

2.2 Approved Document B, Volume 1 – dwellinghouses

Dwellinghouse: A unit of residential accommodation occupied (whether or not as a sole or main residence):

- a** by a single person or by people living together as a family
- b** by not more than six residents living together as a single household, including a household where care is provided for residents.

Dwellinghouse does not include a flat or a building containing a flat.

As the scope of Volume 1 is dwellinghouses, and it does not include flats, the only reference to escape lighting is a definition.

2.3 Approved Document B, Volume 2 – buildings other than dwellinghouses

2.3.1 Lighting of escape routes

(para 5.36 of Vol. 2)

Volume 2 of Approved Document B recommends that all escape routes should have adequate artificial lighting, and that certain escape routes and areas should also have escape lighting to illuminate the escape route should the mains supply fail, see Table 2.1 overleaf. The lighting to escape stairs should be on a separate circuit from the circuits supplying the lighting to other parts of the escape route. The intention is to provide for a more reliable supply to escape stairs and designers should bear this intention in mind when designing the lighting.

▼ **Table 2.1** Provisions for escape lighting (Table 9 of App Doc B, Vol. 2)

Purpose group of the building or part of the building	Areas requiring escape lighting
1. Residential	All common escape routes*, except in 2-storey flats
2. Office, storage and other non-residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Underground or windowless accommodation b. Stairways in a central core or serving storey(s) more than 18 m above ground level c. Internal corridors more than 30 m long d. Open-plan areas of more than 60 m²
3. Shop, commercial and car parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Underground or windowless accommodation b. Stairways in a central core or serving storey(s) more than 18 m above ground level c. Internal corridors more than 30 m long d. Open-plan areas of more than 60 m² e. All escape routes* to which the public are admitted (except in shops of three or fewer storeys with no sales floor more than 280 m² provided that the shop is not a restaurant or bar)
4. Assembly and recreation	All escape routes*, and accommodation except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. accommodation open on one side to view sport or entertainment during normal daylight hours
5. Any purpose group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All toilet accommodation with a floor area over 8 m² b. Electricity and generator rooms c. Switch room/battery room for emergency lighting system d. Emergency control room

* Including external escape routes.

2.3.2 Exit signs

(para 5.37 of Vol. 2)

Volume 2 of Approved Document B recommends that, except within a flat, an exit sign should distinctively and conspicuously mark every escape route. The sign should be of an adequate size complying with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996. Escape routes in ordinary use, that is typically the main entrance door of a building, are excluded from this recommendation.

There is a recommendation that, in general, signs should conform to BS 5499-1 *Fire safety signs, notices and graphic symbols, specification for fire safety signs*.

Chapter 7 of this publication provides information on the Safety Signs and Signals Regulations and on the British Standard.

(para 5.38 of Vol. 2)

2.3.3 Critical electrical circuits

(clause 9.2.2 of BS 5266-1)

Where it is critical for electrical circuits to be able to continue to function during a fire, such as circuits to luminaires and signs from a central standby supply, Approved Document B calls for 'protected circuits'. A protected circuit for operation of equipment in the event of fire is required by Approved Document B to: