Progressive Life Safety Code - Section 5-10

MARKING OF MEANS OF EGRESS

5-10.1 General.

5-10.1.1 Means of egress shall be marked in accordance with this section where required in Chapters 8 through 30.

5-10.1.2* Exits shall be marked by an approved sign readily visible from any direction of exit access.
Exception: Main exterior exit doors that obviously and clearly are identifiable as exits.

5-10.1.3 Access to exits shall be marked by approved readily visible signs in all cases where the exit or way to reach it is not readily apparent to the occupants. Sign placement shall be such that no point in the exit access is more than 100 ft (30 m) from the nearest visible sign.
Exception: Signs in existing buildings need not meet the 100-ft (30 m) distance requirement.

5-10.1.4* Where floor proximity exit signs are specifically required by Chapters 8 through 30, exit signs shall be placed near the floor level in addition to those signs required for doors or corridors by 5-10.1.2 and 5-10.1.3. These signs shall be sized and illuminated in accordance with the requirements of 5-10.2 and 5-10.3. The bottom of the sign shall be not less than 6 in. (15.2 cm) nor more than 8 in. (20.3 cm) above the floor. For exit doors, the sign shall be mounted on the door or adjacent to the door with the closest edge of the sign within 4 in. (10.2 cm) of the door frame.

5-10.1.5* Every sign required by Section 5-10 shall be so located and of such size, distinctive color, and design as to be readily visible and shall provide contrast with decorations, interior finish, or other signs. No decorations, furnishings, or equipment that impair visibility of an exit sign shall be permitted, nor shall there be any brightly illuminated sign (for other than exit purposes), display, or object in or near the line of vision of the required exit sign of such a character as to so detract attention from the exit sign.

5-10.1.6 Where floor proximity egress path marking is specifically required by Chapters 8 through 30, a listed and approved floor proximity egress path marking system that is internally illuminated shall be installed within 8 in. (20.3 cm) of the floor. The system shall provide a visible delineation of the path of travel along the designated exit access and shall be essentially continuous, except as interrupted by doorways, hallways, corridors, or other such architectural features. The system shall operate continuously or at any time the building fire alarm system is activated. The
activation, duration, and continuity of operation of the system shall be in accordance with 5-9.2.

5-10.2* Size of Signs.

5-10.2.1 Externally illuminated signs required by 5-10.1 and 5-10.4.11 shall have the word “EXIT” or other appropriate wording in plainly legible letters not less than 6 in. (15.2 cm) high with the principal strokes of letters not less than 3/4 in. (1.9 cm) wide. The word “EXIT” shall have letters of a width not less than 2 in. (5 cm) except the letter “I,” and the minimum spacing between letters shall be not less than 3/8 in. (1 cm). Signs larger than the minimum established in this paragraph shall have letter widths, strokes, and spacing in proportion to their height.
Exception No. 1: Existing approved signs.
Exception No. 2: Existing signs having the required wording in plainly legible letters not less than 4 in. (10.2 cm) high.
Exception No. 3: Marking required by 5-10.1.3 and 5-10.1.7

5-10.2.2 Internally illuminated signs required by 5-10.1 and 5-10.4.1.1 shall have the word “EXIT” or other appropriate wording in letters legible from a distance of at least 100 ft (30 m) under all normal and emergency lighting conditions (30 fc and 1 fc, respectively). Internally illuminated signs shall be listed in accordance with UL 924.
Exception No. 1: Approved exit signs.
Exception No. 2: Existing signs having the required wording in legible letters not less than 4 in. (10.2 cm).
Exception No. 3: Marking required by 5-10.1.3 and 5-10.1.7.

5-10.3 Illumination of Signs.

5-10.3.1* Every sign required by 5-10.1.2 or 5-10.1.3 shall be suitably illuminated by a reliable light source. Externally and internally illuminated signs shall be visible in both the normal and emergency lighting mode.

5-10.3.2* Externally illuminated signs shall be illuminated by not less than 5 foot-candles (54 lx) and shall employ a contrast ratio of not less than 0.5.

5-10.3.3* The visibility of an internally illuminated sign shall be the equivalent of an externally illuminated sign that complies with 5-10.3.2.
Exception No. 1: Approved existing signs.
Exception No. 2*: Listed self-luminous or electroluminescent signs that provide evenly illuminated letters shall have a minimum luminance of 0.06 footlamberts (0.21 cd/sq m) as measured by a color-corrected photometer. New signs shall be located such that viewing distance along the path of egress is not more than their marked rating.
5-10.3.4 Every sign required by 5-10.1.4 shall provide evenly illuminated letters having a minimum luminance of 0.06 footlamberts (0.21 cd/sq m).
Exception: Signs complying with the requirements of 5-10.3.3 are acceptable.

5-10.3.5 Every sign required to be illuminated by 5-10.3 shall be continuously illuminated as required under the provisions of Section 5-8.
Exception*: Illumination for signs shall be permitted to flash on and off upon activation of the fire alarm system.

5-10.3.6 Where emergency lighting facilities are required by the applicable provisions of Chapters 8 through 30 for individual occupancies, the exit signs, except approved self-luminous signs, shall be illuminated by the emergency lighting facilities. The level of illumination of the exit sign shall be at the levels provided in accordance with 5-10.3.2 or 5-10.3.3 for the required emergency lighting time duration as specified in 5-9.2.1 but shall be permitted to decline to 60 percent of the illumination level at the end of the emergency lighting time duration.

5-10.4 Specific Requirements.

5-10.4.1 Directional Signs.

5-10.4.1.1* A sign complying with 5-10.2 reading “EXIT” or a similar designation with a directional indicator showing the direction of travel shall be placed in every location where the direction of travel to reach the nearest exit is not apparent. Directional signs shall be listed.

NOTICE: Following the issuance of this edition, an appeal was filed requesting that 5-10.4.1.2 revert to the wording in the 1988 edition of the Code. Refer to page 101-11.

5-10.4.1.2* Directional Indicator. The directional indicator shall be located outside of the EXIT legend, not less than 3/8 in. (1 cm) from any letter, and may be integral to or separate from the sign body. The directional indicator shall be of a chevron type as shown in Figure 5-10.4.1.2 and shall be identifiable as a directional indicator at a minimum distance of 40 ft (12 m) under all space illumination conditions. The directional indicators shall not be located at the end of the sign opposite the direction indicated.
Exception: Existing approved signs.
Figure 5-10.4.1.2

5-10.4.2* Special Signs. Any door, passage, or stairway that is neither an exit nor a way of exit access and that is so located or arranged that it is likely to be mistaken for an exit shall be identified by a sign reading “NO EXIT.” Such sign shall have the word “NO” in letters 2 in. (5 cm) high with stroke width of 3/8 in. (1 cm) and the word
EXIT in letters 1 in. (2.5 cm) high, with the word EXIT below the word NO. Exception: Approved existing signs.

Figure 5-10.4.1.2

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SECTION

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