

GUIDANCE NOTES

Emergency Exit Light Testing

Background

The reason for the testing of emergency lighting and exit lights is to ensure that the emergency lighting and exit light battery backup system ensures that they remain illuminated for a minimum of 90 minutes after the power has failed.

Who can perform the test?

Any person can perform the test; however before that person performs the test they must be deemed competent and read the following instructions prior to conducting the tests.

Push button test

Each exit light has a button, that when pushed, cuts the 240 volt power to the exit light. The location and design of the button varies from each unit. It may be black or have a small red illuminated light.

Push the button and hold it, you will see a flicker where the 240 volt power is interrupted and the battery backup takes over and illuminates the light. If the exit light does not remain illuminated once the button is pushed and held down it means the battery needs to be replaced. The battery replacement is to be done by an electrician or a suitably competent person.

Where emergency lighting is installed usually there is a push button on the power distribution board and the test requirements are the same as for the exit lights.

For information on self-testing emergency signs, see the [Emergency Lights That Test Themselves Guidance Note](#).

Battery discharge test

To perform the battery discharge test, the power supply to both the exit signs and the emergency lighting must be interrupted for a minimum of 90 minutes. If either the emergency lighting system or an exit light does not remain illuminated for the 90 minutes then the battery needs to be replaced. The battery replacement is to be done by an electrician or suitably competent person.

