



Building Code of Australia E4

Section E, Part E4.



The following details the requirements for emergency lighting and exit signs in Class 6 buildings over 100m² built after 1 July 1994. Please note that all Class 6 buildings require at least one exit sign.

A Class 6 Building is defined as 'a shop or other building for the sale of goods by retail or the supply of services direct to the public. Example: cafe, restaurant, kiosk, hairdressers, showroom or service station.'

All required exit signs and emergency lighting must comply with Australian Standard AS2293.1.

E4.2 Emergency lighting requirements

An emergency lighting system must be installed –

- a. in every fire-isolated stairway, fire-isolated ramp or fire-isolated passageway; and
- b. in every storey of a Class 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 building where the storey has a floor area more than 300 m² –
 - i. in every passageway, corridor, hallway, or the like, that is part of the path of travel to an exit; and
 - ii. in any room having a floor area more than 100 m² that does not open to a corridor or space that has emergency lighting or to a road or open space; and
 - iii. in any room having a floor area more than 300 m²; and
- c. in every passageway, corridor, hallway, or the like, having a length of more than 6 m from the entrance doorway of any sole-occupancy unit in a Class 2 or 3 building or Class 4 part of a building to the nearest doorway opening directly to –
 - i. a fire-isolated stairway, fire-isolated ramp or fire-isolated passageway; or
 - ii. an external stairway serving instead of a fire-isolated stairway under D1.8; or
 - iii. an external balcony leading to a fire-isolated stairway, fire-isolated ramp or fire-isolated passageway; or
 - iv. a road or open space; and
- d. in every required non fire-isolated stairway; and
- e. in a sole-occupancy unit in a Class 5, 6 or 9 building if –
 - i. the floor area of the unit is more than 300 m²; and
 - ii. an exit from the unit does not open to a road or open space or to an external stairway, passageway, balcony or ramp, leading directly to a road or open space; and

- f.** in every room or space to which there is public access in every storey in a Class 6 or 9b building if?
 - i.** the floor area in that storey is more than 300 m²; or
 - ii.** any point on the floor of that storey is more than 20 m from the nearest doorway leading directly to a stairway, ramp, passageway, road or open space; or
 - iii.** egress from that storey involves a vertical rise within the building of more than 1.5 m, or any vertical rise if the storey concerned does not admit sufficient light; or
 - iv.** the storey provides a path of travel from any other storey required by (i), (ii) or (iii) to have emergency lighting; and
- g.** in a Class 9a health-care building –
 - i.** in every passageway, corridor, hallway, or the like, serving a treatment area or a ward area; and
 - ii.** in every room having a floor area of more than 120 m² in a patient care area; and
- h.** in every Class 9c aged care building excluding within sole-occupancy units; and
- i.** in every required fire control centre.

In addition, the BCA also states the following requirements for Exit signs;

E4.5 Exit signs

An exit sign must be clearly visible to persons approaching the exit, and must be installed on, above or adjacent to each –

- a.** door providing direct egress from a storey to –
 - i.** an enclosed stairway, passageway or ramp serving as a required exit; and
 - ii.** an external stairway, passageway or ramp serving as a required exit; and
 - iii.** an external access balcony leading to a required exit; and
- b.** door from an enclosed stairway, passageway or ramp at every level of discharge to a road or open space; and
- c.** horizontal exit; and
- d.** door serving as, or forming part of, a required exit in a storey required to be provided with emergency lighting in accordance with E4.2.