

Fire Code

Extracts from the National Fire Code of Canada 2020

2.7. SAFETY TO LIFE

2.7.3. EXIT LIGHTING, EXIT SIGNS AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING

2.7.3.1. INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. Exit lighting, exit signs and emergency lighting shall be provided in buildings in conformance with the NBC. (See Note A-2.37.3.1.(1).)
2. Exit lighting and exit signs shall be illuminated during times when the building is occupied.
3. Emergency lighting shall be maintained in operating condition, in conformance with Section 6.5.

6.5. EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEMS, UNIT EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING, AND EXIT SIGNS

6.5.1 GENERAL

6.5.1.1. INSPECTION, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

1. Except as provided in Articles 6.5.1.2. to 6.5.1.5., emergency power systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in conformance with CSA-C282, "Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings."
2. An emergency electrical power supply system for emergency equipment for health care facilities shall be inspected, tested and maintained in conformance with CSA Z32, "Electrical Safety and Essential Electrical Systems in Health Care Facilities." (See Note A-6.5.1.1.(2).)

6.5.1.2. NOTIFICATION

1. When an emergency power system or any part thereof is shut down, the supervisory staff shall be notified in conformance with Section 2.8.

6.5.1.3. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Where an emergency power system is installed, instructions shall be provided for switching on essential loads and for starting the generator when this is not done automatically.

6.5.1.4. RECORDS

1. Written records shall be maintained as required in CSA C282, "Emergency electrical power supply for buildings."

6.5.1.6. INSPECTION OF UNIT EQUIPMENT

1. Self-contained emergency lighting unit equipment shall be inspected at intervals not greater than one month to ensure that
 - a) pilot lights are functioning and not obviously damaged or obstructed,
 - b) the terminal connections are clean, free of corrosion and lubricated when necessary,
 - c) the terminal clamps are clean and tight as per manufacturer's specifications, and
 - d) the battery surface is kept clean and dry.
2. Self-contained emergency lighting unit equipment shall be tested
 - a) at intervals not greater than one month to ensure that the emergency lights will function upon failure of the primary power supply, and
 - b) at intervals not greater than 12 months to ensure that the unit will provide emergency lighting for a duration equal to the design criterion under simulated power failure conditions.
3. After completion of the test required in Clause (2)(b), the charging conditions for voltage and current and the recovery period shall be tested to ensure that the charging system is functioning in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

6.5.1.7. INSPECTION OF EMERGENCY LIGHTS

1. Except as provided in Article 6.5.1.6., emergency lights shall be inspected at intervals not greater than 12 months to ensure that they are functional.

6.5.1.8. INSPECTION OF EXIT SIGNS

(See Note A-6.5.1.8.)

1. Except as provided in Sentence (2), exit signs shall be inspected at intervals not greater than 12 months to ensure that the exit signs will be visible upon failure of the primary power supply.
2. Exit signs provided with a battery back-up shall be inspected at intervals
 - a) not greater than one month to ensure the exit signs will be visible upon failure of the primary power supply, and
 - b) not greater than 12 months to ensure the exit signs will be visible for a duration equal to the design criterion upon failure of the primary power supply.

A-6.5.1.8.

Exit signs are to be visible by being unobstructed, illuminated and readily identifiable as indicating the location of the means of egress.