

12. Illumination and contrast of safety signs, safety-related signs and safety notices

12.1 Shipboard safety signs, safety-related signs, markings and notices shall communicate the intended messages at all times, i.e. they shall be visible, readable and understandable under normal and emergency lighting conditions.

12.2 Photoluminescent FES, EES, LSS and MES signs shall be required when the signs are not illuminated by the emergency lighting system or in areas where emergency lighting is not required. Photoluminescent signs shall have the same performance as any installed photoluminescent low/location lighting according to ISO 15370 or meet the luminance requirement of ISO 3864-4.

12.3 Signs that are designed to be externally illuminated by the normal ship's ambient lighting or internally illuminated only under the emergency lighting conditions shall have surface properties suitable to reflect the light uniformly across the surface without glare. The luminance factor and colour shall be according to ISO 3864-4.

12.4 The light source of an internally illuminated sign shall provide a luminance and luminance contrast appropriate to its environment without producing glare. Internally illuminated signs shall meet the performance criteria of ISO 3864-4. Internally illuminated safety signs shall be illuminated at all times either by the internal source on both main and emergency power or under the ship's ambient lighting conditions under normal lighting conditions and by the emergency power under emergency lighting conditions.

13 Durability and photometric performance of signs

Shipboard signs, markings and notices shall be designed using materials suitable for their intended environment. Manufacturers shall clearly state suitability for interior or exterior use. All signs intended for exterior use shall be protected against deterioration by UV light and humidity. ISO 17398 shall be used to specify durability characteristics and to define photometric properties required for shipboard safety signs.

14 Marking of signs

Shipboard signs shall be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark, shall be coded for part number identification and, if intended for internal use only, shall be marked accordingly. For photoluminescent signs, the part number shall be traceable to the manufacturer's luminance decay specifications.