



## 2020 appreciations of escape and evacuation in a fire condition

Most will not have to consider how they might actually escape from a building in the event of a genuine emergency and deal with the consequences of a large scale building evacuation but – for the purposes of how we in the assessment and those who actually design emergency escape materials are concerned some considerations of what exactly we are likely to need to do must be made.

In an environment where emergency lighting is provided – regardless of either photoluminescent or lux level tests it must be considered that following a fire where smoke is a primary obstacle, ceiling mounted fittings will lose a large percentage of their illumination and be thus less effective, also in most cases those looking to escape will be down near or on the floor and thus a means of giving direction must also be considered within the design rather than just using the minimum requirements of the current standards as a reference point.

Fitting photoluminescent tape to floors, stairways, ladders and gantry areas must also be included in the base design where these areas are likely to be a means of escape to ensure that in the event that the emergency lighting is either (1) insufficient which is common or (2) obscured by smoke from the fire that there is an alternate means of getting persons moving towards a place of safety

The general appreciation for photoluminescence is not included in most specifications and should be as much a part of the escape plan as anything related to emergency or anti-panic lighting.

In areas where there is a pre-identified special needs provision this should be included from the start.

Veritas can help with both design and product issues for these eventualities so please feel free to review the website to see where we can help you.

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