



## California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	07-30-04	Interpretation #	04-025
Topic	Illumination and power relating to photoluminescent exit signs		
Code Section(s)	§1003.2.8.4; 1003.2.8.5, California Building Code (2001)		
Requested by	Dennis Lockard, Fire Marshal Newport Beach Fire Department POBox 1768 Newport Beach, CA 92658-8915		

*Section 1003.2.8.4 requires that exit signs be internally or externally illuminated. Based on this section, I have the following questions.*

**1. Do photoluminescent exit signs meet this requirement?**

Yes. This is applicable as long as the photoluminescent exit signs are listed in accordance with UL924, (including the July 11, 2001 revision) and are installed per manufacturer's specifications.

**2. Must photoluminescent exit signs be continuously illuminated for 24-hours?**

No. Photoluminescent exit signs must have a continual light source (minimum five ft-candles of florescent) whenever the building is occupied and the signs must remain lit for the 90 minute requirement when the lights go out or in the event of a power failure.

**3. Are photoluminescent exit signs required to be illuminated only when the occupancy is occupied?**

Yes. Minimum 5 foot-candle external unfiltered fluorescent illumination must be present on the sign face at all times the building is occupied.

**4. May the occupancy turn off the external illumination to the exit sign after business hours?**

No. These signs must always be illuminated when the building is occupied.

5. ***Additionally, Section 1003.2.8.5 requires that all exit signs must be illuminated at all times. To ensure continued illumination for not less than 1½ hours in case of primary power loss, the exit signs shall also be connected to an emergency power source. Based on this Section, do photoluminescent exit signs meet the requirement?***

Yes. However, the installation must be per UL924 (with revisions through and including July 11, 2001).