

EMERGENCY EXIT SIGNS



It has been brought to the attention of the ETU that some contractors are installing emergency exit signs instead of emergency exit lights.

This alert has been developed to ensure that the hazards with this system are recognised. It is the position of the ETU that these signs should be avoided in the interest of safety.

Poor lighting levels and/or lack of emergency lighting and illuminated signage in times of power failure or in emergency situations, can lead to serious workplace incidents which may affect workers and other on construction sites. The lighting system should ensure the safety of people to the extent that the lighting makes hazards visible. The facilitation of visible tasks and the creation of an appropriately illuminated environment must also be considered.

Australian Standard 2293.1-2005, Emergency escape lighting and exit signs for buildings.

Part 1 System design, installation and operation, allows for an internally illuminated exit sign to perform roles of illuminated emergency exit signage and emergency escape luminaire provided that it meets the requirements of both purposes as set out in the standard.

Emergency escape luminaries should be located within 2 metres of the approach side of each doorway requiring an exit sign and located to emphasise potential hazards to people exiting the work place.

Australian Standard 2293.1-2005, Section 6.3 – Use of externally illuminated signs states ‘externally illuminated exit signs shall be used only in areas that are provided with appropriate means for automatic exhausting or excluding smoke. Note: Externally illuminated exit signs have been found to be more affected by smoke than other types of exit signs and their use is therefore restricted as above’.

Further guidance on the standard of emergency lighting and exit signage may be gained by referring to:

- AW2293.1-2005 Emergency escape lighting and exit sign for buildings – System design, installation and operation; and
- AS/NZS 2293.3-2005 Emergency escape lighting and exit signs for buildings.