FFP CANTERBURY LTD

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS BUILDING WARRANT OF FITNESS WORKPLACE SAFETY SYSTEMS EVACUATION MANAGEMENT



EVACUATION SIGNS

When installing Evacuation signs in your building, you must comply with the standard which applies to your site. This guide sets out to help you choose the correct signs to install.

Evacuation signs are required to be installed over every Final Exit door (a door on an egress route which leads to the outside) and to indicate any door on the exit route where egress is not obvious. As a general rule if you are anywhere in a building, then you should be able of see an exit, or a sign should be placed indicating a direction toward your exit. If evacuation leads outside, then you must also sign any gate or path which is used to lead to a place where people may "safely disperse".

Many different types of signs exist as changes to the standards over the past decades have brought in new requirements and you must choose the correct sign for your building to avoid risk of non-compliance. You should establish which of the following signs you have already installed, and EITHER install signs which match the signs you have already OR install signs which comply to the current building code requirements.

Letter height has been accepted as small as 50mm previously but now must be no smaller than 75mm where the sign is viewed from up to 16m, and not less than 100mm up to 24m.

Signs shall be installed either on the door or above or beside the door within 600mm of the frame.

Signs must be visible at a normal viewing height and not be obstructed from vision. Signs can have the word EXIT or may now use the universal "Running Man" icon. Arrows shall be included where required to indicate a change in travel direction from the sign.

Signage types look like this:

STATIC / PRINTED SIGNS (up to 2007).

Typically plastic signs these must be in a white writing on green background format. EXIT signs are installed over doors which are normally used, and FIRE EXIT signs installed over doors which are only used in an emergency. Signs shall be permanent and comply with sizes, colours and fonts and securely fixed.

Do not install static signs where any of the below signs are present anywhere in the building.

NON-MAINTAINED ILLUMINATED SIGNS (up to 2007, partial acceptance to 2012)

These are an emergency light which are normally not illuminated (and act like a static sign) and illuminate under power failure with a rechargeable backup battery. These require a lamp test every month and an IQP test year. Check other signs around to make sure what you don't have is actually a broken sustained sign.

SUSTAINED ILLUMINATED SIGNS (Current code)

These are a light fitting which are illuminated all the time under mains power, and illuminate like an emergency light under power failure. These should be connected to the building emergency light test. If a sustained sign is not illuminated at any time, it requires immediate repair. These require checking each month, and an IQP inspection each year.

PHOTOLUMINESCENT SIGNS – "Ecoglo" brand only (Current code)

These signs require no power as they absorb light from other sources and glow when light is removed. These can only be installed where good daylight or good artificial light is present across the face of the sign at all times the building is occupied. They are not suitable for dimly lit locations such as bars or theatres, or alternative exits such as back rooms or corridors where the lights are not on all the time. Lettering height is required to be larger for Photoluminescent signs.

Static and Photoluminescent signs can be obtained directly through FFP.co.nz, and FFP can supply and install Illuminated signs to comply.



FIRE EXIT