

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
DIRECTIVE NO. 5 of 1979

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2, 1979

TO: Borough Superintendents

CORRECTED

FROM: Irwin Fruchtman, P.E., Commissioner

SUBJECT: ILLUMINATION - EMERGENCY LIGHTING FOR PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

1. This directive is issued for the purpose of establishing uniform guidelines for the above for compliance with C26-801.18 (Local Law 41 of 1978).
2. The requirement in this section of providing at least five (5) foot candles of illumination at the floor level applies at exit areas.
3. The exit area to be illuminated within the assembly space shall consist of the exit sign, the exit doorway, and a square at the threshold of the point of egress with a side whose dimension is double the width of the egress opening, or equal to the width of the corridor, (whichever is less). Light measurement should be on the horizontal.
4. This intensity of illumination shall not be diminished to less than two (2) foot candles at a level eighteen (18) inches above the floor at cross aisles.
5. The intensity of general illumination shall not be diminished to less than one (1.0) foot candle at a level eighteen (18) inches above the floor elsewhere.
6. The lighting units shall be so arranged so as not to:
 - a. Introduce disorienting glare to the path of escape.
 - b. Dramatically alter the character and quality of illumination.
 - c. Present a hazard to the occupants and be protected as is necessary.
7. Illumination shall be so arranged that the failure of any single lighting unit, such as the burning out of an electric bulb, will not leave any area in darkness.
8. Exit lighting shall be on circuits that are separate from general lighting and power circuits, either taken off ahead of the main switch or connected to an emergency lighting power source when such is provided. However, an emergency lighting power source, if battery operated, may be re-charged from the general lighting and power circuits.

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9. Compliance with this directive shall be noted on the Public Assembly application plans filed after this date.



Irwin Fruchtman, P.E.
Commissioner