Guideline for Security Lighting for People, Property, and Public Spaces
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Publication of this Committee Report has been approved by the IESNA. Suggestions for revisions should be directed to the IESNA.

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Foreword and History

During World War I, the U.S. Government recognized the need for industry to increase exterior lighting at key production facilities, docks, assembly yards, high security facilities, and railway yards. These improvements had two purposes, to aid in production, and to deter sabotage. Although exterior protective lighting was widely increased, no standard was set.

- With the advent of World War II, at the request of the War Department, Military Intelligence, with assistance from the Insurance Committee for the Protection of American Industrial Plants, and the American Standards Association (ASA), initiated a project to develop a standard on outdoor protective lighting for industrial properties. The primary purpose of these efforts was to prevent theft and sabotage. Additionally, it was soon realized that “light discipline” was important to the war effort. Coastal facilities were darkened, and stray light was strictly controlled. North America was learning the importance of good security lighting and lighting discipline.

- During 1942, the ASA War Standards Procedure was applied, and a War Standards Committee prepared and published American Standard, A85-1942, Protective Lighting for Industrial Properties. This eventually became an ANSI Standard.

- In 1948, the ASA Safety Code Correlating Committee terminated War Standards and instituted a revised standard for peacetime use. The Illuminating Engineering Society was designated Administrative Sponsor for this effort.

- The IES Protective Lighting Committee developed the first draft of this revision, which the Sectional Committee used as a basis for an American National Standard Practice.

- In 1977, The Protective Lighting Committee, IES, sponsored, wrote, and published American National Standard Practice for Protective Lighting-RP-10. This standard was intended as a guide for outdoor protective lighting to those responsible for plant protection.¹

- In 1994, a Security Lighting Committee was formed by the IESNA. Its first project was to write a modern guideline for security lighting for North America.

- During 1997-1998, the Security Lighting Committee

developed material that was the basis for Chapter 29 of the IESNA Lighting Handbook, Ninth Edition.²

- During 1999, members of the Security Lighting Committee outlined the contents and approach for a guideline for peer review and comment before several professional groups. These groups included the American Society of Safety Engineers, and the American Society for Industrial Security.

- During 2000, additional presentations were made before professional security groups concerned with the safety and security of the public, including the International Conference on Shopping Centers and the American Society of Industrial Security.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Security Lighting Committee, previously known as The Protective Lighting Committee of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), was established to generate and develop criteria for lighting to enhance the security of people and property, to recommend the integration and interaction of lighting as part of a total security system, and to write a publication.

1.1 Lighting and its Relationship to Crime

The possibility that lighting might have an impact on the incidence of crime was a topic of interest in the United States in the sixties. Municipalities across America improved their street lighting to combat crime and some encouraging results were reported, but on review there was no significant statistical evidence that improved street lighting influenced the level of street crime. There was, however, an indication that the improved street lighting decreased the fear of crime.

Twenty years later, in 1988, a before and after relighting study of a street in the outer city area of London, England, by K. Painter demonstrated a marked reduction in the incidence of crime and the fear of crime on the relighted street. (See Annex A.)


The most sophisticated study undertaken on the effect of lighting on the incidence of crime was in 1999 in Stoke-on-Trent in England by Painter and Farrington.