



## **BULLETIN RB06-018**

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

### **GREEN RUNNING MAN PICTOGRAM EXIT SIGNS**

**Reference: ABC Div B, 3.4.5.1., 9.9.10.6., 9.9.10.7.; NBC Div B, 3.4.5.1.**

#### **2006 ABC**

##### **3.4.5.1. Exit Signs**

- 2) Every exit sign shall
  - a) be visible from the exit approach,
  - b) have the word EXIT displayed in plain legible letters, and
  - c) be illuminated continuously while the building is occupied
- 3) Exit signs shall consist of
  - a) red letters on a contrasting background or contrasting letters on a red background, with the letters not less than 114 mm high and having a 19 mm stroke, if the sign is internally illuminated, and
  - b) white letters on a red background or red letters on a contrasting background that is white or a light tint, with letters not less than 150 mm high and having a 19 mm stroke, if the sign is externally illuminated.
- 4) If illumination of an exit sign is provided from an electrical circuit, that circuit shall
  - a) serve no equipment other than emergency equipment, and
  - b) be connected to an emergency power supply as described in **Sentence 3.2.7.4.(1)****

#### **9.9.10.6. Lettering**

- 1) Exit signs shall have the word EXIT in red letters on a contrasting background or a red background with contrasting letters when the sign is internally lighted, and white letters on a red background or red letters on a white background when the sign is externally lighted.
- 2) Lettering referred to in **Sentence (1)** shall be made with not less than 19 mm wide strokes and be not less than 150 mm high when the sign is externally lighted, and not less than 114 mm high when the sign is internally lighted.

#### **9.9.10.7. Illumination**

- 1) Illumination of exit signs required in **Article 9.9.10.3.** shall conform to **Sentences 9.9.11.3.(2) and (3).****

#### **2010 NBC**

##### **3.4.5.1. Exit Signs**

- 2) Every exit sign shall
  - a) be visible on approach to the exit,
  - b) except as permitted in **Sentence (3)**, consist of a green pictogram and a white or lightly tinted graphical symbol meeting the colour specifications referred to in **ISO 3864-1**, “Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – **Part1**: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas,” and
  - c) conform to the dimensions indicated in **ISO 7010**, “Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Safety signs used in workplaces and public areas,” for the following symbols (**see Appendix A**):

- i) E001 emergency exit left,
  - ii) E002 emergency exit right,
  - iii) E005 90-degree directional arrow, and
  - iv) E006 45-degree directional arrow.
- 3) Internally illuminated exit signs shall be continuously illuminated and
    - a) where illumination of the sign is powered by an electrical circuit, be constructed in conformance with **CSA C22.2 No. 141**, “Emergency Lighting Equipment,” or
    - b) where illumination of the sign is not powered by an electrical circuit, be constructed in conformance with **CAN/ULC-S572**, “Photoluminescent and Self-Luminous Signs and Path Marking Systems.”
  - 4) Externally illuminated exit signs shall be continuously illuminated and be constructed in conformance with **CAN/ULC-S572**, “Photoluminescent and Self-Luminous Signs and Path Marking Systems.” (See **Appendix A.**)

### **Question:**

Release of the 2010 National Building Code and imminent adoption of the requirements from it in Alberta will bring significant changes to exit sign requirements. Exit signs will no longer be permitted to be red with letters reading “EXIT” but will rather be required to have the green “running man” pictogram or the green directional arrow as noted in the NBC requirements as indicated above. While new construction projects will require adoption of the new style exit sign when the 2010 NBC is formally adopted in Alberta, installations in existing buildings and use of the signs in advance of the introduction of the codes under an Alternative Solution is addressed here.

### **Commentary / Relevant Facts:**

Since the appearance of the existing acceptable signs and the new, yet to be adopted signs, are drastically different, this Regulations Bulletin is intended to address how they may be integrated, through the variance process into new construction taking place prior to the formal adoption of the 2010 NBC model code or in existing buildings, also through the variance process.

### **Conclusion:**

Generally speaking mixing and matching of red EXIT signs with the green pictogram signs are not to be done in the same floor area. A variance application would have to deal with the issues presented in the examples below. To clarify the specific requirements, building type example requirements are provided here indicating where a variance would permit the pictogram signs and where a variance would not:

Existing 1-storey, single tenant buildings

If the existing building does not have exit signs and new are being provided or, if all existing signs are being replaced with new, green pictogram signs may be permitted.

Where additional signs are being provided to supplement existing red EXIT signs, new read EXIT signs must be installed to match the existing remaining signs.

Existing single storey multi-tenant buildings with no common public spaces or shared egress (eg. Strip malls)

For the purpose of this regulations bulletin for exit sign installations, each tenant space will be considered a separate floor area

If all new exit signs are being provided in a tenant space, green pictogram signs may be permitted.

Where additional exit signs are required to supplement existing red EXIT signs, new red EXIT signs must be installed.

Additions to existing buildings

Exit signs in building additions must match those in the existing portion of the building

If the existing portion of the building does not have exit signs or if all existing signs are being replaced with new, green pictogram signs are permitted to be installed throughout both the existing building and the addition.

If existing red EXIT signs are being retained in the existing portion of the building, new red EXIT signs must be installed in the addition

Existing multi-storey buildings

Only one type of exit sign is permitted to be installed in a floor area

Except where special permission has been granted, tenant spaces that share access to exits with other tenant units must have the same type of signage within the tenant space as that within the access to exit.

Indoor shopping malls (ie. Multitenant shopping centers with indoor common public corridors)

Each tenant space can be treated individually and separate from the public and service corridors

All public and service corridors must be of one type of exit sign

Note:

For the purposes of this Regulations Bulletin, existing buildings are those where a building permit was issued prior to the date of this Regulations Bulletin.

This position is endorsed by the DBA, Building Regulations, Codes and Standards Technical Interpretation Committee at its September 10, 2013 meeting.

Chief Building Inspector

**This bulletin is issued by The City of Calgary Inspections & Permit Services.**

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. These bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.