



FOR BACKGROUND

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Photoluminescent Products: Dependable, Affordable, and Environmentally Responsible

Background

Photoluminescent, or glow-in-the-dark, products improve safety through such products as exit signs, low-location egress pathway marking systems, and general safety signage. They use no power, do not use radioactive materials, and last for years. PL safety markings may be easily installed in seconds with just a few screws or some adhesive tape.

As photoluminescent material absorbs light rays it stores energy. Upon removal of the light source, the stored light is gradually released, producing a highly visible surface illumination that fades over a period of time. Photoluminescent material glows in the dark if power is lost or smoke obscures overhead lighting. Unlike electrically powered systems, which rely on back up batteries or emergency generators, photoluminescent egress marking systems are fail safe. They will glow by themselves, remaining visible for a minimum of 90 minutes and will continue to be visible for up to 30 hours.

PL products are often used as in egress marking systems to provide building occupants with a continuous pathway delineation for egress under all emergency conditions. Following the problems encountered in high-rise buildings in New York during the 9/11 tragedy, the city passed Local Law 26 (3 RCNY §6-02) that requires certain types of buildings to develop Office Building Emergency Action Plans detailing building responses to a variety of non-fire related emergencies. To meet the requirements in these plans many buildings now use PL products to mark stairwells and exits. Other

jurisdictions are considering similar legislation. PL products are on the General Services Administration schedule and are used in many government and military facilities, including the Pentagon in its post-9/11 rebuilding project.

Mission Statement

PSA is dedicated to generating broad-based acceptance of safety-grade photoluminescent products. PSA is as an advocate for PL products before code-setting organizations such as the International Code Council (ICC) and National Fire Production Association (NFPA). The PSA Code and Standards Committee work to educate the ICC and NFPA committee members on the advantage of including PL products in their building codes for safer evacuation of occupants in case of unforeseen emergencies.

History

Leaders in the photoluminescent products industry formed the Photoluminescent Safety Association (PSA) in June 2006. Membership is open to people and organizations that manufacture, sell, or market safety-grade photoluminescent products; write, implement or participate in the writing of building and vehicular safety codes; are responsible for getting people out of buildings safely in an emergency; and that represent first-responders or fire safety officials.