



EMERGENCY & EXIT LIGHTING

How Emergency and Exit Light Testing Supports Safer Sites

Emergency and exit light testing supports safer sites by confirming that escape routes remain visible when normal power fails.

Routine inspection and discharge testing can identify failed batteries, damaged fittings, obscured exit signs and incomplete records before an emergency occurs — a practical way for building and facility managers to reduce risk, support compliance obligations and keep each site ready for an evacuation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Six-monthly testing is standard.** Emergency and exit lighting should generally be tested every six months, in line with the building's fire safety schedule and AS/NZS 2293.2.
- **Discharge tests simulate real power loss.** Normal supply is interrupted and each fitting must operate for its full required duration (commonly 90 minutes) before supply is restored.
- **Visibility matters, not just power.** Exit signs can be obscured by new partitions, stock or shelving, even when the fitting itself is working fine.
- **Self-testing systems still need active management.** Automated fittings reduce manual effort but don't remove the need to review results, inspect condition and keep records.
- **Good records prevent repeat faults.** A complete asset register and service history make recurring issues easier to spot and support compliance reporting.
- **Testing can work around your site.** After-hours or staged testing helps minimise disruption in occupied or critical areas.

WHY ARE EMERGENCY AND EXIT LIGHTS IMPORTANT?

During a power failure, fire or other emergency, occupants may need to leave a building quickly in reduced visibility. Emergency luminaires illuminate paths of travel, while exit signs help people identify the direction of egress and the final exit.

A fitting may appear normal during day-to-day operations but fail once mains power is interrupted. Batteries deteriorate, lamps and LEDs fail, fittings can be damaged, and changes to partitions, shelving or signage can affect visibility. Scheduled testing checks whether the system will perform when it is actually needed.

What Emergency Light Testing Checks



Operation on backup power

Each fitting must operate for its full required duration once normal supply is interrupted



Visibility & positioning

Exit signs can be obscured by new partitions, stock or shelving even when the fitting itself works fine



Records & rectification

Results, defects and completed rectification are documented against each asset

HOW DOES TESTING MAKE A SITE SAFER?

- Confirm emergency lights and exit signs operate when normal power is lost
- Check that fittings remain operational for the required test duration
- Identify failed batteries, lamps, chargers and damaged equipment
- Find exit signs that are obscured, poorly positioned or no longer visible
- Verify that fittings have not been removed or overlooked after a refurbishment
- Create a clear record of results, defects and completed rectification
- Plan repairs before a fault affects an evacuation or delays compliance reporting

Testing is most valuable as part of an organised maintenance program rather than a one-off exercise — a complete asset register, consistent service intervals and prompt close-out of defects give facility managers a clearer view of risk.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN EMERGENCY LIGHT TEST?

Emergency and exit lighting should generally be tested at six-monthly intervals in line with the building's fire safety schedule and AS/NZS 2293.2, with a discharge test commonly included — normal supply is interrupted and each fitting checked for operation over its required duration.

1 Review site information & inspect the installation

Confirm access, the asset register and prior results, then check the condition, visibility and accessibility of luminaires, exit signs and test facilities

2 Simulate a loss of normal power

Operate the test facility so the emergency lighting system runs from its backup supply

3 Monitor each fitting & restore supply safely

Confirm assets illuminate for the required duration, then check fittings return to normal operation and charging indicators respond as expected

4 Record results, then rectify and close out defects

Document each pass or failure with fault details, then repair or replace failed components and update the service history



Who Should Carry Out Testing?

- Appropriately competent personnel, with electrical repairs completed by suitably licensed electricians
- A provider that understands the site's access, safety, reporting and compliance requirements
- Not simply whether a fitting turns on, but whether the whole system is compliant

DO SELF-TESTING FITTINGS STILL NEED ATTENTION?

Yes. Self-testing or monitored systems can automate parts of the test process, but they don't remove the need to review results, investigate fault indicators, inspect condition and visibility, rectify failures and maintain records — the technology reduces manual effort, but the site still needs an active maintenance process.

What Records Should Be Kept?

- The assets tested, their locations, and the date and outcome of each test
- Defects found and rectification completed
- A reliable service history for facility teams, auditors and fire safety practitioners

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON EMERGENCY LIGHTING FAULTS?

FAULT AREA	WHAT'S COMMONLY FOUND
Batteries & power	Batteries that don't sustain the required test duration
Lamps & chargers	Failed lamps or LEDs and faulty chargers
Physical condition	Physical damage and missing or inaccessible test switches
Visibility	Exit signs obscured by stock, displays or new partitions
Records	Incomplete asset registers and missing service records

Repeated failures may indicate that a broader replacement plan is more effective than continuing with isolated reactive repairs — reviewing fault trends and battery age supports more predictable lifecycle budgeting.

MANAGING TESTING ACROSS MULTIPLE SITES



Testing works around your site

After-hours or staged testing helps minimise disruption in occupied or critical areas.



Digital asset records

Digital job-management records help multi-site clients compare results and monitor open defects.



Consistent reporting

A consistent asset register and reporting process gives portfolio managers a clearer view across every location.

IN CONCLUSION

Testing that keeps every site evacuation-ready

Emergency and exit light testing confirms that escape routes stay visible when normal power fails — routine inspection and discharge testing catch failed batteries, damaged fittings, obscured signs and incomplete records before an emergency occurs.

Testing is most effective as part of an organised program: a complete asset register, consistent service intervals and prompt close-out of defects, delivered by a provider who understands the site's compliance requirements — not just whether a fitting turns on.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How often should emergency and exit lights be tested in Australia?

They are generally tested every six months in line with AS/NZS 2293.2 and the building's fire safety schedule. Confirm the exact obligations for your site and jurisdiction.

How long does an emergency lighting discharge test take?

The system must run for its required duration — commonly 90 minutes — plus time for preparation, inspection, recording, restoration and battery recharge.

What happens if an emergency light fails?

The failed asset is recorded, assessed and rectified — commonly a battery, lamp, control component or full fitting replacement — with the repair added to the site's records.

Can testing be completed outside business hours?

Yes. Testing can often be scheduled after hours or staged around occupied and critical areas, with access, isolation and recharge requirements agreed beforehand.

Can emergency lighting be managed across multiple sites?

Yes — a consistent asset register, service schedule and reporting process gives portfolio managers a clearer view of results, defects and lifecycle priorities across locations.



EMERGENCY & EXIT LIGHTING

One call keeps every site's escape routes tested, visible and compliant.

Platinum Electricians provides emergency and exit light testing for commercial and multi-site environments across Australia — scheduled inspections and discharge testing, asset validation, defect identification, repairs and replacements, and clear service reporting.

- Scheduled inspections & discharge testing
 - Asset validation & defect identification
 - Repairs & replacements
 - Clear service reporting
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Call us on 1800 752 846 | service@platinumelectricians.com.au