



POLICY FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING IN MULTI-STOREY TOWER BLOCKS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Emergency lighting is lighting for an emergency situation when the main power supply fails. Emergency lighting should give illumination of a sufficient level and for a long enough period of time, normally 3 hours to enable persons to evacuate the premises safely.
- 1.2** The need for emergency lighting within a building will be dependant upon a number of factors; the height of the building, the amount of borrowed light available, the complexity of escape routes and the findings of a Fire Risk Assessment.
- 1.3** Housing – Fire Safety, Guidance on fire safety provisions for certain types of existing housing (2008) published by the Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Service (LACORS) in consultation with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Chief Fire Officers Association, provides recommendations for lighting of escape routes for various categories of residential premises. This states large buildings with long escape routes, buildings with a complex layout, buildings with no natural or borrowed lighting along escape routes and buildings with vulnerable occupiers or those posing a specific risk should have emergency escape lighting in the escape route.
- 1.4** Using the guidance to determine requirements for Emergency Lighting, this should be provided in common escape routes, such as corridors, lobbies and stairwells to enable residents and visitors to make their way safely out of the building in the event of an emergency.

- 1.5** British Standard (BS) 5266 -1:2016 (Code of practice for the Emergency Lighting of premises) This standard stipulates both type and locations of emergency lighting (see Appendices 1 and 2).
- 1.6** The purpose of this document is to ensure that ng homes complies with all current Legislation, Regulations and Health and Safety Executive Guidance Notes. The purpose of the document is also to engender “best practice” within ng homes.

2.0 EMERGENCY LIGHTING POLICY

2.1 Statement of Intent

It is the policy of ng homes to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, no persons are exposed to risks to their health from loss of lighting in any of the tower blocks it owns or occupies.

2.2 Policy Statement

The organisations Emergency Lighting Policy conforms to the Health and Safety Legislation, Regulations, Approved Code of Practice and Guidance Note referred to in Section 1. The Policy and Procedures will apply to all tower blocks and all individuals employed by the Housing Organisation, and to contractors / subcontractors engaged by the Organisation **without exception**.

2.3 The Organisations Policy on Emergency Lighting is:

- i. In accordance with the guidance, to assess the requirement for Emergency Lighting systems in all tower blocks owned by ng homes by way of a Fire Risk Assessment.
- ii. Install/upgrade emergency lighting systems in all tower blocks owned by ng homes, which do not comply with current guidance.

- iii. Carry out short functional testing on all Emergency Lighting systems on a monthly basis.
- iv. Carry out full rated duration testing on all Emergency Lighting systems on an annual basis.
- v. To keep a record of all safety checks carried out for at least two years.
- vi. Provide information to tenants on appropriate evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.
- vii. Liaise with Emergency Services on evacuation routes and procedures in place for each tower block.
- viii. Manage the risks to emergency lighting systems from any building works carried out.