



THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND SIGNAGE IN FIRE SAFETY ACCORDING TO UK LAW

here's an easy
guide to get...



...started.





Let's get the boring bits out the way shall we?

“What the law says?”

*In the UK, emergency lighting and signage are critical components of fire safety at events, ensuring the safe evacuation of attendees during emergencies. Event organisers have legal obligations under various legislation and standards, including **The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, (RRO)**, the **Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996**, and British Standards such as **BS 5266**, **BS 5499**, and **BS 7909**. The Purple Guide also provides best practice recommendations to ensure compliance and safety at events.*





Legal Requirements for emergency lighting?



Legal Requirements for Emergency Lighting

1. Purpose of Emergency Lighting

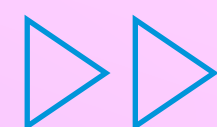
- Emergency lighting ensures safe evacuation by providing illumination when normal power supplies fail. It includes escape route lighting, standby lighting, and high-risk task area lighting, which must be considered for both permanent and temporary event structures. For temporary power and generator use at events, compliance with **BS 7909:2023** is essential.

2. Key Legal Duties

- Under the **RRO**, the "responsible person" (e.g., event organisers, venue managers) must ensure emergency lighting is provided and maintained to facilitate safe evacuation.
- Emergency lighting systems must be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with **BS 5266-1**.
- For outdoor events and temporary structures, emergency lighting should be risk-assessed in line with the Purple Guide and other relevant HSE guidance.

3. Inspection and Maintenance

- Monthly function tests and annual full-duration tests are mandatory.
- Testing records must be maintained and made available for inspections and fire risk assessments.
- Temporary lighting at events must be tested before the event opens and regularly checked throughout.





Legal Requirements for emergency signage?

Legal Requirements for Emergency Signage

1. Purpose of Emergency Signage

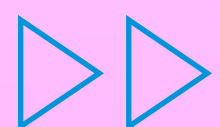
- Emergency signage provides clear direction to safe exits and identifies critical safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, alarms, and assembly points. At events, signage must be positioned effectively to guide attendees, staff, and contractors to safety.

2. Key Legal Duties

- **The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996** mandate the provision of clear, visible, and standardised safety signage.
- Signs must conform to **BS 5499-4**, incorporating standardised pictograms, directional arrows, and illumination for visibility in low-light conditions.
- Event signage should comply with Purple Guide recommendations to ensure clear and unambiguous evacuation routes.

3. Inspection and Maintenance

- Signs must be illuminated through emergency lighting or photo-luminescent materials.
- Regular checks should ensure signs are visible, correctly positioned, and not obstructed.
- Temporary event signage must be securely positioned and regularly inspected throughout the event.





““ CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE ””



Failure to comply with these legal requirements can result in:

- *Legal penalties, including fines and potential imprisonment under the **RRO**.*
- *Increased liability in cases of injury or fatality during an emergency.*
- *Event licensing issues and possible closure by local authorities.*
- *Invalidation of insurance policies, leading to financial and reputational damage.*





Emergency Lighting: Compliance Checklist

1. System Installation

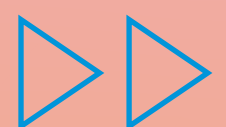
- Emergency lighting is installed in all key areas, including exits, escape routes, and high-risk locations..
- The system complies with **BS 5266** and **BS 7909** for temporary event power.

2. Performance and Coverage

- Escape routes, exits, and key operational areas are adequately illuminated.
- All emergency luminaires meet the required duration (typically 3 hours for fixed venues, appropriate durations for temporary installations).

3. Testing and Maintenance

- Monthly function tests are performed, and results recorded.
- Pre-event emergency lighting checks are conducted for temporary setups.
- Any faulty emergency lighting is promptly repaired or replaced.





Emergency Signage: Compliance Checklist

1. Sign Placement and Design

- Escape route signs are positioned clearly and consistently along all routes.
- Fire exit signs comply with BS 5499-4 and Purple Guide recommendations.
- Signs are visible, legible, and appropriately illuminated.

2. Functionality and Visibility

- Signs are clean, undamaged, and unobstructed.
- Illumination is functional, either through emergency lighting or photo-luminescent materials.

3. Maintenance

- Regular inspections are conducted before and during the event.
- Any missing or damaged signs are replaced immediately.





FINAL THOUGHTS:

- Emergency lighting and signage are legally required to ensure public safety at events in the UK.
- Compliance with the RRO, BS standards, and the Purple Guide not only fulfils legal duties but also safeguards attendees, staff, and organisers from potential harm.
- By implementing regular inspections, maintaining accurate records, and adhering to best practice guidance, event organisers can create a safe and legally compliant environment for all.

** Fingers crossed you never need
Emergency Lighting and Signage!*

