

Seattle Permits

—part of a multi-departmental series on City services & permitting

Emergency Lighting: Testing and Inspection

June 2015

In accordance with the 2012 Seattle Fire Code Section 604.5, when a building is equipped with an alternative power system for emergency means of egress lighting, that equipment must be regularly tested and inspected. The responsible party, generally building owners and/or managers, must ensure that activation tests are conducted monthly and tests of the emergency lighting systems' power are conducted annually.

The routine maintenance, inspection and operational testing shall be overseen by a properly instructed individual.

Testing

Monthly Activation Test

An activation test of emergency lighting is required each month. The test will ensure that:

- The lighting activates automatically upon building power failure.
- The lighting stays illuminated for a minimum of 30 seconds.

Annual Power Test

A power test of battery-powered emergency lighting is required each year. The power test will ensure that:

- The lighting operates for a minimum of 90 minutes.
- The lighting stays sufficiently illuminated for the duration of the test. Initial illumination must be at least an average of 1 footcandle (11 lux) and a minimum at any point of 0.1 footcandle (1 lux) along the path of egress at foot level. Illumination levels may decline to .6 footcandle (6 lux) average

and a minimum at any point of .06 footcandle (.6 lux) at the end of the 90 minutes.

Records

Records of all monthly activation testing and annual power testing should be maintained on the premises for a minimum of three years and available for inspection by the fire code official.

The records shall include:

- The location of the emergency lighting tested.
- Whether the unit passed or failed.
- The date of the test.
- The person completing the test.

See Appendices 1 and 2 for example formats of the required records.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: *This Client Assistance Memo (CAM) should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. Individuals are responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this CAM.*

www.seattle.gov/fire



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Fire Department

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Appendix 1:**Example of Emergency Lighting Testing and Inspection Records****MONTHLY ACTIVATION TEST RECORD**

Test: Monthly pass or fail test of lighting to ensure automatic activation upon building power failure and 30 seconds of illumination.

Month	Date	Location of Light	Pass or Fail	Individual Conducting Test
January	01/10/2015	Back hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Front hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Side door	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
February	02/08/2015	Back hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Front hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Side door	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
March	03/09/2015	Back hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	Jane Smith
		Front hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	Jane Smith
		Side door	Pass activation Pass illumination	Jane Smith
April	04/10/2015	Back hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Front hallway	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith
		Side door	Pass activation Pass illumination	John Smith

Continued for each month...

Appendix 2:**Example of Emergency Lighting Testing and Inspection Records****ANNUAL POWER TEST RECORD**

Test: Annual pass or fail test of lighting to ensure 90 minutes of operation and sufficient illumination for the duration of the test. Initial illumination must be at least an average of 1 footcandle (11 lux) and a minimum at any point of 0.1 footcandle (1 lux) along the path of egress at foot level. Illumination levels may decline to .6 footcandle (6 lux) average and a minimum at any point of .06 footcandle (.6 lux) at the end of the 90 minutes.

Year	Date	Location of Light	Pass or Fail	Individual Conducting Test
2013	01/10/2015	Back hallway	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Front hallway	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Side door	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
2014	01/08/2015	Back hallway	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Front hallway	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Side door	Pass time	John Smith
			Pass illumination	
2015	01/09/2015	Back hallway	Pass time	Jane Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Front hallway	Pass time	Jane Smith
			Pass illumination	
		Side door	Pass time	Jane Smith
			Pass illumination	

Continued for each year...