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Engineering Note 1 - Exit Legends for Luminaries

New Regulations affecting escape routes

New harmonised European standards have recently been introduced which upgrade the old BS5266 standard for Emergency Lighting. The workplace directive significantly widens the scope of premises that may require emergency lighting escape routes and the provision of exit signs. Any building where people are employed, or even self employed, may have to comply with emergency lighting and exit sign requirements. This is in addition to existing requirements for emergency lighting and exit signs in public places.

Changes away from text signs like the traditional EXIT sign toward the 'running man' are also part of the harmonisation. The new directive (EC Signs Directive 92/58/EEC) came into effect on 24 June 1994 with a requirement to bring existing premises up to the specified standard within 18 months of that date. It will require that these signs are regularly cleaned, tested and maintained, and visible at all times.

The British Standards Institute introduced a new

specification (BS5499 Pt1) incorporating the running man with the word "Exit". This was only intended as an interim standard and is likely to be retrospectively changed to the European directive. It is recommended that the European signs be used in new installations, subject to local fire authority approval, to avoid the need for future updating. Different styles of sign should not be mixed in the same building.



The new European signs replace old worded signs with a picture of a man running towards a door. The arrow indicates the route to follow.

The information contained in this engineering note is for guidance only and is subject to change. Beronworth assumes no liability for errors or omissions or from damages resulting from the use of this information. You are strongly advised to check the latest regulations with the British Standards Institute or your local fire authority.

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