



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 1838:2013

# Lighting applications - Emergency lighting

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## I.S. EN 1838:2013

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English Version

## Lighting applications - Emergency lighting

Éclairagisme - Eclairage de secours

Angewandte Lichttechnik - Notbeleuchtung

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 15 June 2013.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 1838:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 169 "Light and lighting", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2014.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 1838:1999.

Users of this European Standard, prepared in the field of application of Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU, should be aware that standards have no formal legal relationship with Directives which may have been made under Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU.

Significant changes between this document and EN 1838:1999 are:

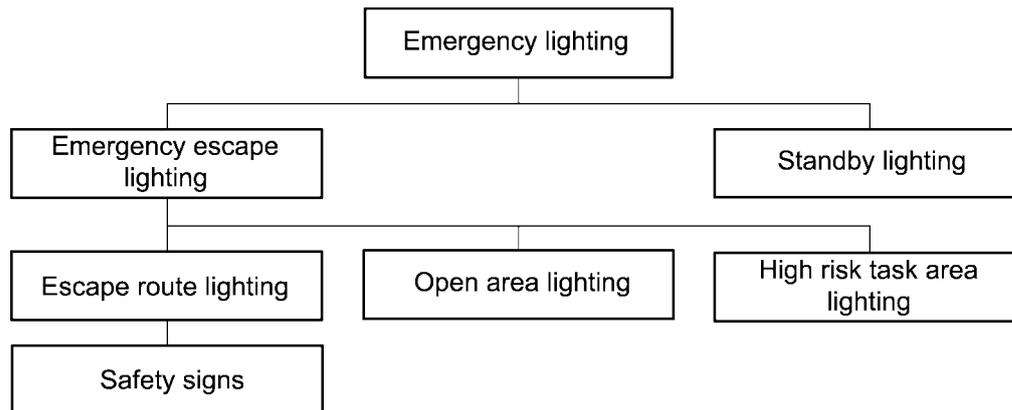
- a) Illumination of the points of emphasis have been clarified and improved and the external illumination has been clarified as needing to extend to a place of safety. Illumination of fire alarm call points and first aid posts are now consistent, regardless of their location, and are defined at the equipment to be operated;
- b) The colour and style of safety signs is amended to the revised ISO format;
- c) The A deviations of some countries have been amended.

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## Introduction

Emergency lighting is provided for use when the supply to the normal lighting fails and is therefore powered from a source independent of that supplying the normal lighting.

For the purposes of this standard emergency lighting is regarded as a generic term of which there are a number of specific forms, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1 — Specific forms of emergency lighting**

The overall objective of **emergency escape lighting** is to enable safe exit from a location in the event of failure of the normal supply. The objective of each form within this category is as follows.

- The objective of **escape route lighting** is to assist the safe exit from a location for occupants by providing appropriate visual conditions and direction finding on escape routes and in special locations, and to ensure that fire fighting and safety equipment can be readily located and used.
- The objective of emergency lighting of escape route **safety signs** is to provide appropriate visual conditions and direction finding to assist escape routes to be readily located and used.
- The objective of **open area (anti-panic) lighting** is to reduce the likelihood of panic and to enable safe movement of occupants towards escape routes by providing appropriate visual conditions and direction finding. The flow of light for escape routes or open areas should be downward to the working plane but illumination should also be provided to any obstruction up to 2 m height above that plane.
- The objective of **high risk task area lighting** is to contribute to the safety of people involved in a potentially dangerous process or situation and to assist proper shut down procedures to be carried out for the safety of other occupants of the location.

There are techniques that may be used as a supplement and when applied to escape routes in addition to conventional emergency lighting luminaires can enhance their effectiveness in an emergency. These techniques are not included in this standard.

Vision varies from person to person, both by the amount of light required to perceive an object clearly and in the time taken to adapt to changes in the illuminance. In general, older people need more light and take a longer time to adapt to low illuminance on a hazard or escape route.

Much anxiety and confusion can be alleviated by strategically placed signs indicating the way out of a location. It is very important that exits are clearly signposted and are visible, whenever the location is occupied.

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