

BS 5266-1:2016



BSI Standards Publication

**Emergency lighting –**  
Part 1: Code of practice for the  
emergency lighting of premises

**bsi.**

**Publishing and copyright information**

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

© The British Standards Institution 2016

Published by BSI Standards Limited 2016

ISBN 978 0 580 91983 1

ICS 13.200; 29.120.99; 91.160.10

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference EL/1/1

Draft for comment 16/30331553 DC

**Publication history**

First published July 1975

Second edition, February 1988

Third edition, October 1999

Fourth edition, December 2005

Fifth edition, November 2011

Sixth (present) edition, May 2016

**Amendments issued since publication**

| Date | Text affected |
|------|---------------|
|------|---------------|

---

## Contents

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Foreword     | <i>iv</i>  |
| Introduction | 1  |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Scope</b> 2   |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>Normative references</b> 2  |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>Terms and definitions</b> 3   |
| <b>4</b>     | <b>Consultation and records</b> 5  |
| 4.1          | Consultation 5   |
| 4.2          | Supply of plans 6  |
| 4.3          | Records 6  |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>Illumination for emergency lighting conditions</b> 6                            |
| 5.1          | General 7  |
| 5.2          | Illumination for safe escape – Emergency escape lighting 7                         |
| 5.3          | Illumination for safety in the building – Emergency safety lighting 13             |
| 5.4          | Illumination for continued activity – Standby lighting 14                          |
| <b>6</b>     | <b>Emergency lighting design</b> 14  |
| 6.1          | System integrity 14  |
| 6.2          | Failure of individual normal lamp 14   |
| 6.3          | Failure of emergency lighting luminaire 15   |
| 6.4          | Mounting height of luminaires 15   |
| 6.5          | Spacing between luminaires 15  |
| 6.6          | Classification of operation of emergency lighting systems 15                       |
| 6.7          | Choice of appropriate emergency lighting systems 15                                |
| <b>7</b>     | <b>Power supplies and equipment</b> 16   |
| 7.1          | Power supplies 16  |
| 7.2          | Battery supplied systems 16  |
| 7.3          | Generators 17  |
| 7.4          | Lamps and luminaires for emergency lighting 17                                     |
| <b>8</b>     | <b>Wiring systems and circuits</b> 17  |
| 8.1          | Wiring for self-contained systems 17   |
| 8.2          | Wiring for central power supply systems 18   |
| 8.3          | Wiring circuits 22   |
| 8.4          | Electromagnetic compatibility 23   |
| <b>9</b>     | <b>Application of emergency escape and safety lighting for typical premises</b> 23 |
| 9.1          | General 23   |
| 9.2          | Premises used as sleeping accommodation 23   |
| 9.3          | Non-residential premises used for treatment or care 23                             |
| 9.4          | Non-residential premises used for recreation 24                                    |
| 9.5          | Non-residential premises used for teaching, training and research, and offices 24  |
| 9.6          | Non-residential public premises 25   |
| 9.7          | Industrial premises used for manufacture, processing or storage of products 25     |
| 9.8          | Multiple use of premises 25  |
| 9.9          | Common access routes within blocks of flats or maisonettes 25                      |
| 9.10         | Covered car parks 25   |
| 9.11         | Sports stadia 25   |
| <b>10</b>    | <b>Emergency lighting design procedure</b> 26                                      |
| 10.1         | General 26   |
| 10.2         | Determine requirements 26  |
| 10.3         | Design of illuminance 26   |
| 10.4         | Design of system 27  |

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| 10.5 | Design of circuit protection and controls                       | 27 |
| 10.6 | Installation, operating and commissioning instructions          | 28 |
| 10.7 | Handover  | 28 |
| 11   | Certificates and log book                                       | 28 |
| 12   | Routine inspections and tests                                   | 29 |
| 13   | Servicing and repair of emergency lighting systems              | 30 |
| 13.1 | Actions to be taken by the responsible person                   | 30 |
| 13.2 | Action to be taken by the competent person to repair luminaires | 30 |
| 13.3 | Servicing of specialist components                              | 31 |
| 13.4 | Emergency lighting system service spares                        | 31 |

#### Annexes

|                       |   |    |
|-----------------------|---|----|
| Annex A (informative) | Summary of standards covering emergency lighting                                | 32 |
| Annex B (informative) | Developments in emergency lighting application and technology                   | 33 |
| Annex C (informative) | Guidance on the application of emergency lighting systems                       | 34 |
| Annex D (informative) | Measuring illuminance of emergency lighting                                     | 35 |
| Annex E (informative) | Typical illuminance for specific locations                                      | 37 |
| Annex F (informative) | Emergency lighting classifications  | 40 |
| Annex G (informative) | Guidance on illuminance measurements and calculations                           | 41 |
| Annex H (informative) | Model completion certificate  | 43 |
| Annex I (informative) | Model certificate for completion of small new installations                     | 49 |
| Annex J (informative) | Emergency lighting log book   | 52 |
| Annex K (informative) | Model certificate for verification of existing installations                    | 54 |
| Annex L (informative) | Additional guidance on the compliance checklist and report for an existing site | 57 |
| Annex M (informative) | Model periodic inspection and test certificate                                  | 59 |
|                       | Bibliography  | 62 |

#### List of figures

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
| Figure 1   | Types of emergency lighting   | 1  |
| Figure 2   | Example of rooms requiring emergency lighting   | 9  |
| Figure A.1 | Summary of standards covering emergency lighting  | 32 |
| Figure G.1 | Conventional escape route where the floor is the working plane                          | 42 |
| Figure G.2 | Cooking stove where the surface of the stove is the working plane                       | 42 |
| Figure G.3 | Fire panel needing to be read on the vertical plane                                     | 42 |
| Figure H.1 | Model completion certificate – General declaration                                      | 43 |
| Figure H.2 | Model completion certificate – Design – Declaration of conformity                       | 44 |
| Figure H.3 | Model completion certificate – Installation – Declaration of conformity                 | 46 |
| Figure H.4 | Model completion certificate – Verification – Declaration of conformity                 | 47 |
| Figure I.1 | Model certificate for completion of small new installations – General declaration       | 49 |
| Figure I.2 | Model certificate for completion of small new installations – Declaration of conformity | 50 |
| Figure K.1 | Model certificate for completion of existing installations – General declaration        | 54 |
| Figure K.2 | Model certificate for verification of existing installations – Checklist and report     | 55 |
| Figure M.1 | Model emergency lighting inspection and test certificate                                | 59 |

Figure M.2 – Model emergency lighting inspection and test record 60

Figure M.3 – Model emergency lighting fault action record 61

**List of tables**

Table E.1 – Typical illuminance for specific locations 39

**Summary of pages**

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to vi, pages 1 to 64, an inside back cover and a back cover.

## Foreword

### Publishing information

This part of BS 5266 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 May 2016. It was prepared by Subcommittee EL/1/1, *Emergency lighting*, under the authority of Technical Committee EL/1, *Light and lighting applications*. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to their secretary.

### Supersession

This part of BS 5266 supersedes BS 5266-1:2011, which is withdrawn.

### Relationship with other publications

This part of BS 5266 is intended for use in conjunction with BS EN 1838 and BS EN 50172.

BS EN 50172:2004, 4.1 specifies compliance with the wiring rules given in HD 384/HD 60364. The UK applicable parts of HD 384/HD 60364 are implemented in the IET Wiring Regulations (BS 7671).

BS 5266 is published in the following parts:

- Part 1: *Code of practice for the emergency lighting of premises*;
- Part 2: *Code of practice for electrical low mounted way guidance systems for emergency use*;
- Part 4: *Code of practice for design, installation, maintenance and use of optical fibre systems*;
- Part 5: *Specification for components parts of optical fibre systems*;
- Part 6: *Code of practice for non-electrical low mounted way guidance systems for emergency use – Photoluminescent systems*;
- Part 8: *Emergency escape lighting systems (also numbered BS EN 50172)*.

The following topics are covered in BS EN 50172 and BS EN 1838:

- general requirements for emergency escape lighting;
- escape route lighting;
- open area (anti-panic) lighting;
- high risk task area lighting;
- standby lighting.

Detailed guidance on fire risk assessments is given in PAS 79, in a series of guides published by the Department for Communities and Local Government [1–11], and in guidance published by the Justice Department of the Scottish Government [12–21].

Guidance on risk assessments for health and safety is given in HSE publication INDG 163 [22].

A summary of the hierarchy of standards covering the different aspects of emergency lighting systems is given in Annex A.

### Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard. The principal change introduced is an expansion of the scope to cover emergency safety lighting and standby lighting, as well as emergency escape lighting.