Moore Electrical 3601 Parkway Place West Sacramento, CA 95798		

California Building Code Section 1003.2.9.1 states that, “anytime a building or portion of a building is occupied, the means of egress serving the occupied portion shall be illuminated at a level of not less than 1 foot-candle”. Section 1001.1 states that a means of egress is a path from any occupied point in a building to a public way. Section 1003.2.9.2 requires back-up power in rooms or areas requiring two or more exits.

1. For buildings with interior courtyards open to the sky, 1 foot-candle minimum will apply, but is back-up power required?

Yes. Back-up power will be required when the interior courtyard is considered as part of the exiting system regardless of the number of exits required from the courtyard and the occupancy is required by Section 1003.2.9.2, of the 2001 California Building Code to have emergency power.

2. Also, for buildings with exit doors that lead directly to open outdoor areas, is 1 foot-candle to the public street required for unlimited distances, and is this required to have back-up power?

Yes. 1 foot-candle illumination is required to the public way including back-up power for Group I, Divisions 1.1 and 1.2, as well as for R2.1's and R2.2's. In all other occupancies the back-up power requirement does not take effect until the building occupant load is 100 or more.