

## DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Emergency Battery Operated Lighting and Maintenance

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**Purpose:** Establish minimum selection and inspection / testing requirements for Battery Operated Emergency Lighting and Exit Signage when there is no other alternate emergency power source.

**Policy:** Emergency battery backup lighting and battery backup Exit signage is essential for life safety and will be maintained per manufacturer's instructions. New units are to comply with the National Electric Code including illumination requirements. Inspections to assure operability in an emergency shall follow the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code Standard 101.

**New Unit Lighting Distribution:** Is to be based on providing minimum average of 1 foot candle of illumination and not less than 0.06 ft. candle at the end of 1.5 hours for all designated portions of exit access and discharge, including assembly / conference rooms, washrooms, ramps, corridors, and passageways.

### Inspections:

- Recorded monthly test inspections for 30 seconds per unit.
- Annual full function testing of every unit for a minimum of 1.5 hours.  
or
- Self Testing / Self Diagnostic systems as well as Computer-based systems must have a visual inspection every 30 days to confirm lights are not blocked and are directed in the path of egress.

### Records:

- Hard copy records are to be maintained in a file marked "Emergency Lighting" at the location the inspections took place.  
or
- Computer-based inspection systems as well as Self Testing /Self Diagnostic systems must be able to provide a history of all tests and failures.

**Batteries:** Proper testing extends the life of the batteries. As many factors affect the life of a battery it is impossible to establish a minimum service age for replacement. A maintenance free lead acid battery might have a service life of 5-10 years and maintenance free nickel cadmium battery 10-15 years. Refer to manufacturer's manual for service life.