



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	November 24, 2014	Interpretation	14-010
Topic	Means of Egress Illumination		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC 1006.1, Energy Code §130.1(c)		
Requested by	Schetter Electric James Hines, Electrical Engineer		
Date Received	June 20, 2014		

Questions: The California Energy Code, states that all lighting including emergency lighting must be shut off when the building is unoccupied. It states that this is to be done by occupancy sensing, automatic time switch, or building system signal. If occupancy sensing is used for a separate office and the exit path is also occupancy sensing controlled, then an occupant can be in an office with the exit path totally dark, which does not conform to section 1006 of the California Building Code. For timing or a building control system there will not be a guarantee the building will be unoccupied.

1. **What are the exiting and emergency lighting requirements when applying the California Energy Code?**

Answer: The California Building Code (CBC) requirements for Means of Egress Illumination Section (§1006) supersede the California Energy Code. The requirements of CBC §1006 are applicable when applying the California Energy Code.

2. **For emergencies, how will a responding party activate the lights as there is no requirement for a fire department emergency override?**

Answer: As stated in question 1, the means of egress illumination level shall not be less than 1 footcandle at the walking surface, where required per CBC. There are no fire and life safety code requirements for fire department overrides.

3. **Are electronic methods of guaranteeing that no one is in the building acceptable? If so, must they be UL 924 (emergency), or State Fire Marshal approved, or require continuous monitoring or testing?**

Answer: As stated in question 1, the means of egress illumination level shall not be less than 1 footcandle at the walking surface, where required per CBC. There are no fire and life safety code requirements for electronic methods of guaranteeing the building is unoccupied.

4. **What is the required commissioning test for controls if required? What documentation would be required?**

Answer: As stated in question 1, the means of egress illumination level shall not be less than 1 footcandle at the walking surface, where required per CBC. There are no fire and life safety code requirements for commissioning test for controls.

5. **How should this apply to a mall, where light control timing would be used instead of occupancy control? What guarantees the mall to be unoccupied?**

Answer: As stated in question 1, the means of egress illumination level shall not be less than 1 footcandle at the walking surface, where required per CBC.