

NEMA EM 1

EXIT SIGN VISIBILITY TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFETY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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Exit Sign Visibility Testing Requirements for Safety and Energy Efficiency

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Foreword

The purpose of this NEMA Standards Publication is to promote safety by setting forth visibility testing procedures and requirements for exit signs. These procedures and requirements are based on the best available objective research by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Lighting Research Center and on independent testing by CSA International. For the purposes of this standard, the function of an exit sign is regarded as two-fold: for readability and to attract attention in an emergency situation.

This standard is based largely on the work done by CSA International and participating companies and organizations in developing CAN/CSA Standard C860-07, *Performance of Internally Lighted Exit Signs*. However, this NEMA Standards Publication is not intended for listing or certification of products covered in its scope. For listing and certification purposes, consult the appropriate publications of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. and/or CSA International.

This standard includes energy-efficiency requirements for declaration as NEMA Premium rated products. All safety related requirements and energy-efficiency requirements shall be met for NEMA Premium ratings.

In the preparation of this standards publication, input of users and other interested parties was sought and evaluated. Inquiries, comments, and proposed or recommended revisions should be submitted to the Emergency Lighting Subdivision of NEMA by contacting:

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The Emergency Lighting Section developed this standard. Section approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all section members voted for its approval or participated in its development. At the time the standard was approved, the Emergency Lighting Section was composed of the following members:

Acuity Brands Lighting
Cooper Lighting
Gilbert Industries, Inc.
Hubbell Lighting, Inc.
Luraline
Philips Lighting
Ruud Lighting Inc.
Schneider Electric/Square D Company
Technical Consumer Products, Inc.
Thomas & Betts Corporation

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1 Scope

This standards publication contains performance requirements and test methods for evaluating exit sign visibility. Visibility requirements are based on an assumed normal visual acuity and normal color recognition in clear air at a maximum viewing distance of 30.5 m (100 ft). This scope does not imply that exit signs conforming to the requirements of this standard will be visible to all people under all environmental conditions.

This standards publication contains energy-efficiency requirements and test methods for evaluating exit sign performance in order to declare a NEMA Premium rating.

These requirements apply to exit signs that illuminate an integral legally required legend for installation in accordance with the *National Electrical Code* (ANSI/NFPA 70) and the *Life Safety Code* (ANSI/NFPA 101), including exit signs intended for use near the floor.