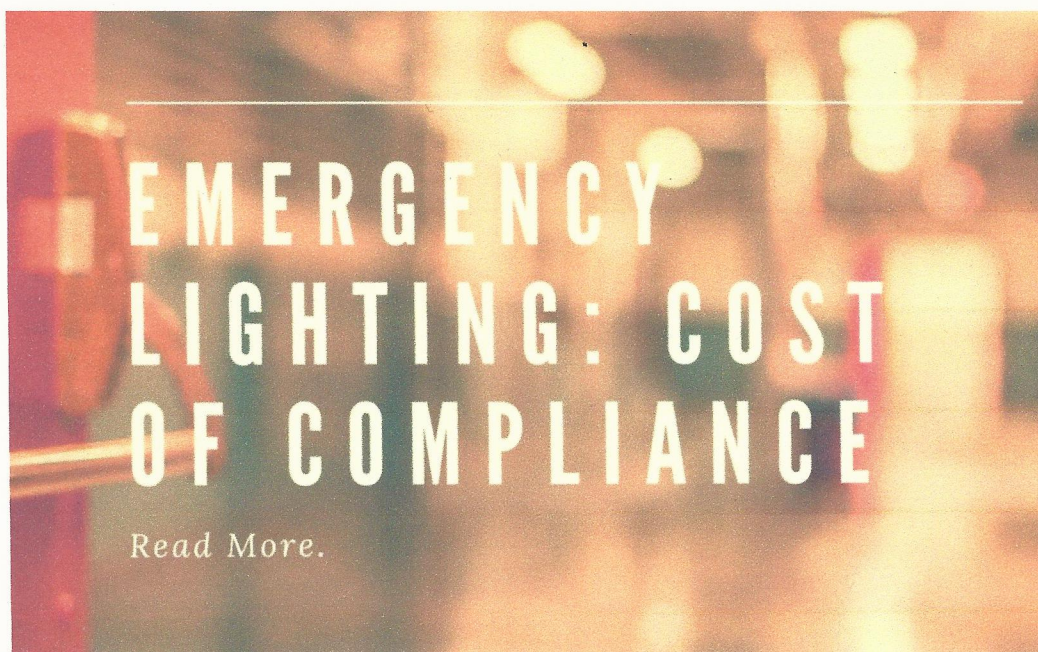# Emergency Lighting: The Cost of Compliance

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Another hotel owner has been fined over £50,000 for failing to comply with emergency lighting standards.

Following various reports in the media over the past year with regards to buildings failing to comply with fire regulations, health and safety laws and emergency lighting standards, it's baffling, but not surprising, that we are still seeing headlines such as these today.

Speaking from personal experience within our company, we have been surprised at the understanding, or lack thereof, from building owners and managers with regards to their responsibilities for emergency lighting. One of the most common misconceptions being that it is simply a "fit and forget" procedure. Many assume that merely having the correct levels of emergency lighting in the correct and necessary places they are compliant. Unfortunately, this isn't the case, and for the owner of this hotel in Yorkshire, this is a prime example [link to article].

What many building owners and managers overlook is the notion of emergency light testing. Whether this is deliberately or unconsciously, the penalty for not complying is a sting and costly one at that!

Current British Standards outline the minimum tests that should be carried out on emergency lighting infrastructure to ensure it will work as intended in the event of an actual emergency. Current standards propose a monthly flick test be carried out to ensure all lighting is working and an annual three-hour duration test to ensure all lighting will be able to support an evacuation in the event of an emergency. It is these fundamental tests that are often overlooked yet can have major repercussions for all parties involved if not adhered to. So, what are the options? If you're looking to avoid a potential hefty fine or even worse, a prison sentence, there's a few ways you can go about it.

- **Manual Testing** – you can either pay to train someone who occupies the building (tenant/worker etc.) to then carry out all the necessary manual checks on emergency lighting in accordance with British Standards or there are third parties that will come in a do it for you, for a large fee of course. Though both these methods pose a viable option, they are costly and, again, often not sustained.
- **Automated Testing** – With building managers/owners constantly looking for new and innovative ways to incorporate tech into the day to day running of their sites, automated testing poses the most viable option. Not only does automated testing offer a more cost-effective solution than manual testing, it also ensures that compliance is upheld with minimal effort from any parties involved.

To find out more about automated testing for emergency lighting click here

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